

PSCI 468  
**The Public Policy Cycle**  
Winter Session 2012

Professor Tompkins  
Tel: 243-2683

[jonathan.tompkins@umontana.edu](mailto:jonathan.tompkins@umontana.edu)  
Office: LA 136

### **Course Description**

Using forest management policy as the focus of analysis, this course provides an opportunity for students to explore the entire public policy cycle. This cycle includes how a problem reaches the public agenda, how alternative solutions are developed, how one or more of these alternatives is enacted into law, how the law is implemented by a specific executive agency, and how the policy is subsequently evaluated for possible modifications.

By focusing narrowly on forest management policy, this course allows students to witness the twists and turns of politics as policy is formulated by the legislative branch, implemented by the executive branch, and reviewed by the judicial branch.

Political Science majors needing to satisfy the upper division writing expectation of their major may register for PSCI 400-90, a one credit co-requisite.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To develop a broad understanding of the cyclical process by which policy is made, implemented, and changed.
2. To develop a basic understanding of one key area of public policy, i.e., forest management policy.
3. To improve writing, analytical, and conceptual skills.

### **Required Texts**

We will use a packet of readings available in the UC Bookstore.

### **Course Requirements**

Students are required to complete all reading assignments, be prepared to discuss them in class, complete four writing assignments (20 points each), and resubmit the writing assignments as a polished term paper (100 points). [Graduate students should see instructor about additional work]

A = 168-180  
B- = 144-148

A- = 162-167  
C+ = 139-143

B+ = 157-161  
C = 131-138

B = 149-156  
C- = 126-130

## Reading and Writing Assignments

**Tuesday, January 3**            **The Controversy Surrounding Forest Management**

**Wednesday, January 4**       **Learning to Think and Write Analytically**

1. Lester and Stewart, "The Nature of Public Policy," Public Policy, pp. 3-12.

Writing Assignment: 1-page introduction to your term paper is due tomorrow (Thursday).

**Thursday, January 5**            **The Public Policy Cycle and Forest Management**

1. Tompkins, Historical Overview of Forest Management.
2. Section 6, National Forest Management Act of 1976 (P.L. 94-588), U.S. Statutes at Large, v. 90, 1976.
3. Key Provisions of the NFMA.
4. Timeline of Events Relating to the NFMA.

**\*\*Introduction to term paper due today\*\***

**Friday, January 6**                **The Tragedy of the Commons**

1. Barnard DeVoto, "The Sturdy Corporate Homesteader," Harper's, May 1953.
2. Samuel Trask Dana, "Oregon Land Frauds," excerpt from Forest and Range Policy, 1956.
3. "Thieves Stealing Millions of Dollars in Trees," Missoulian, May 18, 2003.
4. Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons," excerpt reprinted in Hardin and Baden, Managing the Commons, Freeman, 1977.
5. Competing Values Handout.

**Monday, January 9**               **The Agenda-Setting Stage: The NFMA**

1. John Kingdon, "How Does an Idea's Time Come?" Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies (Little, Brown, 1984), 1-19.
2. Charles Wilkinson, "The National Forest Management Act: The Twenty Years Behind, the Twenty Years Ahead," University of Colorado Law Review 68 (1997): 659-669.
3. Select Committee of the University of Montana, Report on the Bitterroot National Forest, 1970, pp. 1-30. (The Bolle Report).
4. "Officials Seek Options for Thinning," Missoulian, July 8, 2009.

**Tuesday, January 10**           **The Monongahela Decisions**

1. Testimony by Congressman Roy Taylor of North Carolina before the House Subcommittee on Forests, March 22, 1976, pp. 62-65.
2. West Virginia Div. of Izaak Walton League, Inc. v. Butz (367 F. Supp. 422, 1973).
3. West Virginia Div. of Izaak Walton L. of Am., Inc. v. Butz (522 F.2d 945, 1975).

**\*\*Section 1 of paper is due Thursday\*\***

**Wednesday, January 11      **\*\*No class – Spend today writing\*\*****

**Thursday, January 12      **The Policy Formulation Stage****

1. Lester and Stewart, “Policy Formulation,” Public Policy, 87-96.
2. S. 2926 (The Randolph bill)
3. S. 3091 (The Humphrey bill)
4. Testimony of James Moorman, Counsel, Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, on the Randolph bill.

**\*\*Section #2 of Paper is Due Today\*\***

**Friday, January 13      **Content Analysis of Congressional Testimony****

1. Various testimonies presented during joint hearings before the Senate Subcommittee on Environment, Soil Conservation and Forestry (Committee on Agriculture and Forestry) and the Senate Subcommittee on the Environment and Land Resources (Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs), March 15, 16, and 22, 1976.

**Monday, January 16      **\*\*Martin Luther King Holiday\*\*****

**Tuesday, January 17      **Policy Implementation, Agency Rules, and Forest Planning****

1. USDA Forest Service Website: Meet the Forest Service.
2. Administrative Procedures Act, United States Code (USC) Title 5, Chapter 5 (5USC 533).
3. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 36, Chapter II, Part 219 (36 CFR Ch. II). (Just skim these paragraphs).
4. Section 6 of NFMA (reread from Lesson 1)
5. Major Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Wednesday, January 18      **Public Participation in Forest Management****

1. Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter II, Part 215 (36 CFR Ch. II). (Just skim these paragraphs).
2. USDA Forest Service, “The Process Predicament: How Statutory, Regulatory, and Administrative Factors Affect National Forest Management,” June 2002.
3. Administrative Procedures Act, Chapter 7 – Judicial Review.
4. Case Study: Lolo Forest Post-Burn Project

**\*\* Section #3 of term paper due Friday\*\***

**Thursday, January 19      **\*\*No Class – Spend Day Writing\*\*****

Friday, January 20

The Policy Evaluation and Change Stage **\*\*Section #3 Due\*\***

Elise S. Jones and Will Callaway, "Neutral Bystander, Intrusive Micromanager, or Useful Catalyst?: The Role of Congress in Effecting Change Within the Forest Service," Policy Studies Journal, (no. 4, 1995): 337-350.

**\*\*Term Paper Due Monday, January 23\*\***

### **Guidelines for Writing the Term Paper**

**Title:** The Public Policy Cycle and the National Forest Management Act of 1976

**Paper Outline:**

- Introduction
- The Agenda Setting Stage
- The Policy Formulation Stage
- The Policy Implementation Stage
- The Policy Evaluation and Change Stage
- Conclusion

**The Introduction:** Less than one page in length, the Introduction should introduce 1) the problem under study – defined conceptually and placed in its appropriate context ; 2) the significance of this problem; and 3) the purpose of the paper.

**The Body:** Each section should 1) provide a conceptual definition of the stage under analysis; 2) introduce the key analytical question that "begs" to be addressed at this stage; and 3) provide the necessary analysis to address that question.

### **Key Analytical Questions:**

**Agenda Setting:** What factors **explain** why and how forest management policy reached the public and institutional agendas in the 1970s?

**Policy Formulation:** What factors **explain** why the Humphrey bill was preferred over the Randolph bill?

**Policy Implementation:** What factors **explain** the difficulties faced by the Forest Service in implementing the law?

**Policy Evaluation and Change:** What factors **explain** how and why policy continues to change?