

## Policy Studies 1

FALL TERM 1979

### Course Objectives

Policy Studies 1 is designed to introduce students to the policy process through the use of case studies. Discussion and analysis of each of the cases in the course will focus on three components of the policy process: (1) identification and analysis of policy problems and relevant facts; (2) identification of the value choices involved in alternate policy "solutions"; (3) implementation of policy options and evaluation of results.

In addition to acquainting students with these concepts, the course will emphasize a number of skills important to the policy process including effective writing and speaking, the ability to work in groups, and an appreciation of the complexities which arise when participants have different perspectives on the desirability of alternative policies.

### Assignments

In order to stress effective communication, students will be required to write five to seven short papers (one to five pages each). Some of these assignments will involve individual work and some will involve group research reports.

The papers will be assigned throughout the term under tight deadlines (often two days notice between classes). No papers will be accepted if they exceed the maximum length assigned

or are received after the deadline dates (unless students have a Dean's excuse for a legitimate emergency such as illness, etc.). However, each student will be allowed to exercise one "wildcard" during the course of the term by either:

- a. not submitting one of the assigned papers; or
- b. submitting all assignments and exercising the option of withdrawing one paper from consideration in compiling the final grade.

The papers will be returned to students with comments and evaluations.

In addition to the written assignments, students will make one oral policy presentation during the last week of the course in lieu of a final exam.

In order to stress group work, students will engage in some team projects (especially during the second case). Occasionally outside visitors will present their viewpoints on the cases under study. Students are encouraged to develop sympathetic, but constructively critical, appraisals of these presentations.

Final grades in the course will be based on written papers, the oral presentation, participation in class discussions and group projects, and evidence of clear, independent thinking.

#### Class Schedule and Faculty

The class will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:30 to 1:35 p.m.

Professors participating in the course are:

David Bradley, 303 Tuck School  
(Office Hours: Anytime)  
Jonathan Brownell, 214 Silsby Hall  
(Office Hours: 10:30-12:00; Mon., Wed., Fri.)  
Dana Meadows, 336 Murdough Hall  
(Office Hours: All weekdays, 9:00-5:00)  
Frank Smallwood, 227 Silsby Hall  
(Office Hours: 10:30-12:00; Mon., Wed., Fri.)

Students are encouraged to contact the faculty on any aspect of course work. In addition, the faculty will be available for informal discussions in Topside Thayer, Room 2, on Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. (X-hour) and students are invited to join these informal luncheon sessions. An occasional X-hour may be used for special course projects which will be announced during the term.

### Curriculum

Sept. 17 Introduction

Theme I - Overview of the Policy Process

Sept. 19 to Case #1 - Traffic Policy in Hanover  
Sept. 28

Reading: Selected Documents

Theme II - Communication

Oct. 1 & Words, Written and Oral  
Oct. 3

Reading: Hayakawa, Language in Thought and Action

Theme III - Analysis and Policy Implementation

Oct. 8 to Case #2 - Vt. Utilities & the Seabrook Purchase  
Nov. 2

Reading: Selected Documents  
Huff, How to Lie with Statistics

Theme IV - Conflicting Values and Objectivity

Nov. 5 to Case #3 - The Dartmouth Honor Principle  
Nov. 19

Reading: Selected Documents  
Summary, Carnegie Council Proposals on Ethical  
Behavior  
Hardin, The Tragedy of the Commons

Theme V - Policy Presentations

Nov. 26 Final Presentations and  
Course Evaluation

Reading Material

All readings assigned in the course will be distributed in class, or are available at the Public Affairs Center, 214 Silsby Hall. Each student is assessed a \$15 fee to cover the costs of reading materials. The fee should be paid to Barbara Pryce, 214 Silsby Hall, by the second week of term.