

Prof. Paul Steinberg  
 Political Studies 188  
 Harvey Mudd College  
 Office hours by appointment (Parsons 1280)

Mon/Wed 9:35-10:50  
 Room: Shanahan 2425  
 Fall 2014

## POLITICAL INNOVATION

Under what conditions do novel political ideas become realities? This course explores the origins and impacts of political innovations large and small – from the framing of the Constitution to the development of major social policies, the creation and reform of government agencies and non-profit organizations, and experimentation with new forms of social protest and political mobilization.

Our study of political inventiveness will draw on literatures in political philosophy, innovation theory, public administration, policy diffusion, and social movement theory, which we will use to illuminate examples from across the political spectrum, from gay rights to taxpayer revolts. This will be combined with a pragmatic look at how change is actually brought about, with reference to political science research on the dynamics of policy change and the new literature on social entrepreneurship. The course format will include lectures, discussions, guest speakers, student presentations, and a research paper.

### Required Texts

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay, *The Federalist (with Letters of Brutus)*, Terence Ball ed.), Cambridge University Press, 2003.

John W. Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, 2nd ed. Longman Publ., 2010.

Everett M. Rogers, *Diffusion of Innovations*, 5th ed., Free Press, 2003.

Ernest Callenbach, *Ecotopia*, Banyan Tree Books, 1975.

A course reader will be available for purchase.

### Course Requirements

Active Class Participation	10 %
Reflective Journals	25 %
Midterm	30 %
Final Research Paper (20-25 pages)	35 %

## Course Schedule

Letters in brackets {X} indicate corresponding instructions posted in the Sakai "Resources" folder.

### **Sept 3 Wednesday                      Introduction and Course Overview**

Paul F. Steinberg, Feasible Worlds, draft chapter forthcoming in *Who Rules the Earth? How Social Rules Shape Our Planet and Our Lives*, Oxford University Press, 2015.

## **FOUNDING MOMENTS**

### **Sept 8 Monday**

#### Readings:

{A} Joseph Ellis, *Founding Brothers: The Revolutionary Generation*, Alfred A. Knopf Pub., 2000, pp. 3-19.

David Bornstein, "The Talent Is Out There," in *How to Change the World: Social Entrepreneurs and the Power of New Ideas*, Oxford University Press, 2004.

### **Sept 10 Wednesday**

#### Readings:

*The Federalist*, Introduction (through and including section I); federalist letters 1, 3, 9, 10; Brutus 3; then the U.S. Constitution.

Read one additional letter of your choice (either federalist or anti-federalist) and come prepared to discuss it in class.

⇒ {D} Journals due on Sakai (drop box) by 5pm every Friday, beginning this week.

## **IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS**

### **Sept 15 Monday                      Pragmatic Idealism**

#### Readings:

{B} Cornel West, "The Deep Democratic Tradition in America," in *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight against Imperialism*, Penguin Press, 2004.

Reinhold Niebuhr, *Moral Man and Immoral Society: A Study in Ethics and Politics*, Scribner Publ., 1932. Introduction and Chapter 9.

**Sept 17 Wednesday                      Institutions: Between Stability and Change**

Readings:

David Osborne and Ted Gaebler, *Reinventing Government: How the Entrepreneurial Spirit Is Transforming the Public Sector*, Addison-Wesley, 1992. Introduction and Chapter 2.

**Sept 22 Monday**

{C} Come prepared to share, in story form, insights from the Innovations in American Government Awards.

**Sept 24 Wednesday                      Dissent**

*Film: 1968*

Readings:

Quotes on dissent and progress.

Václav Havel, "Dear Dr. Husák," in *Open Letters: Selected Writings 1965-1990*, Vintage Books, 1992.

Peter Dreier and Dick Flacks, "Patriotism's Secret History," *The Nation*, June 3, 2002.

**Sept 29 Monday                          Utopia**

Readings:

Ernest Callenbach, *Ecotopia*. Selections to be announced.

**DYNAMICS OF SOCIAL CHANGE**

**Oct 1 Wednesday                      How New Ideas Spread**

Readings:

{E} Everett M. Rogers, *Diffusion of Innovations*, 5th ed., Free Press, 2003. Chapters 1, 7, and 8.

⇒ {F} One-page description of paper topic due on Sakai by Friday at noon.

**Oct 6 Monday**                      **Social Entrepreneurship**

Readings:

J. Gregory Dees, "The Meaning of 'Social Entrepreneurship,'" unpublished manuscript, Stanford University Center for Social Innovation, 2001.

J. Gregory Dees, Beth Battle Anderson, and Jane Wei-Skillern (2004) Scaling Social Impact: Strategies for Spreading Social Innovations, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, Spring: 24-32.

Optional: Michael E. Porter and Mark R. Kramer (2011) Creating Shared Value: How to Reinvent Capitalism – and Unleash a Wave of Innovation and Growth, *Harvard Business Review* Jan: 2–17.

⇒ Conduct literature search this week for final paper.

**Oct 8 Wednesday**                      **Policy Reform I: Political Management**

Readings:

{G} Mark H. Moore, *Creating Public Value: Strategic Management in Government*, Harvard University Press, 1995. Chapter 4.

⇒ {I} Draft bibliographies due Friday at noon on Sakai.

⇒ Form teams for policy practicum.

**Oct 13 Monday**                      **Policy Reform II: Practicum**

No class meeting; teams complete practicum exercise.

Readings:

{J} Teams read "Managing the Underground City" and Elmore (see below) and view and discuss "The Problem at 231st Street." Prepare memo (one per team) and post on Sakai by Tuesday night.

Read p. 601-610 only of Richard F. Elmore (1980) Backward Mapping: Implementation Research and Policy Decisions, *Political Science Quarterly* 94: 601-616.

**Oct 15 Wednesday**                      No class meeting.

Continue research for final papers. Sign up on Google doc (to be posted) for individual meetings to discuss papers.

⇒ {M} Post draft paper outline on Sakai in advance of meeting.

**Oct 20 Monday**                      *No class – Fall break*

**Oct 22 Wednesday**                **Policy Reform III: Agenda-Setting**

Readings:

{H} John W. Kingdon, *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies*, 2nd ed. Longman Publ., 2010. Chapters 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

**Oct 27 Monday**

⇒ Take-home midterm due in class.

{K} *Film: American Idealist*

**Oct 29 Wednesday**

Guest lecturer to be announced.

**Nov 3 Monday**                      **Mobilizing Resources**

William A. Sahlman (1997) How to Write a Great Business Plan, *Harvard Business Review* July/Aug: 98–108.

Readings on nonprofit fundraising to be announced.

## SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

**Nov 5 Wednesday**                **Environmentalism**

Readings:

{L} Robert Gottlieb, *Forcing the Spring: The Transformation of the American Environmental Movement*, Island Press, 2005. Chapter 1 plus one chapter of your choice from Sakai.

**Nov 10 Monday**                      No class – HMC Advising Week – Work on Research Papers

**Nov 12 Wednesday**                No class – HMC Advising Week – Work on Research Papers

## Nov 17 Monday                      The Religious Right

### Readings:

Clyde Wilcox and Carin Robinson, *Onward Christian Soldiers? The Religious Right in American Politics*, 4th ed., Westview Press, 2011. Chapters 1 and 2. (Optional: Chapter 5.)

In-class video: *Is God Green?*

## Nov 19 Wednesday                      The Politics of Gay Rights

In addition to the two common readings (see below), a student panel presents on the following:

Gillian Frank (2013) "The Civil Rights of Parents": Race and Conservative Politics in Anita Bryant's Campaign against Gay Rights in 1970s Florida, *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 22(1):126-160.

Nathaniel Frank (2013) The President's Pleasant Surprise: How LGBT Advocates Ended Don't Ask, Don't Tell, *Journal of Homosexuality* 60: 159-213.

David Karol, How Does Party Position Change Happen? The Case of Gay Rights in the U.S. Congress, Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, in New Orleans, Louisiana, 2012 (revised July).

Katherine L. Krimmel, Jeffrey R. Lax, and Justin H. Phillips, Gay Rights in Congress: Public Opinion and (Mis) Representation, in Proceedings from Midwest Political Science Association's Annual National Conference. Chicago, 2012.

Jeffrey R. Lax and Justin H. Phillips (2012) The Democratic Deficit in the States, *American Journal of Political Science* 56 (1):148–166.

Marc Epprecht (2012) Sexual Minorities, Human Rights and Public Health Strategies in Africa, *African Affairs* 111(443): 223-243.

Elisabeth J. Friedman (2012) Constructing "The Same Rights With the Same Names": The Impact of Spanish Norm Diffusion on Marriage Equality in Argentina, *Latin American Politics and Society* 54(4): 29-59.

### Common Readings:

Kenneth D. Wald, "The Context of Gay Politics" and John D'Emilio, "Cycles of Change, Questions of Strategy: The Gay and Lesbian Movement after Fifty Years," in Craig A Rimmerman, Kenneth D. Wald, and Clyde Wilcox (eds.), *The Politics of Gay Rights*, University of Chicago Press, 2000.

**Nov 24 Monday                      The Tax Revolt**

In-class debate: Do we pay too much in taxes?

Readings:

Ballard C. Campbell (1998) Tax Revolts and Political Change, *Journal of Policy History* 10:153-178.

Lisa McGirr, *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New American Right*, Princeton University Press, 2002. Chapters 3 and 4.

David Kirby and Emily McClintock Ekins, Cato Institute, "Tea Party's Other Half," October 28, 2010, [www.cato.org/publications/commentary/tea-partys-other-half](http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/tea-partys-other-half)

**Nov 26 Wednesday**

No class meeting. Open office hours (Parsons 1280) to discuss research papers.

View online videorecording of Linda Elderkin, the former mayor of Claremont, on how to bring about change at local levels. (On Sakai see "MediaSite" on the left-side menu. If a pop-up message indicates that it is blocked, click "allow.")

**VENUES FOR ALTERNATIVE POLITICS**

**Dec 1 Monday                      Political Parties**

No readings. Form teams for social media assignment.

**Dec 3 Wednesday                      Social Media for Social Change**

{O} Two-person teams present examples of social media.

⇒ Final draft of research paper due outside Parsons 1280 by 5pm on Friday.

**Dec 8 Monday**

**Diffusion across Political Systems**

Readings:

Paul F. Steinberg, "Policy Culture," in *Environmental Leadership in Developing Countries*, MIT Press, 2001.

Doug McAdam and Dieter Rucht (1993) The Cross-National Diffusion of Movement Ideas, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 528:56-74.

**Dec 10 Wednesday**

**What Next?**

Readings:

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self-Reliance," in *Essays: First Series*, 1841.

*Diffusion of Innovations*, chapter 11.