



FINAL EXAMINATION
PSPA 276

Choose ONE of the three following essays questions (30 points)

Please write a clear, informative essay that explains the topic. Your thoughtful response should demonstrate that you have understood the concepts presented in class discussion and in the text. In addition, make sure you include an explanation of supporting topics. Your goal is to convince me that you have gained a *thorough* and *practical* grasp of the process and that you know how to apply it.

Essay #1, Problems Stream:

Various mechanisms bring problems to the attention of government officials.

- Define indicators
- Discuss how indicators, events, crisis and symbols, and feedback are used in the agenda setting.
- What are the factors that lead to the demise of a problem as a prominent agenda item (mention at least three)? *Briefly explain each.*

Essay #2, Policy Stream:

Within policy communities, many ideas are considered seriously at some stage and in some ways (primeval soup).

- Define policy communities
- Discuss the processes by which proposals are generated, debated, regrafted, and accepted for serious consideration (softening up, short list of proposals...)
- What are the criterias for survival of a proposal (mention at least three)? *Briefly explain each.*

Essay #3, Political Stream:

The political stream is flowing independently from the problems and policy stream.

- Define organized political forces
- Discuss the different components of this stream (national mood, organized political forces, and events within the government itself).
- What are the two major processes by which actors affect policy agendas? *Briefly explain each.*

Choose TWO the following three questions (20 points)

1. Describe the difference between a **condition** and a **problem**. Provide a supporting example. Discuss how conditions become defined as a problem.
2. Explain the difference between **governmental agenda** and **policy agenda**. How does the chances of a problem to rise on each of the agenda increased?
3. Explain the difference between **policy entrepreneurs** and **policy communities**. Where is each located and who are they composed of.

Fill in the blank (27 points)

I-The result of system fragmentation is:

- 1.
- 2.

II- Policy window opens when there is

- 1.
- 2.

III- Policy window closes when

- 1.
- 2.

IV-Scarcity and frequency of policy windows are due to

- 1.
- 2.

V- Policy windows can be classified as predictable when:

- 1.
- 2.

VI- Policy windows are unpredictable in the case of:

- 1.
- 2.

VII- Some of the main characteristics of policy communities are

- 1.
- 2.

VIII- Two of the main characteristics of policy entrepreneurs are

- 1.
- 2.

IX- What make a solution a "pet" solution are (i.e. incentives for advocacy)

- 1.
- 2.

Briefly comment on the following by explaining,providing example... (20 points)

1. Indicators are not simply a straightforward recognition of the facts.
2. Consensus building in the political stream is radically different than in the policy stream.
3. The appearance of a window for one subject often increases the probability that a window will open for another similar subject (Spillovers).
4. Coupling of the three streams is the key to understand agenda change.

BONUS (3 points)

1. List **three** pieces of information you learned in this class that you will, hopefully, never forget.
2. What was **interesting** about this course?
3. If you had to take this course again, what would you **keep** and what you **change**?

Have a wonderful break...