The goals of this assignment are for students (1) to complete a rigorous review of empirical applications of one theory; (2) to gain deeper knowledge about a particular theory; and (3) to learn more about how theories are applied to study empirical phenomena and how to pick up theoretical and empirical patterns in the policy literature.

Specifics & Details:

1. Students may complete this assignment in teams of two. If done in teams of two, both students will receive the same grade.
2. Due date for the literature review is anytime during the first part of the semester with November 10th serving as the very last day to turn it in. Note - the due date for this assignment is different than what was listed on the original syllabus. Late assignments will receive a deduction in the grade.
3. In an email, students must specify to the Professor the theory they will study and when they will turn it in. Do this immediately.
4. Students can choose any of the 7 theories in the Theories of the Policy Process book, plus Schneider and Ingram’s Social Construction Framework (see Schneider and Ingram 1993). Students must review 10 empirical applications of their chosen theory.
5. The final paper must not exceed 3,000 words, this does not include any references, figures, and tables.
6. This assignment is worth 25% of students’ final grade.
7. In the paper, students must provide a short summary of the theory they have chosen to review for this assignment and why this theory is important from academic and practical perspectives.
8. Students must develop concrete and replicable criteria for selecting their 10 articles. That is, there might be dozens to hundreds of empirical applications of a given theory. How did they pick these 10 articles? The students’ task is to develop replicable methods for selecting articles. In their paper, students must describe this method of selecting articles. Be concrete. Be specific as possible.
9. Students must “code” the 10 articles using these general categories:
   a. What is the research question(s)/objective(s) of the article?
   b. What topic(s) (e.g., welfare, environmental issues, etc.) was covered by the article?
   c. What was the location of the empirical study and the affiliation of the authors?
   d. What year was the article published? What journal was the article published in?
   e. What part of the framework/theory was applied? What hypotheses were tested?
   f. What was the “gap” as specified by the author(s) in the academic literature that the article was trying to fill? And, what was the contribution to the academic literature from the application?
   g. What type of data was collected? How was the data analyzed?
   h. What is the main argument(s) in the article?
   i. How many google scholar citations does the article have?
   j. Others? Students are encouraged to code the applications based on other categories that deem relevant.
10. For the most part, the answers to #9 above should be stated in the article with little if any interpretation. Students now must synthesize across all empirical applications. Please answer these questions:
   a. What are some of the emergent patterns (broadly defined) across the applications?
b. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the research program surrounding this theory based on these 10 applications?

c. How generalizable are these 10 applications to the remaining applications of the theory?

d. What is the overall quality of the 10 applications?

11. Once completed students must discuss the assignment and what they learned from it with their classmates in class. This can be very informal. Keep the summary less than 5 minutes. The point is to share what was learned with others so everyone benefits from the labor put into this assignment.

12. Students must email their final paper to the Professor in a Word Doc format.

## GRADE SUMMARY FOR THE LITERATURE REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL APPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Component</th>
<th>Points toward Grade for Proposal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary of the theory and its importance (#7 above)</td>
<td>15 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of replicable methods for selecting articles for review (#8 above)</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary and presentation of the co-ed items of the applications (#9 above)</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syntheses of the patterns and insights from the applications (#10 above)</td>
<td>25 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall clarity and quality of the assignment &amp; presentation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<td></td>
<td>100 points total</td>
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