

Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs
Spring 2007

WWS 594b: Executive Branch Politics

Instructor: David Lewis
Time: Wednesday, 1:00-4:00
Location: TBD

The executive branch is the nexus of policy making in the Post-War period in the United States. The vague and sometimes conflicting policy mandates of the legislature, the chief executive, and courts get translated into real public policy in the bureaucracy. The course focuses on executive branch policy making and performance. It covers the people, external influences, organizations, and processes that shape and implement policy administratively. Some specific topics include the politics of bureaucratic structure, centralization and politicization as strategies of bureaucratic control, and contemporary techniques for measuring and improving agency performance.

The Readings

The required texts are:

Kerwin, Cornelius M. 1999. *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly.

Lewis, David E. (no date). *Politicizing Administration*. Book Manuscript, Princeton University (available from professor).

Pfiffner, James P. 1996. *The Strategic Presidency: Hitting the Ground Running*, 2d ed. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas.

Assessment

Students will also be graded based upon written work and participation. Written work includes one short paper (either memo or op-ed) on one of the course topics and one longer paper concerning modern strategies for bureaucratic control. Participation grades will be assigned on the basis of knowledge of the readings, before class preparation, and in-class discussion.

1. The Politics of Agency Design

Moe, Terry M. 1989. The Politics of Bureaucratic Structure. In *Can the Government Govern?* edited by J. E. Chubb and P. E. Peterson. Washington, DC: Brookings. (62)

McCubbins, Mathew D., Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. 1989. Structure and Process, Politics and Policy: Administrative Arrangements and the Political Control of Agencies. *Virginia Law Review* 75 (2):431-482. (51)

Lewis, David E. 2003. *Presidents and the Politics of Agency Design: Political Insulation in the United States Government Bureaucracy, 1946-1997*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. pp. 21-38; pp. 70-97; pp. 107-21. (54)

2. Delegation and Rulemaking

Huber, John D., and Charles R. Shipan. 2002. *Deliberate Discretion?* New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 1-43 (43)

Kerwin, Cornelius M. 1999. *Rulemaking: How Government Agencies Write Law and Make Policy*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: Congressional Quarterly. Ch.1, 2. (75)

McCubbins, Mathew D., Roger Noll, and Barry Weingast. 1987. Administrative Procedures as Instruments of Political Control. *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 3:243-277. (34)

3. Personnel Politics

Moe, Terry M. 1985. The Politicized Presidency. In *The New Direction in American Politics*, edited by J. E. Chubb and P. E. Peterson. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press. (35)

Lewis, David E. (no date). *Politicizing Administration*. Book Manuscript, Princeton University. Chapters 1-3. (148)

4. Unilateral Executive Action—Executive Orders and Signing Statements

Moe, Terry M., and William G. Howell. 1999. Unilateral Action and Presidential Power: A Theory. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 29 (4):850-72. (22)

Mayer, Ken. 2000. *With the Stroke of a Pen*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Pp. 1-65. (65)

Fisher, Louis. 2000. *Congressional Abdication on War and Spending*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M Press. Pp. 21-28; 115-152. (44)

5. Agency Performance and Performance Measurement

Wilson, James Q. 1989. *Bureaucracy*. New York, NY: Basic Books. Ch. 9. (24)

Packet, [Program Assessment Rating Tool](#) (available from professor).

Lewis, David E. (no date). *Politicizing Administration*. Book Manuscript, Princeton University. Chapter 6. (48)

6. Executive Transitions

Pfiffner, James P. 1996. *The Strategic Presidency: Hitting the Ground Running*, 2d ed. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas. Pp. 1-33; 56-127. (71)

Miller, Arnie. 1992. Personnel Process for a Presidential Transition. In Mark Green, ed. *Changing America: Blueprints for a New Democracy*. (Newmarket Press). (16)

Burke, John P. 2004. *Becoming President: The Bush Transition, 2000-2003*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner. Selections.