PA 507 – Policy Process  
Spring 2010  
Midterm Exam

Instructions: Please type your answers to the following questions. Be sure to copy the question into your paper so I know which questions you have answered.

1. Question 1 is mandatory and everyone must answer it.
2. You must answer at least four of questions on this exam.
3. You may choose not to take this exam if you have earned no less than 85 on the first submission of any one paper so far, and if you inform me, by email, on or before the due date for the exam, that you opt out of the exam.
4. The exam is due to my email by 9 pm on Tuesday, March 9. The file name must follow the form lastname_midterm.doc (or .docx). The subject line of the email must contain PA 507: Midterm. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for every day late, including weekends and holidays or breaks. Papers four or more days late will earn a zero.
5. You may earn bonus points if you answer five questions. This means that the total possible points for this exam is 125, but you need only earn 100 to get the highest mark. A 20 on all five questions would be a 100, just like 25 on four of the five.
6. There are no bonus points for answering more than five.
7. Each answer should not exceed about 500 words, but may be longer if you’re making a sound argument.
8. Please put your name on the exam, and number pages.

Grading Criteria

1. The usual requirement that the paper be well written, and that grammar, spelling, punctuation, and mechanics must be reflective of professional writing.
2. Complete answers to the question; incomplete answers will not earn top marks
3. Reference to the texts and, where appropriate, the lectures. If the books say the same thing as I said in lecture, refer to the books, not to the lecture notes.
4. Creative and logically sensible answers to questions. Answers that simply repeat back the words of the books will not earn top marks
1. **Mandatory question:** Deborah Stone compares two ways of looking at political societies—as “markets,” informed by economic logic, or as a “polis,” characterized by social and political logic. Why does she make this comparison? What is the difference between these two ways of looking at policy making? Which approach do you believe is most realistic? Are there elements of both approaches that can be mixed and matched to provide a realistic view of policy making?

2. Explain why we consider space on the agenda to be limited, leading to competition to raise issues on the agenda. Why is the agenda limited? Are there ways in which more room can be created for issues on the agenda? Are some levels of the agenda more limited—and therefore more competitive—than are other levels? Explain why.

3. Visit a site that contains editorial cartoons, such as Don Cagle’s Political Cartoonists Index at [http://cagle.msnbc.com/](http://cagle.msnbc.com/), or any regular comic strip from comics.com or similar sources. Find a cartoon or two that would illustrate a concept we have discussed in the course. Explain the concept, and why you think the cartoon or cartoons are a good illustration for this concept.

4. What does it mean when we say “environmental factors” help shape public policy? What are the key environmental factors that shape policy? Feel free to use your own semester projects to provide examples.

5. In my textbook I claim what Congress is doing more oversight than it did in years past. Many people think that public policy is about making laws, but oversight is really not about law making in this sense. In what ways is oversight important to the policy process? What policy outcomes can result from oversight?

6. Do you think that modern day investigative reporting—what we might call “muckraking”—occurs today? What impact, if any, does such journalism have on policy? What might be impeding journalists from this sort of muckraking and its policy effects?

7. How does an elite theory of power in the United States differ from a pluralist theory? Which theory better explains how power actually works in the United States? What evidence might you use to support your conclusion?