“Global Public Policy:
An Institutional Approach”

Thursdays 11am-2pm
DM Smith 108

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Description
Public policy is the directing of public affairs within national borders by a sovereign
government. Global public policy is the directing of public affairs that extend beyond
national borders by various non-sovereign authorities.

It can be argued that global public policy is a logical impossibility, for there is no
global public and no global sovereign. Yet global public policy is increasingly practiced
around the world, at least in various partial and sometimes disputed forms.

This class examines the topic both theoretically and empirically. Theoretically,
the class examines concepts such as functionalism, systems, regulation, prescriptions,
collective decision-making, institutions, legitimacy, sovereignty, law, and governance.
Empirically, the class will examine numerous functional systems (banking, climate,
communications, transportation, energy, research, etc.,) numerous institutions (IMF,
WTO, ICANN, ITU, UN, EU, ICC, etc.), and the developmental history of such systems
and institutions. Special attention will be given to institutional theory and the work of
Elinor Ostrom.

The class is intended for advanced students in the social sciences (undergrad or
grad.) It is especially appropriate for students writing case-study based graduate theses.
Case studies of communications will be somewhat emphasized in the class readings due
to the expertise of the instructor, but students are expected to integrate cases of their own
choosing into the class.

Grading
Class participation is 30% of your grade. Small assignments given during the semester
will count towards class participation. The remaining 70% of the grade is based on a
research paper. This can be a preparatory study for a graduate thesis.

Books to Purchase
• Freedman, James O. 1980. Crisis and Legitimacy. The Administrative Process and
  American Government.
  Authority and Global Governance. Malden, MA. Polity.
• Ostrom, Elinor. 2005. Understanding Institutional Diversity
Weekly Readings

PART 0: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Week 1: Introduction
No readings.

PART I: FUNCTIONALISM

Week 2: Systems and Sectors
- Hughes, “The Evolution of Large Scale Systems”
- McKnight et al., *The Gordian Knot*. Chapter 2, “Networks”
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis”

Week 3: Regulation
- Horowitz. *The Irony of Regulatory Reform* Chapters 2, 3.
- Schmidt and Werle, *Coordinating Technology*. Chapters 2, 3.
- Mueller, Mueller. 20XX. “The Political Economy of Identities”. In *Ruling the Root*.

Week 4: Globalization and Governance

Week 5: Theories of Global Governance

History (Evolutionary Dialectics): Development, Stability, Collapse

Global Public Policy
- Reinicke, *Global Public Policy*

PART II: THE INSTITUTIONAL FRACTAL
PART III : LEGITIMACY

Administrative Legitimacy
Freedman, *Crisis and Legitimacy*

Types of Governance, Types of Legitimacy

The Crux of the Problem: The (Im)Possibility of Global Democracy

PART IV: MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE

GLOBALIZATION

Sovereignty

Global Authority and Its Absence: Alternatives to Sovereignty

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