Course Syllabus
Fall 2020
Special Topics: Policy Analysis
*Influencing Public Policy*
POLI 165
Instructor: William Wachob

**Course Description**
So you want to be involved in formulating public policy? Do you even know what it takes? This course will focus on all of the various ways you can have an impact on policy, from the legislative process to going before a town council or meeting with an elected official. This will not be from a sterile diagram of the steps an idea or legislative proposal goes through before receiving the chief executive's signature. Instead, we will explore the many ways a concept or idea - the desire to meet a need or to fix a problem - becomes a legislative proposal and is ultimately passed into law.

We will discuss the myriad interests that advocate for or against a proposal. These will include organic grass roots efforts, through influential and/or compelling individuals, to organized special interest groups, the role of PACS and the executive branch.

Throughout the course, we will consider how these different constituencies help formulate a proposal, implement a strategy, and garner support or opposition to the proposal within a committee of jurisdiction, bringing pressure or influence to bear on the leadership of both legislative chambers, and finally, on the chief executive.

We will discover the modes of persuasive communication that can impact the path of a proposal, including free media coverage, op-eds, to paid media, from print, to radio, TV and social media.

We will also explore the role of fake news and the role that partisan and electoral politics can have in the passage or defeat of a bill.

This is a “how to” course not a theoretical exercise or an analysis of public policy but rather a practical discussion of how YOU can participate in moving policy forward at the local, state and federal level.

**Objectives of the Course**
At the completion of the course students will:
---Possess a factual and practical understanding of the legislative process
---Obtain the tools to think critically and analytically about the legislative process and its procedures
---Have sharpened their communications skills
---Gained a heightened sense of civic responsibility
--Be encouraged to become thoughtful participants in the political world
--Have a detailed understanding of the difficulties in seeking legislative remedies to complex problems and how to overcome them.

**Contact Information**
Instructor: William Wachob
Email: wwachob@ucsd.edu
Office Hours: Office hours will be offered by scheduling a phone appointment or via ZOOM.

**Student Conduct**
The University Code of Academic Integrity is central to the ideals that undergird this course. Students are expected to be independently familiar with the Code and to recognize that their work in the course is to be their own original work that truthfully represents the time and effort applied. Violations of the Code are most serious and will be handled in a manner that fully represents the extent of the Code and that befits the seriousness of its violation. For additional information please review, https://www.ucsd.edu/catalog/front/studcond.html

**Class Schedule**
Lecture: Mondays 6:00pm – 8:50pm
Location: All Classes will be held virtually through ZOOM.

**Written Assignments and Grading Policy**
There will be three (3) written assignments based on the lectures and the selected readings. These will constitute 60% of your grade and be worth 80 points each. In addition, there will be a final exam that will be 30% of your grade and worth a total of 120 points. The rubric for the final will be handed out at a later date. The remaining 20%, worth a total of 40 points, will be based on your active participation in the weekly sessions and periodic class quizzes.

The APA Writing Format will be the accepted format for all written assignments. As previously stated and referenced in the Code of Academic Integrity, students are responsible for upholding the highest standards of honesty at all times. Submitting contrived, altered, or plagiarized information without specific or proper acknowledgement violates those standards and will not be tolerated.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments #1, #2, #3</th>
<th>80 points each</th>
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<tr>
<td>Followed Assignment Criteria as Outlined</td>
<td>25 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creativity/Insights</td>
<td>15 pts</td>
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<td>Organization</td>
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<td>Clarity of Writing</td>
<td>15 pts</td>
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<td>Background Research</td>
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<tr>
<th>Final Exam</th>
<th>120 pts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Active Class Participation</td>
<td>40 pts</td>
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Readings (Partial List)

The Democracy Owner’s Manual, A Practical Guide to Changing the World,
By Jim Shultz

You Are The Message: Getting What you Want by Being Who You Are,
By Roger Ailes

By Ronald A. Faucheux

The Dance of Legislation
By Eric Redman

The selected books will be discussed throughout the course and it will be your responsibility to be up to date as the course progresses. Specific chapters will be assigned throughout the course and discussed in subsequent classes.

Additional readings on relevant articles or supplements will be posted. The course will also include guest speakers, who are experts in their field, to enhance our discussion.

Written Assignments

Assignment #1. One page persuasion memo to an elected official urging them to take a position, become a supporter, and/or author legislation to address the issue of your choosing. Due: October 26

Assignment #2. A two page memo based on your chosen topic in Assignment #1 that outlines a plan of attack to begin the initial phase of implementing an idea and working with a legislative sponsor to shepherd the idea through the elected body/legislature/Congress. Identify allies who could support the effort, anticipated opposition, and timeline for achieving your objective. Due: November 16

Assignment #3. A two page memo discussing the historical genesis of the Affordable Care Act debate. When did the debate start, who were the players, tactics and strategies employed to secure passage, and current status and future hurdles. Due: November 30.

Note: All written assignments are to be turned in prior to class on the designated date.

Class Participation and Attendance

Attendance and class participation is strongly recommended. Any material or announcements presented in the class will be your responsibility to obtain from other students. There will also be periodic quizzes based on the readings and lectures. During this course we will also have guest speakers who will be relevant to the subject matter.
being discussed and there will be quizzes on the lectures and special guests content that will account for the 10% participation credit.

**Class Meetings**
Each class meeting will consist of a lecture or exercise followed by a discussion section in which a particular question related to the lecture will be explored through class discussion. Guest speakers will also be used to facilitate discussion and avail students of various professional opportunities in pursuing a career in public policy.

**October 5**
Course Overview
Syllabus Review, Schedule, Assignments, Grading
Lecture: *How a Bill Becomes Law / Now Here’s the Rest of the Story*
Topics: Fixing Problems and Meeting Needs

**October 12**
Lecture: How Policy Gets Made
Topics: Understanding and Applying Basic Public Policy Concepts and Factors
Influencing Public Policy

**October 19**
Lecture: Not All Policy is Created in a Legislative Body
Topics: Public Policy / Public Agencies

**October 26**
Lecture: *Key Players and Roles / Who Can Participate*
Topics: The Man on the Street
Organic Grassroots Organizing
Contributors, PACs, Super PACs, Organized Interest Groups

**November 2**
Lecture: *Building Support / The Campaign Within and Outside the System*
Topics: Leaderships Role
Committee Jurisdiction
Role of Staff
The Chief Executive and Cabinet Officials

**November 9**
Lecture: *Modes of Persuasion / Their Role and Effect*
Topics: Paid Media, Earned Media, Social Media and Fake News
Partisan Politics, Congressional Review Act, Electoral Outcomes

**November 16**
Continuation of lecture: *Modes of Persuasion*
November 23
Lecture: *Going Around the Politicians / The Power of Initiatives*
Topics: Going Directly to the Voters
Writing, Funding, and Waging a Campaign Plan

November 30
**Exercise:** Basics of Lobbying Visit Day
We will stage a series of Lobbying Visits, where you will meet with a staff/elected official and attempt to influence them on a subject of your choosing and drawn on from students’ earlier assignments. The presenter will have a maximum of 5 minutes to make your case.

December 7
Lecture: *Making a Difference / Applying Our Tools to Everyday Life*
Topics: Real Life Stories of People Getting Involved
What Will You Do Next?
Guest:

December 12-19
**FINALS**