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
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30-4:00pm -- 395 Social Sciences Building
Phone: 822-5015
Email: zhajnal@ucsd.edu

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date/Date Held</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Oct 27th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate -Team Grade</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>see schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Final</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Dec 10th, 8am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>throughout</td>
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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

10/13 Cooperation and Collective Action - Shepsle and Bonchek Chapter 8 and 9


10/22 Midterm Review

10/27 Midterm
       Choose Debate Preferences on Exam

PART II. STAGES OF POLICY ANALYSIS


       Jeanne Sahadi “Taxing the fat in Your Food” CNN.com July 28, 2009
       MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING LAST HALF OF CLASS
Michael Finkel “Complications” The New York Times May 27, 2001 Section 6 Column 1 Pg26


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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Debate Date</th>
<th>Deadline for Discovery Packet and Questions</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td>11/12 at the end of class.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19</td>
<td>11/17 at the end of class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td>11/19 at the end of class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>11/24 at the end of class.</td>
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</tbody>
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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.