

POLI 163
Winter 2020

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00AM-10:50AM
Humanities Social Sciences Building - Room 2154

Analyzing Politics

Prof. Sebastián M. Saiegh
ssaiegh@ucsd.edu
858-534-7237

Office Hours: Monday 11:30PM-1:30PM, office SSB #370.

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 55% of the final grade. Class attendance accounts for the remaining 10%. 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 1 (January 6 - January 10)

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

Week 2 (January 13 - January 17)

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

Week 3 (January 22 - January 24)

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

Week 4 (January 27 - January 31)

Majority Rule (Textbook, ch. 5).

Week 5 (February 3 - February 7)

Review and **Midterm Exam** (February 7)

Week 6 (February 10 - February 14)

Electoral Rules (Textbook, ch. 7).

Week 7 (February 19 - February 21)

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

Week 8 (February 24 - February 28)

Cooperation (Textbook, ch. 8).

Week 9 (March 2 - March 6)

Institutions (Textbook, ch. 11).

Week 10 (March 9 - March 13)

Lessons Learned (Textbook, ch. 17).

Final Exam: Friday March 20 - 8:00AM - 10:59PM