CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

PPA 270:
Introduction to Collaborative Policy Making

Fall, 2008

Professor Ted Lascher
3035 Tahoe
278-4864 (office)
(530)400-5688 (cell-
no calls after 9:00 p.m.)
tedl@csus.edu

Class meeting time and place:
Mondays, 6-8:50, Mendocino
3007

Office hours: Mondays
4:00-6:00, and by appointment

OVERVIEW

This seminar is designed to explore and understand the collaborative approach to policy making and governance. Consideration will be given to how this new form and practice is being used to break out of traditional “wicked” policy controversies and produce policy innovations and sometimes consensus for action. The seminar will explore the theory on which collaborative decision making is based and the benefits a collaborative approach may provide. Particular attention will be given to the importance of narrative stories in the collaborative process. The course will also consider the determinants of different outcomes of real world collaborations, and critically examine the benefits and costs of collaboration in practice. Additionally, the course will consider examine various challenges to collaborative governance such as legal structures that may discourage it, the danger of cooptation, and the inattention of the mass public. Extensive use will be made of case studies.

SPECIFIC LEARNING GOALS

At the end of PPA 270 it is expected that students will understand:

1. The background that led to consideration of collaborative methods for addressing real world problems.
2. The assumptions and goals of collaborative policy making.
3. Methods of narrative and frame analysis.
4. How to assess when collaborative policy tools may or may not be appropriate.
5. The circumstances that make it more or less likely to achieve agreements during a collaborative process.

6. The best available evidence as to the gains and losses from collaboration in practice.

7. Some practical challenges to collaborative methods in practice.

CONDUCT OF THE SEMINAR

This seminar will rely heavily on student participation both to explore the intellectual content and practice the interactive methods of deliberative policy analysis and collaborative policy-making. Regular use will be made of participant exercises prepared in advance of seminar sessions to apply the methods for the seminar discussions. Students may be asked to take the lead in facilitating class discussions. To be successful, students will need to read class materials prior to class, prepare for the exercises, and engage fully in each session.

READINGS

Three books are required and may be purchased at the Hornet Bookstore. The books are as follows:


Additionally, there are a few required articles/case studies that may be downloaded for free from the Center for Collaborative Policy Making's Web site (www.csus.edu/ccp/) or made available by other means.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

There will be one short paper early in the semester, requiring you to apply the tools of collaborative analysis. There will also be a take home examination about 2/3 of the way through the semester and take home final examination due on the last day of the fall semester, December 19. Additionally, there will be a major group project in which students apply the tools of collaborative policy making to a current policy issue.
Students will determine the topics and select into groups during the first part of the semester, and will also help to establish ground rules for the group project.

Assignment due dates are specified in the class schedule section at the end of this syllabus.

Course grades will be determined in accordance with the following weights:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group project</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MAKE-UP ASSIGNMENTS AND MISSED CLASSES

Except under unusual circumstances, late assignments will not be accepted. At my discretion, a student who misses a deadline may be given a make-up assignment. Whether or not a penalty will be assessed depends on the reason (e.g., a family emergency constitutes a good reason; a competing requirement for another course does not).

You should inform me prior to class if you must miss class on a specific day. Except under very unusual circumstances, a student who misses three classes will be penalized one entire grade (e.g., a B+ for the course will become a C+) and a student who misses more than three classes will receive a failing grade.
CLASS SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 8. Introduction (no class on September 1: Labor Day holiday)

Read: 1) “Public Conversations and Legislative Deliberations: Oregon’s Governor Barbara Roberts Takes on Fiscal Reform,” Kennedy School of Government Case Study, Harvard University, C-16-94-1235 (regular case plus sequel)—Important note: instructions for downloading to be provided; 2) Sabatier et al., Swimming Upstream, chapter 1

SEPTEMBER 15. The Roots and Aims of the Collaborative Approach


Guest Speaker: David Booher, CCP

SEPTEMBER 22. Why Does the Old, Non-Collaborative Approach Endure?

Read: 1) Swimming Upstream, chapter 2; 2) Eugene Bardach, Getting Agencies to Work Together, chapter 1 (on reserve at the CSUS library)

Guest Speaker: Mary Kirlin

SEPTEMBER 29. Tools: Analyzing Narratives and Framing, Part 1

Read: 1) Theresa Garvin and John Eyles, “The Sun Safety Metanarrative: Translating Science into Public Health Discourse,” Policy Sciences, 30 (1997), pp. 47-70 (to be downloaded, with instructions to be provided); 2) Edward L. Lascher, Jr., The Politics of Automobile Insurance Reform (Georgetown University Press, 1999), selections (on reserve at the CSUS library)

OCTOBER 6. Elements of a Collaborative Approach

Paper using narrative analysis due

Guest Speaker: Susan Sherry


An (Important) Digression: Selecting Group Projects, Setting Group Norms

OCTOBER 20. Assessing Suitability for a Collaborative Process


Guest Speaker: Jennifer Gallagher

OCTOBER 27. Evaluating the Gains and Losses from Collaboration


Guest Speaker: Bill Leach

NOVEMBER 3. Group Project Meetings

Take home exam due

NOVEMBER 10. Challenges: Governance Structures and Laws

Read: 1) Lauri Diana Boxer-Macomber, “Too Much Sun? Emerging Challenges Presented by California & Federal Open Meeting Legislation to Public Policy Consensus-Building Processes,” download from CCP Web site; 2) other materials to be provided
NOVEMBER 17. Challenges: Pseudo-Collaboration, Cooptation, Conflicts with Traditional Democratic Institutions, etc.


NOVEMBER 24. Challenges: the Willingness of the Public to Get Involved, Part 1

Read: Mutz, Hearing the Other Side, chapters 1-3

DECEMBER 1. Challenges: the Willingness of the Public to Get Involved, Part 2


DECEMBER 8. Group Presentations

Group project papers due

Take home final examination due at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 19