

History and Public Policy  
Spring 2005  
Phillips 328  
Tuesdays, 5:10-7:00

Instructor: Edward D. Berkowitz  
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00

Schedule of Meetings and Assignments

January 18: Introductory Class.

*Part One: Some Thoughts on Method*

January 25: Methods of history and public policy. Read Richard E. Neustadt and Ernest R. May, Thinking in Time: The Use of History for Decision Makers, chapters 1-7.

February 1: More methods of history and public policy. Read Neustadt and May, remainder.

February 8: Why things don't always work out. Read Steve Gillon, That's Not What We Meant.

February 15: Origins Matter. Read, James Sterling Young, The Washington Community

February 22: First written assignment due on this date. It will also form the basis of the class discussion. Write a five to ten page essay on the following topic:

In a cogent essay, place a particular person, government agency or program in time, explaining how the origins of the program affected its subsequent development and being aware, as Gillon remind us, that things do not always work out as planned.

*Part Two: Observing Public Policy Over Time*

March 1: Public Policy Toward Youth. Read Judith Sealander, The Failed Century of the Child

March 8: Public Policy Toward with Disabilities. Read Edward Berkowitz, Disabled Policy: America's Programs for the Handicapped

March 22: Public Policy Toward Social Security. Read Martha Derthick, Policymaking for Social Security, Chapters 1-14.

March 29: More Public Policy Toward Social Security, Read Derthick, Policymaking, remainder.

April 5: Public Policy Toward the Poor. Read Michael Katz, The Price of Citizenship (pages to be announced).

April 12: Public Policy Toward the Poor. Read Katz, The Price of Citizenship, remainder.

*Part Three: Drawing Conclusions and Personal Insights from Research and Reading in History and Public Policy*

April 19: Second written assignment due on this date. It will also form the basis of the class discussion. Write a five to fifteen page essay on the following topic:

Compare and contrast the approaches that Sealander, Berkowitz, Derthick, and Katz take toward the history of public policy in the respective books that you have read.

April 26: Conclusion. Third and final written assignment due on this date. It will form the basis of the class discussion. Write a twenty page paper that analyzes a policy problem through the use of history.

Note—The topic and research approach for the paper due on April 26 should be approved by the instructor no later than April 12 and preferably before that date. The instructor is always available for consultation by e-mail and during weekly office hours, which are scheduled just before the class starts.