

**PS 102, “Congress, Bureaucracy,
and Public Policy”**
Professor Berry, Spring 2020
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Office Hours: M 1:00-2:30,
W 4:00-5:00, and by appointment

This course analyzes the public policymaking process from agenda building through implementation and program evaluation. Among the topics we'll discuss are problem definition, lobbying and the legislative process, theories of representation, the relationship between congressional elections and public policy, committees and policy formulation, regulation, and bureaucratic politics. There are no prerequisites for this course and it is designed for both majors and nonmajors alike.

You can reach me at ext. 7-3465 or at jeffrey.berry@tufts.edu. I hope you'll all come by my office (Packard 213) at some point to talk; I would truly like to get to know each of you. So please come by. Office hours this semester are M 1:00-2:30 and W 4:00-5:00. If neither of these times do not work for you, please let me know as I'd happy to set up an appointment for another time.

Grades: Your overall grade will be based on four different components: a research paper on your home congressional district (30 percent), a write up on one of the six cases we'll read (20 percent), class participation (10 percent), and a final (40 percent). The question(s) on the final will require you to integrate material from the readings, the lectures, and the Kennedy School cases. For your class participation grade, please note that both attendance as well as participation in class discussions are part of the scoring. The research paper will be in a separate handout.

Cases: Five times during the semester we will devote all or most of the entire class period to analyzing a case developed by the Kennedy School of Government, a graduate public policy program at Harvard University. Please note that the case method is interactive and there will be few notes to pick up from a classmate who attends. Thus, if you miss the class you will have no way of recovering what went on. The case method works only insofar as students are willing to participate, so you should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned case. As noted above, a sixth case will be assigned for a write-up.

Readings: We will discuss each the assigned books in class on a designated date. There will be classroom exercises for each of the books so you must come to class prepared to discuss and write about the book at hand. Some of these classroom exercises will be done in teams.

Keeping up with the News. Although this is not a class on current events, I will use current events and trends to illustrate enduring issues in our political system. To that end I expect you to keep up with the news. As we move through the course we'll be sure to discuss some important developments in the 116th Congress or in the executive branch.

Having spoken with many undergraduates in the past few years about how they follow the news, I've come to understand that most blend a variety of sources that they access through their laptop, tablet or phone. There are lots of great sources of news about national politics and policymaking but none better than the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. I encourage you to include one of these in your daily news feed. You should also look periodically at some of the inside Washington publications. Three nonpartisan sources that are of high quality are *The Hill* [<http://thehill.com/>], *Roll Call* [<http://www.rollcall.com/>], and *Politico* [<http://www.politico.com/>].

The following books are required reading:

Eric Oliver, *Fat Politics*
Frank Baumgartner, Jeffrey Berry, Marie Hojnacki, David Kimball, and
Beth Leech, *Lobbying and Policy Change*
Paul Herrnson, *Congressional Elections*, 8th ed. (publication date, 12/19)
Thomas Mann and Norman Ornstein, *It's Even Worse than it Looks*
(updated 2016 edition)
Eric Patashnik et al, *Unhealthy Politics*
Francis Lee, *Insecure Majorities*

The following cases are also required and are available in a course pack from the bookstore:

“Innovation by the Book”
“Uber Comes to Boston”
“What if We Could Start Over? The U.S. Forest Service Champions
‘Bottoms-up’ Management” [Part A]
“Regulatory Reform at OSHA” [Part A]
“Keeping an Open Mind in an Emergency: CDC Experiments with Team B”
“Man on a Wire: Bart Stupak Walks a Tight Line between Obamacare and
Abortion”

SCHEDULE

The dates below designate the days we will discuss a reading or devote the class to a case. I'll confirm each date well beforehand. All other class meetings will involve lecture and discussion

JAN 27: CASE DISCUSSION: “Man on a Wire: Bart Stupak Walks a Tight Line between Obamacare and Abortion”

FEB. 3: Oliver, *Fat Politics*

FEB. 12: Meet in Tisch Library, Room 223, for session on how to research your paper

FEB. 19: Herrnson, *Congressional Elections*

FEB. 26: CASE DISCUSSION: “Uber Comes to Boston”

MARCH 4: Baumgartner et al., *Lobbying and Policy Change* chaps. 1-5 and 8-12

MARCH 9: Case question handed out

MARCH 13: Case write up due by 5:00, return to plastic bucket outside of Packard 213

MARCH 25: Lee, *Insecure Majorities*

MARCH 30: CASE DISCUSSION: “What if We Could Start Over?”

APRIL 8: CASE DISCUSSION: “Keeping an Open Mind in an Emergency: CDC Experiments with Team B”

APRIL 10: Research paper due by 5:00, return to plastic bucket outside of Packard 213

APRIL 15: Mann and Ornstein, *It's Even Worse than it Looks*

APRIL 20: CASE DISCUSSION: “Innovation by the Book”

APRIL 22: Eric Patashnik et al, *Unhealthy Politics*