New Course for Fall Semester 2015

POLS451 Policy Design and Governance. Dr. Moore
9:30-10:45am Tues & Thursdays

This course is the culmination of several years examining ‘non-bureaucratic public agencies. These include but are not limited to...

- Social Security (a social insurance program),
- Student Loan Program (implemented by a ‘gov’t. sponsored enterprise’),
- Tax incentives for homeownership (implemented by the IRS)

One can easily include in this broad design family the’ public authority’ (like many port authorities), social insurance programs like Unemployment Insurance and Medicare, Public Corporations (like PBS, the FDIC, and others), private and public tollway authorities and ‘public/private partnerships’(such as those we see in Colorado, Indiana, California and elsewhere), Urban Renewal Authorities (most cities of any size have them) and “special districts,” carbon taxes, etc.

These are important public entities, charged with large responsibilities affecting our quality of life, commerce and security. What they all have in common is that they not only perform important public functions but are somewhat detached from the ‘normal’ oversight and control by democratic institutions. They operate according to a logic a typical from most ‘bureaucratic’ agencies who must testify, continually justify their authority and their operating budgets.

These distinctive types of public agencies are far from trivial, constituting ever larger responsibilities along with greater financial ‘footprints’ in our democracy. The purpose of this course will be examine several examples of these ‘special’ institutional designs, their operations and prospects for success, and how ‘accountability’ works in the case of these distinctive agencies, with an eye to special problems of control and accountability.

Students will have a wide choice among topics to ground their research papers.

Required Texts.

Numerous other public administration and law review articles and book chapters

Required Assignments.

Attendance and active participation in class
2 Challenge Essays
1 substantial research paper on a topic approved by the instructor