

Political Science 210
The Bureaucracy
Fall 2012
Section 001, MWF 1:30-2:20
Burnett 118

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Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 Mondays

Course Objectives

1. What is bureaucracy? Is it needed? Why or why not?
2. How does U.S. government structure itself to administer and execute laws?
3. Is the bureaucracy meant to be a democratic institution? Does it represent citizens' interests?
4. What theories explain bureaucratic policymaking? How well do they work?
5. How has bureaucracy succeeded? Failed?
6. Have citizens and elected officials leaned on the bureaucracy too much?

You will be expected to thoughtfully consider, discuss, and write about these various topics.

Required Texts

- Meier, K.J., and Bohte, J. 2006. *Politics and the Bureaucracy: Policymaking in the Fourth Branch of Government*. (5th Edition). Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth.
- *The New York Times*
- Other material as assigned

All other reading materials will be posted on Blackboard.

Grades

Attendance and Participation: 10%
Quiz #1: 10%
Quiz #2: 10%
In-class Exercises (5@ 3% each): 15%
Policy project: 15%
Agency project: 15%
Final paper: 25%

Letter grades will be assigned on the following basis: A+ 97-100; A 94 – 96; A- 90-93; B+ 87-90; B 84 – 86; B- 80-83; C+ 77-80; C 74 – 76; C- 70-73; D+ 67-70; D 64 – 66; D- 60-63; F <= 59.

Academic Dishonesty

I take academic dishonesty seriously. *Anyone found guilty of fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism will, at a minimum, receive an F for this course.* Fabrication means altering information, falsification means inventing information. Plagiarism means presenting someone else's work as your own, either by not giving proper acknowledgement of the source or by presenting in whole or in part any work that has been prepared by or copied from another person.

Incompletes, Late Papers and Other Policies

I will not give course incompletes except in the most extreme and documented circumstances. Assignments that are not turned in on time will be docked at the rate of a full letter grade per week, beginning immediately. If you turn in an assignment any time between one minute and one week later it will be a letter grade lower.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the instructor for a confidential discussion of their individual needs for academic accommodation. It is the policy of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to provide flexible and individualized accommodation to students with documented disabilities that may affect their ability to fully participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. To receive accommodation services, students must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration, 472-3787 voice or TTY.

Course Requirements

Participation

Everyone is expected to show up and participate. It may be uncomfortable for some to engage in public give and take, especially involving sensitive topics; however, having the skills to formulate and present arguments, and to analyze the arguments of others, are not much use unless you are willing to apply them. Part of being an informed and involved democratic citizen means being willing to engage with other citizens on issues important to the polity. Thus, given the objectives of this class, students will be expected to show up and be prepared to engage in class discussion on the issue we are discussing.

Additionally, in order to facilitate discussion of the kinds of topics that we will be covering in class, I am requiring you to read the New York Times each day before class. We will spend the first few minutes of each class engaging in a brief overview of the major events happening in the world. Please be prepared to participate in this discussion.

Quizzes

There will be two quizzes in this course. Each will be a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer. Each quiz is worth 10% of your grade.

In-Class Exercises

In order to clarify and solidify the concepts that we learn in class, we will be doing five in-class exercises. These exercises may include presenting information, debating sides of an argument, short writing assignment, or pretty much anything else I come up with. Each of these five exercises is worth 3%, totaling 15% of your final grade.

Projects

You will be split into small groups to work on two projects over the course of the semester. For each, you will have two class periods to work on the project. Any additional work will need to be completed outside of class. Each group member is responsible for contributing to the final projects. At the end of each of the two project weeks, your group will present your finished project to the class. Each project will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Final Paper

In this course, you are required to write a final paper, worth 25% of your grade, rather than take a final exam. Your paper should be 8-10 pages in length and address one of the following two topics:

- 1) Identify a significant rule instituted by a state or federal agency. Describe the rule's history, including when it was proposed; what events preceded the proposal; who has been affected by the rule, and how; and, any challenges to the rule.
- 2) Identify and describe the history of an agency of an agency in the state of Nebraska or in the U.S. federal government. When and why was it founded? How has it been structured? What have been its policy responsibilities? What (if any) significant impact has this agency had on the state/country?

Course Schedule and Readings

Aug. 26	Introduction to Class
Aug. 28	Bureaucracy in the Crosshairs Readings: M&B pp.1-6 Goodsell, ch. 3 (on Blackboard)
Aug. 30-Sept 3	No Class—Labor Day and APSA Conference
Sept. 4/6	Administrative Power Reading: M&B pp. 8-15 <i>September 6: Bureaucratic rulemaking exercise</i>
Sept. 9/11/13	Structure and Other Practical Bits Reading: M&B pp.16-40 Guest Speaker: Jan Baker, Nebraska Department of Labor
Sept. 16/18/20	Power and Policymaking Reading: M&B pp. 42-73 <i>September 20: Quiz #1</i>
Sept. 23/25/27	Bureaucrats as Lawmakers Reading: M&B pp. 75-113 <i>September 27: King of the Hill exercise</i>
Sept. 30/Oct. 2/4	Policy Projects <i>October 4: Policy Project Presentations</i>
Oct. 7/9/11	Public Expectations Reading: M&B pp.114-134
Oct. 14	No class—Columbus Day
Oct. 16/18	Oversight and Federalism Reading: M&B pp. 135-177
Oct. 21	No Class—Fall Break
Oct. 23/25	Control Freaks Reading: M&B pp/179-208 <i>October 25: Quiz #2</i>
Oct. 28/30/Nov. 1	Is Success Possible? Reading: Goodsell ch. 4 (on Blackboard) <i>November 1: Case study exercise</i>
Nov 4/6/8	Reforming the Bureaucracy Reading: M&B pp. 209-228 Meier 1997 (on Blackboard)

Nov. 11/13/15 **Bureaucracy Now**
Reading: Articles from Smith and Neiman 2013 (on Blackboard)

November 15: Bureaucracy now exercise

Nov. 18/20/22 **Major Policy Implementation**
Reading: **TBD**
Guest Speaker: Brad Bare, INSERT TITLE HERE

Nov. 25-Dec. 1 **No Class—Thanksgiving**

Dec. 2/4/6 **Agency Projects**

December 6: Agency Project Presentations

Dec. 9/11/13 **Civil Service—The Actual Work**

December 11: Writing like a bureaucrat exercise

DECEMBER 13—FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5:00 (EMAIL)