

ANTHROPOLOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY

RATIONALE

Anthropologists have long debated the role of the discipline in the policy making process. While this topic will frame the content of this course, the main focus will be on understanding the culture of public policy making in Connecticut. The course will combine seminar/lecture format with fieldwork activities. Class will, therefore, convene in Hartford on several occasions. Students will follow an issue that will be addressed in the 1994 session of the Connecticut State Legislature (personal care assistance for people with disabilities), observing and monitoring policy-making activities, interviewing administrative and legislative staff, legislators, lobbyists, and members of special interest groups.

The goal of the course is for students to:

- Identify and describe policy making players and processes,
- Understand the factors that influence policy including the role of research and information in the policy making process,
- Describe the impact of policy on relatively powerless people and how grassroots movements participate in the policy making process
- Provide an introduction to the "culture of disability"

TEXTS

Liachowitz, Claire H. Disability as a Social Construct: Legislative Roots University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988.

Weatherford, J. Mciver. Tribes on the Hill Berhin and Garvey, 1985.

Rosenthal, Alan. Legislative Life People Process and Performance in the States Harper and Row, 1981.

Caplan, Marc. A Citizens' Guide to Lobbying Dembner Books, 1983.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Agrosino, Michael V. and Linda M. Whiteford. "Service Delivery, Advocacy, and the Policy Cycle" in Partridge and Eddy Applied Anthropology in America Columbia University Press 1987.

Boone, Margaret S. "Practicing Sociomedicine: Redefining the Problem of Infant Mortality in Washington D.C." in Wulff and Fiske Anthropological Praxis, Translating Knowledge into Action Westview Press, 1987.

Doughty, Paul L. "Success, Rejection and Rediscovery of a Classic Program" in Finsterbusch, Kurt and Mary Hamilton. "The Rationalization of Social Science Research in Policy Studies" in Etzioni, Policy Research E.J. Brill, 1978.

Francis, Wayne L. "Party Leadership, Party Caucuses, and Standing Committees: Why Committee Outcomes are Preferred in the United States" in The Legislative Committee Game, A Comparative Analysis of Fifty States Ohio University Press, 1989.

Francis, Wayne L. "Self Interest and Legislative Turnover" in The Legislative Committee Game, A Comparative Analysis of Fifty States Ohio University Press, 1989.

Francis, Wayne L. "The Complex Committee Game" in The Legislative Committee Game, A Comparative Analysis of Fifty States Ohio University Press, 1989.

Francis, Wayne L. "Costs and Benefits of Legislative Service" in The Legislative Committee Game, A Comparative Analysis of Fifty States Ohio University Press, 1989.

Gow, David D. "Doubly Damned: Dealing wit Power and Praxis in Development Anthropology" in Human Organization 52(3) Winter, 1993.

Heighton, Robert H. and Christy Heighton. "Applying the Anthropological Perspective to Social Policy" in Partridge and Eddy Applied Anthropology in America Columbia University Press 1987.

Hicks, George L.: and Mark J. Handler. "Ethnicity, Public Policy and Anthropologists" in Partridge and Eddy Applied Anthropology in America Columbia University Press 1987.

Hyland, Stanley et al. "Redesigning Social Service Delivery Policy: The Anthropologist as Mediator" in Wulff and Fiske Anthropological Praxis, Translating Knowledge into Action Westview Press, 1987.

Justice, Judith. "Can Socio-Cultural Information Improve Health Planning? A Case Study of Nepal's Assistant Nurse-Midwife" in Social Science and Medicine, 19(3) 193-198, 1984.

Kimball, Solon. "Anthropology as a Policy Science in Partridge and Eddy Applied Anthropology in America Columbia University Press 1987.

Meier, Kenneth J. Politics and the Bureaucracy, Policy Making in the Fourth Branch of Government chapters 3 and 4. Brooke/Cole Publishing Company, 1993.

Mulford, Charles L. "Why They Don't Even When They Ought To" in Etzioni, Policy Research E.J. Brill, 1978,

Nadar, Laura. "Up the Anthropologist - Perspectives Gained by Studying Up" in Hymes. Reinventing Anthropology Vintage Books, 1974.

Schensul, Stephen and Jean J. Schensul. "Advocacy and Applied Anthropology" in Weber and McCall, Social Scientists as Advocates, Views from the Discil2lines 1978,.

Waldram, James. "Some Limits to Advocacy Anthropology in the Native Canadian Context" in Dyck and Waldrain Anthropology, Public Policy and Native Peoples in Canada 1993.

REQUIREMENTS

Activities:

- **Participation in seminar discussions.**
- **Participation in structured field visits.**
- **Observation at the Connecticut State Legislature**
- **Participant observation with assigned constituency at the Connecticut State Legislature and other venues as appropriate.**

Products:

- Each student will focus on a particular constituency and will be responsible for an analysis of the issue from that point of view. The required paper will include:
 - Identification and analysis of the constituency (e.g. consumers, providers, administration/payors, legislative members and staff.
 - The PCA issue from their point of view
 - How they participate in the policy debate - what did they do?
 - Tracing the action - who does what when?
 - Analysis of flow of information - who originates, what, how is it distributed, how is it used?
 - The role of research in the process - what is it? Who does it? What does it mean to the constituency you are describing? How is it used by them?
- Each student will also write a 3-5 page "position paper" at the end of the semester that addresses their perspective on the role(s) of anthropology/research in the policy making process.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 INTRO TO COURSE/WHAT IS POLICY AND WHERE CAN I FIND

IT? Reading: Nadar

Overview of course

What is policy? Explicit vs. implicit policy.

Who makes policy? Administrative, legislative, judicial, and the link between them

Policy documents - where are they? How to read them? Statutes, regulations, ordinances, policies and procedures, budgets, planning documents.

Week 2 ANTHROPOLOGY AS A POLICY SCIENCE

Reading: Heighton and Heighton, Kimball, Hicks and Handler, Justice 0

Traditional roles for anthropologists

Week 3 HOW POLICY EFFECTS PEOPLE - POLICIES THAT HURT Reading: Liachowitz

History of Personal Care Assistance and PCA policy making PCA as a basis for equal access.

PCA research and planning

Activity: identify power clusters for PCA policy in Connecticut

Week 4 INTO THE FIELD: POLICY MAKING IN THE BUREAUCRACY Reading: Meier chapters 3 and 4; Angrosino and Whiteford; Weatherford chapters 1 and 5.

Field visit: The Office of Policy and Management, meeting with Sue Shimelman, Undersecretary.

The planning process and planning structures in Connecticut How does planning get done? Community participation/other models Activity:

Identify disability focus at OPM and disability planning structure in the state.

Week 5 LEGISLATIVE POLICY MAKING

Reading: Rosenthal part 1; Francis "Costs and Benefits..." and "Self Interest..."; Weatherford, chapters 2, 3, 4, and 7.

Who is the Connecticut State Legislature and how does it work?

Power clusters and public policy

Activity: Identify disability/PCA power cluster

Week 6 INTO THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE Reading: Rosenthal parts 2 and 3; Weatherford chapters 8, 9, and 10,

- Knowing the way: Tour of the capitol and Legislative Office Building; what information is available and how to get it.
- Making sense out of apparent chaos - observation of the legislature in action
- Speaker: John Bonelli (disability rights) to provide an overview of the PCA issue, the gameplan, identification of key players.
- Activity: make initial contacts with assigned constituency representatives, start participatory observation and informal open-ended interviewing.

WEEK 7 INTO THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE

Reading: Caplan chapters 1-6; Weatherford chapter 6

Speaker: Phyllis Zlotnick (Activist, PCA user)

Speaker: Judy Blei - the culture of lobbying

Activity: observation, interviewing

WEEK 8 INTO THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE Reading: Caplan, chapters

- Speakers from Office of Legislative Research, Office of Fiscal Analysis, and the Governor office.
- Activity: observation, interviewing

WEEK 9 *SPRING BREAK!*

WEEK 10 INTO THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE
Reading: Francis "Party Leadership..." and "The Complex Committee Game"

- Speaker - Ellen Roman, committee staff
- Activity: observation and interviewing.

WEEK 11 INTO THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE Reading: Gow

- Legislators and their staff.- Speakers: The Hon. James O'Rourke, John Murphy
- Activity: observation and interviewing

WEEK 12 NO CLASS - SFAA MEETINGS

WEEK 13 INTO THE FIELD: CONNECTICUT STATE LEGISLATURE

Final day at the legislature - wrap up all interviews and information gathering.

WEEK 14 WHAT'S ANTHROPOLOGY GOT TO DO WITH IT?
Reading: Schensul and Schensul, Waldram, Hyland, Doughty

- Roles for anthropologists in policy making - pressing the anthropology envelope
- Position paper on roles for anthropologists due

WEEK 15 PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Final papers due
- Presentation of papers
 - History of PCA
 - PCA in Connecticut - explicit and implicit policy
 - Policy cluster - who are the constituencies and what is their culture?
 - Tracing the action - who does what, when, how, why? What is the outcome? How is happy, who is hurt, what got traded?

- Role of research/information in the process: what information was used? Who developed it? what does it mean to each of the constituencies? How was it used?
- Factors external to the issue - what were they and how did they effect the process and outcome
- Roles for anthropologists: what can we offer?
- Laying out a session for the AAA meetings

GRADING

Position paper	10%
Analysis paper	25%
Fieldwork	40%
Classroom participation	25%
TOTAL	100%