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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due Date/Date Held</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Oct 24th</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 12th 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.

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?
Joel Waldorfogel “Evidence that Prison Doesn’t Deter Crime” Slate.com Jan 30, 2007

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 Hillary Clinton

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.

10/10 Aggregation Problems
Core Topics: How electoral systems shape outcomes. Is there a best system? Practical problems like redistricting.
Shepsle Chapter 7

10/15 The Market Economy
Core Topics: Preconditions for a market. The benefits of the market. Alternatives to the market.
https://www.forbes.com/sites/timworstall/2016/04/07/someone-working-full-time-should-get-a-living-wage-period/#63eba0f32cd


10/17  Market Failures

10/22  Market Failures continued and Midterm Review

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

10/31  Identify Alternative Policies
Core Topics: Types of policy. More vs less coercive policies. Targeting vs universal policies.
Jeanne Sahadi “Taxing the fat in Your Food” CNN.com July 28, 2009
Vox Juul, the vape device teens are getting hooked on, explained. August 2018

MEET WITH DEBATE TEAMS DURING LAST PART OF CLASS

11/5  Evaluation Criteria
Core Topics: Efficiency vs equity, security, liberty, dignity, and feasibility.
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.
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.


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

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


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
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.