

POLI 163

Fall 2012

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00AM-10:50AM

Faustina Solis Lecture Hall - Room 109

## Analyzing Politics

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858-534-7237

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00PM-3:00PM, office SSB #365.

### Course Description

Politics can be understood as the combination of individual preferences and decisions into social choices. This course presents an analytical framework for understanding the main issues involved in aggregating individual preferences into group choices. Canonical analytical models are explained and applied to such topics as collective action, majority rule, and coalition formation.

### Format

The class will meet three times a week for the duration of the quarter. Class sessions will be conducted as lectures. The lectures will review the concepts discussed in the readings, but should be taken neither as a *duplication* nor as a substitute for them. In other words, you should not assume that because you came to class, you can skip the readings, and/or that because you made the readings you may not attend the lectures.

### Assignments

Each week students are expected to read the materials. The formal examinations consist of a mid-term exam in week five and a final exam at the end of the term. The midterm exam accounts for 35% of the final grade and the final exam accounts for 50% of the final grade. Discussion and general class participation accounts for the remaining 15%. Extensions, incompletes, etc. will be given in accordance with UCSD policy. Except under **very pressing circumstances**, they will be discouraged.

## Course Policies

*Academic Integrity.* Students in this course are expected to comply with UCSD's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship. In particular, plagiarism is considered a dishonest practice and a serious academic offense. Hence, there will be a zero tolerance policy with respect to these practices: any student violating the obligation of academic integrity during the term will automatically fail the class. Copies of the current version of the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, also commonly referred to as the Academic Dishonesty Policy, may be found on the Academic Senate webpage: <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/AcademicIntegrity/AcademicIntegrity.htm>

*Disabilities.* If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both me and the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify the OSD, call (858) 534-4382 to schedule an appointment.

## Course Materials

Readings are drawn from a textbook available for purchase.

## Required Book

Shepsle, Kenneth A. 2010. *Analyzing Politics*. New York: W. W. Norton (hereafter: Textbook).

## Course Outline and Readings

*Week 0 (September 28)*

September 28: Introduction

*Week 1 (October 1 - October 5)*

Strategy in Politics (Textbook, chs. 1-2).

*Week 2 (October 8 - October 12)*

Social Dilemmas (Textbook, chs. 9-10).

*Week 3 (October 15 - October 19 )*

Social Choice (Textbook, chs. 3-4).

*Week 4 (October 22 - October 26)*

Majority Rule (Textbook, ch. 5).

*Week 5 (October 29- November 2)*

Review and **Midterm Exam** (November 2)

*Week 6 (November 5 - November 9)*

Electoral Rules (Textbook, ch. 7).

*Week 7 (November 12 - November 16)*

Sophisticated Voting and Manipulation (Textbook, ch. 6).

*Week 8 (November 19 - November 23)*

Cooperation (Textbook, ch. 8).

*Week 9 (November 26 - November 30)*

Institutions (Textbook, ch. 11).

*Week 10*

Lessons Learned ( Textbook, ch. 17).

***Final Exam: Friday December 14 - 8:00AM - 10:59AM***