INTRODUCTION TO POLICY ANALYSIS  
Political Science 160AA Fall 2018  
T-Th 9:30-10:50am Mande B-210  

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Zoltan Hajnal  
Office Hours: Wed 11am-12:30pm in RBC1413  
Email: zhajnal@ucsd.edu

TAs:

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>25</td>
<td>Oct 23th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debate -Team Grade</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>see schedule</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cumulative Final</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Dec 13th 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) 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.

**Required Books:** Kenneth Shepsle (2010) *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*

**Other Readings:** All course readings except the Shepsle book will be available on the TED/WebCT Course Website.
Reading List

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

9/27  Introduction

10/2  Rationality
Shepsle Chapter 2
Joel Waldfogel “Evidence that Prison Doesn’t Deter Crime” Slate.com Jan 30, 2007

10/4  Group Choice
Shepsle Chapter 3, Chapter 4 (53-74), Chapter 5 (111-123), and Chapter 6 (156-170, 174-179)
12 Sanders Supporters Explain Why They Won’t Vote for Hilary Clinton

10/9  Cooperation and Collective Action
Shepsle Chapter 8 and 9
Johannes Urpaleinen. “What Political Science Can Tell Us About the Paris Climate Deal” 2015.
Washington Post.

10/11 Voting Methods
Shepsle Chapter 7
Washington Post June 26

10/16 The Market Economy
https://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2016/04/07/someone-working-full-time-should-get-a-living-wage-period/#63eba0f32de

10/18 Market Failures
Vox Juul, the vape device teens are getting hooked on, explained. August 2018

10/23 Market Failures continued and Midterm Review


10/25 Midterm

PART II. STAGES OF POLICY ANALYSIS

10/30 Agenda Setting, Problem Definition, Identify Alternative Policies
Jeanne Sahadi “Taxing the fat in Your Food” CNN.com July 28, 2009
MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING LAST PART OF CLASS

11/1 Establish Evaluation Criteria
Michael Finkel “Complications” The New York Times May 27, 2001 Section 6 Column 1 Pg26

11/6 Cost-Benefit Analysis and Decision Making

11/8 NO CLASS – ENJOY

11/13 Implementation, Evaluation
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**

11/15  *MEET AND WORK WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING CLASS*

11/20  DEBATES

11/22  NO CLASS – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

11/27  DEBATES

11/29  DEBATES

12/4   DEBATES

12/6   Discussion/Review of Course

12/13  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  
11/20  
11/27  
11/29  
12/4  

Deadline for Discovery Packet and Questions  
11/16 at 5PM  
11/20 BEFORE the beginning of class or later with approval of both teams AND Professor Hajnal.  
11/27 BEFORE the beginning of class  
11/29 BEFORE the beginning of class  

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.