

INTRODUCTION TO POLICY ANALYSIS

Political Science 160AA// USP 101 Fall 2009
T-Th 9:30-10:50am CENTR PCYNH 106

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Zoltan Hajnal
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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 1	30	Oct 27 th
Debate -Team Grade	20	see schedule
Cumulative Final	45	Dec 10 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) speaking in class, b) attending debates, c) submitting one comment on 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.

Required Books:

Kenneth Shepsle and Mark Bonchek (1997) *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*

Reader:

All course readings with the exception of the Shepsle and Bonchek book are included in a packet that will be available from AS Soft Reserves (534-6256). All readings will also be available online at ereserves or as hard copies at the library.

Reading List

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

- 9/29 Introduction
- 10/1 Rationality - Shepsle and Bonchek Chapter 2
- 10/6 Group Choice - Shepsle and Bonchek Chapter 3, Chapter 4 (49-71), Chapter 5 (104-115), and Chapter 6 (137-151, 155-60)
- 10/8 Voting Methods - Shepsle and Bonchek Chapter 7
Cain "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory" pages 261-277 in *Controversies in Minority Voting*. Bernard Grofman and Chandler Davidson. 1992. The Brookings Institution
Guinier "Voting Rights and Democratic Theory" pages 283-292 in *Controversies in Minority Voting*. Bernard Grofman and Chandler Davidson. 1992. The Brookings Institution
- 10/13 Cooperation and Collective Action - Shepsle and Bonchek Chapter 8 and 9
- 10/15 The Market Economy – 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
- 10/20 Market Failures – Kenneth Bicker and John T. Williams *Public Policy Analysis*. 2001. Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 7
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
Christopher Jencks. *Rethinking Social Policy: Race Poverty, and the Underclass*. 1993. Harper Perennial. pages 40-49
- 10/22 Midterm Review
- 10/27 Midterm
Choose Debate Preferences on Exam

PART II. STAGES OF POLICY ANALYSIS

- 10/29 Introduction to Different Stages, Agenda Setting, Problem Definition – Angie C. Marek "Border Wars" *US News and World Report* November 28, 2005. Vol 139 No 20 pg 46
James A. Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 3 (79-101)
John W. Kingdon *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* Second Edition. Harper Collins pp 196-205
Mark H. Moore "Anatomy of the Heroin Problem" *Policy Analysis* 1976 Fall 2(4): 640-662
- 11/3 Identify Alternative 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
MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING LAST HALF OF CLASS

- 11/5 Establish Evaluation Criteria –
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
- 11/10 Cost-Benefit Analysis and Decision Making - James A. Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 4 (119-144). Chapter 7 (264-269)
Dana Kamerud “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– James A. Anderson *Public Policymaking* 2003. Fifth Edition. Houghton Mifflin. Chapters 6 (193-220, 230-238) & 7 (245-264)
Lucy Williams “Race, Rat Bites, and Unfit Mothers” 1995 Forhdam Urban Law Journal Vol 22 Summer pages 1159-1196
MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS FOR SECOND HALF OF CLASS

PART III. DEBATES

The Debates

1. ***Resolved: We should leave Afghanistan***
2. ***Resolved: We should increase border security to prevent more illegal immigration***
3. ***Resolved: Gay marriage should be legal***
4. ***Resolved: The government should provide universal health care***
5. ***Resolved: We should raise the minimum wage***
6. ***Resolved: We should end the death penalty***
7. ***Resolved: We should loosen environmental laws to expand domestic energy production***
8. ***Resolved: We should outlaw abortion***

In preparing for their debate all students must read *The Debaters Guide* by Ericson, Murphy and Zeuschner. PP 12-16, 20-29, 72-73, and 99-111.

SEE ADDITIONAL DEBATE GUIDELINES BELOW

11/17 DEBATES

11/19 DEBATES

11/24 DEBATES

11/26 THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS

12/1 DEBATES

12/3 Review for Final

12/10 FINAL EXAM 8-11AM LOCATION: To be announced

DEBATE GUIDELINES

Format

Pro Team Opening Statement - 90 seconds

Con Team Opening Statement - 90 seconds

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 minute

Con Team Closing Statement - 1 minute

Each team must submit one copy to me and one copy to 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.

<i>Debate Date</i>	<i>Deadline for Discovery Packet and Questions</i>
<i>11/17</i>	<i>11/12 at the end of class..</i>
<i>11/19</i>	<i>11/17 at the end of class.</i>
<i>11/24</i>	<i>11/19 at the end of class.</i>
<i>12/1</i>	<i>11/24 at the end of class.</i>

Everyone must participate. Each student must do at least one of 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.

Teams are restricted from making any non-obvious claims or statements that they do not provide evidence for in their discovery packet. All items included in the discovery packet must be properly cited. Items not properly cited will not be allowed into evidence for the debate.

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.