

INTRODUCTION TO POLICY ANALYSIS

Political Science 160AA Fall 2019

T-Th 9:30-10:50am Solis 104

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Zoltan Hajnal
Office Hours: Monday 10am-12pm in RBC1413
Email: zhajnal@ucsd.edu

TAs: Austin Beacham abeacham@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-3pm in SSB 322

Sean Clark sjc002@ucsd.edu Office Hours: Wednesday 11-1pm in SSB 320

Course Description:

This course is designed to give students an understanding of how one might choose public policies. The first part of the course provides basic knowledge of rationality, individual decision making, cooperation, and problems with the market. The second third of the course provides a brief overview of each stage of the policy-making process. The last part of the course consists of a series of public debates on current policy questions. By the end of the course you should have a reasonable understanding of the values and goals that underlie public policy decisions, the factors that constrain those decisions, and the analytical steps required to ultimately make those decisions.

How Your Grade Will Be Determined

Component	Percent of Grade	Due Date/Date Held
Midterm I	25	Oct 24 th
Debate -Team Grade	25	see schedule
Cumulative Final	45	Dec 12 th 8am
Participation	5	throughout

The course will consist of two meetings each week. I will lecture but questions and discussions are always welcome. Attendance and reading are mandatory. *All readings for a particular date should be done before the beginning of class.* Participation points will come from a) attending and speaking in class, b) commenting each debate day, and d) meeting with your debate teammates in a timely manner.

Grading Policy:

Appeals about grades must be type-written, double spaced, and no more than one page long. It must be submitted to your TA. The TA's decision is final.

Readings: All course readings will be available on the Course Website.

Reading List

PART I. A MODEL OF INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND THE MARKET

- 9/26 Introduction**
- 10/1 The Rational Actor Model**
Core Topics: What is the rational actor approach? Thinking about behavior strategically. Is the rational actor model accurate?
Kenneth Shepsle (2010) *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions* Chapter 2
Charles Murray (1984). *Losing Ground: American Social Policy, 1950-1980*. pp 154-177
Joel Waldfoegel "Evidence that Prison Doesn't Deter Crime" Slate.com Jan 30, 2007
http://www.slate.com/articles/business/the_dismal_science/2007/01/the_irrational_18yearold_criminal.html
Barbara Vobejda and Judith Havemann "Doing the Math on the Welfare 'Family Cap' Washington Post. Sunday March 30, 1997. Page A01.
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/welfare/stories/wf033097.htm>
- 10/3 Individual Choices**
Core Topics: Understanding problems in group decision making. Strategic voting. Sophisticated voting.
Shepsle, Chapters 3, Chapter 4 (53-74), Chapter 5 (110-123), and Chapter 6 (156-170, 174-179)
12 Sanders Supporters Explain Why They Won't Vote for Hilary Clinton
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/12-bernie-sanders-supporters-explain-132120416.html>
Eli Watkins (2017) How Gary Johnson and Jill Stein helped elect Donald Trump - CNN
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/10/politics/gary-johnson-jill-stein-spoiler/index.html>
- 10/8 Cooperation and Collective Action**
Core Topics: Problems with cooperation. Public goods. Prisoners Dilemma. Problems with collective action. Why we shouldn't contribute. How can we solve collective action problems?
Shepsle Chapter 8 and 9
Johannes Urpaleinen. "What Political Science Can Tell Us About the Paris Climate Deal" 2015.
Washington Post.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/12/14/heres-what-political-science-can-tell-us-about-the-paris-climate-deal/>
- 10/10 Aggregation Problems**
Core Topics: How electoral systems shape outcomes. Is there a best system? Practical problems like redistricting.
Shepsle Chapter 7
Rachel Weiner. Court Strikes Down Virginia House Districts as Racial Gerrymandering. 2018. *Washington Post* June 26
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/court-strikes-down-virginia-house-districts-as-racial-gerrymandering/2018/06/26/4e953752-7993-11e8-80be-6d32e182a3bc_story.html?utm_term=.1bd5e06a8870
- 10/15 The Market Economy**
Core Topics: Preconditions for a market. The benefits of the market. Alternatives to the market.
Michael C. Munger *Analyzing Policy* 2000. W. W. Norton Chapter 3 (pages 54-69)
Paul Heyne *The Economic Way of Thinking* 1997. Eighth Edition. Prentice Hall Chapter 2

Forbes Someone Working Should Get a Living Wage, Period. April 2016
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2016/04/07/someone-working-full-time-should-get-a-living-wage-period/#63eba0f32cde>

New York Times. Why Rent Control Is a Lightning Rod, Oct 2018
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/12/business/economy/rent-control-explained.html>

10/17 Market Failures

Core Topics: Assumptions for a perfect market. Public goods. Externalities. Information. Monopolies. Poor decision. Unequal initial distribution. Unacceptable preferences. Discrimination.

Kenneth Bicker and John T. Williams *Public Policy Analysis*. 2001. Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 7

10/22 Market Failures continued and Midterm Review

Kirschenman and Neckerman "The Meaning of Race for Employers" pp 203-232 in *The Urban Underclass*. Christopher and Jencks and Paul E. Peterson (Eds). 1991. The Brookings Institution Press
Bertrand, M. and S. Mullainathan (2004). "Are Emily and Greg More Employable Than Lakisha and Jamal?" *American Economic Review* 94(4): 991-1013

10/24 Midterm

PART II. STAGES OF POLICY ANALYSIS

10/29 Introduction to Different Stages, Agenda Setting, Problem Definition

Core Topics: The stages of policy analysis, agenda setting, framing, problem definition

James Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton. Chapter 3 (79-101)

John W. Kingdon *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* 2nd Edition. Harper Collins pp 196-205

Shanto Iyengar. "Television News and Citizens' Explanations of National Affairs" 81 *APSR* (1987):815-832

Politico. Five Problems the Wall Won't Solve. 2017. February

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/02/trump-wall-mexico-problems-immigration-214837>

Mark H. Moore "Anatomy of the Heroin Problem" *Policy Analysis* 1976 Fall 2(4): 640-662

10/31 Identify Alternative Policies

Core Topics: Types of policy. More vs less coercive policies. Targeting vs universal policies.

James A. Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 6 (220-230)

Jeanne Sahadi "Taxing the fat in Your Food" CNN.com July 28, 2009

https://money.cnn.com/2009/07/28/news/economy/health_care_reform_obesity/index.htm

Vox Juul, the vape device teens are getting hooked on, explained. August 2018

<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2018/5/1/17286638/juul-vaping-e-cigarette>

MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING LAST PART OF CLASS

11/5 Evaluation Criteria

Core Topics: Efficiency vs equity, security, liberty, dignity, and feasibility.

Deborah Stone *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making* 1997 W.W. Norton. Chapters 2,4, 3 (pages 61-71), & 5

Michael Finkel "Complications" The New York Times May 27, 2001 Section 6 Column 1 Pg26

11/7 Cost-Benefit Analysis and Decision Making

Core Topics: The steps in cost-benefit analysis. Valuing a life. Criteria Alternatives Maximization. Different models of decision making.

James A. Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 4 (119-144).
Chapter 7 (264-269)
Dana Kemerud "Benefits and Costs of the 55 MPH Speed Limit" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 1988 Vol 7 No 2 341-352.
Gardiner Harris "British Balance Benefit vs Cost of Latest Drugs" 2008. New York Times. Dec 3rd

11/12 Implementation, Evaluation

Core Topics: Barriers to Implementation - principal-agent problem, costs to implement, sanctions for non-compliance. Types of evaluation – impressionistic, process evaluation, systematic evaluation, experiments.

James A. Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton Mifflin. Chapters 6 (193-220, 230-238) & 7 (245-264)

Frustrations Abound in First Year of Prop. 227. Los Angeles Times. 1999

<https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1999-jun-21-me-48752-story.html>

Chetty, R., et al. (2016). "The Effects of Exposure to Better Neighborhoods on Children: New Evidence from the Moving to Opportunity Experiment." *American Economic Review* **106**(4): 855-902.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20150572>

Lawrence Mead (2007) Why Welfare Reform Succeeded *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* **26**(2):370-374

Center on Budget Priorities. TANF at 20. Aug 2018 <http://www.cbpp.org/research/family-income-support/chart-book-tanf-at-20>

MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING LAST PART OF CLASS

PART III. DEBATES

Read *The Debaters Guide* by Ericson, Murphy and Zeuschner. PP 12-16, 20-29, 72-73, and 99-111.

The Debates

1. **Resolved: We should have extensive tariffs on China**
2. **Resolved: We should expand the border wall**
3. **Resolved: We should tax fatty foods**
4. **Resolved: We should tax the wealthy more**
5. **Resolved: We should end all reliance on coal**
6. **Resolved: We should dramatically increase regulations on Juul e-cigarettes**
7. **Resolved: We should raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour**
8. **Resolved: We should overturn Roe v Wade.**
9. **Resolved: We should institute compulsory voting**

11/14 **MEET AND WORK WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING CLASS**

11/19 **DEBATES**

11/21 **DEBATES**

11/26 **DEBATES**

11/28 **NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

12/3 **DEBATES**

12/5 **Discussion/Review of Course**

12/12 FINAL EXAM 8-11am

LOCATION: To be announced

DEBATE GUIDELINES

Format

Pro Team Opening Statement – 1 minutes

Con Team Opening Statement – 1 minutes

Question and Answer Period - 18 minutes

Each team will be asked three questions each.

Time for Question - 30 seconds.

Answer – 90 seconds.

Rebuttal - 1 minute.

Pro Team Closing Statement - 1 minutes

Con Team Closing Statement - 1 minutes

Each team must submit electronically to a) the professor and b) their opposing team:

(1) a discovery packet of no more than 50 single-sided pages and no smaller than 12 point font and

(2) the three questions they will ask. Each question must be 25 words or less. Failure to comply will result in a one-letter grade penalty for all members of the team.

Debate Date

Deadline for Discovery Packet and Questions

11/19

11/17 by 5PM

11/21

11/19 BEFORE the beginning of class

11/26

11/21 BEFORE the beginning of class

12/3

11/26 BEFORE the beginning of class or later with approval of both teams AND Professor Hajnal.

Everyone must participate. Each student must do at least two the following:

An opening statement, a closing statement, answer a question, offer one rebuttal.

The consequence of failing to comply is a grade of 0 for this portion of the class.

About the Discovery packets

The purpose of a discovery packet is for both teams to have access to the evidence that the other teams will cite.

There is no need to put your arguments in the discovery packet. You do, however, have to include any empirical DATA that you will use. Teams are restricted from making any non-obvious EMPIRICAL claims that they do not provide evidence for in their discovery packet. All items included in the discovery packet must be properly cited or electronic links provided.

Grades

Each team will receive a grade.

All members of a team will receive the same grade. The one exception to this rule is for people for whom it is obvious little or no effort was exerted or people who cannot defend their claims.

Guidelines

-Treat this as a challenge. The better you prepare, the more rewarding this experience will be.

-Teams will be rewarded for conducting themselves in a professional manner.

-Time deadlines are strict. Teams will be rewarded for keeping within the given time limits.