Course Overview

This course is designed to introduce students to the major areas in political science and public policy. The course establishes a framework in which to analyze public policy formation in the United States. In particular, we will analyze how many different interests compete within various democratic institutions to determine policy outcomes. This competition is constrained by our constitutional arrangements, as well as by cultural and electoral forces. Numerous examples of these processes will be drawn from contemporary policy areas. We will study the current debates and prospects for the California energy crisis, the tobacco settlement, and welfare policy, among others policy areas.

Course Requirements

There will also be an in–class midterm exam worth 30% of the final grade, and a final exam worth 30%. There will be 2 assignments, accounting for 20% of the grade. The required sections meet once a week, and your participation in these will determine the remaining 20% of the course grade.

Required Reading

There are three required books:

There is also a course reader with the remainder of the readings listed in the course outline. The reader will be available for purchase in class and in the history building (building 200).

Course Outline

April 3rd:
Course Overview

April 5th–April 10th:

Introductory Case: Daylight Savings Time

California Energy Crisis
Manifesto on the California Electricity Crisis
http://haas.berkeley.edu/news/california_electricity_crisis.html
Assignment 1 handed out
April 12th
Welfare Policy
Reading:
Sawhill, Isabel V. "Families at Risk." in Setting National Priorities. ch.4.

April 17th–April 19th:
Interests, Issues, and Institutions: A Framework for Policy Analysis
Reading:
The Federalist Papers #10 and #51.
_____. "The Displacement of Conflicts." Chapter four in The Semisovereign People.
Hansen, John Mark. Gaining Access.. Chapters 1, 4.

Scrubbers: A Case Study in Interests Competing over Policies within Institutions
Due: Assignment 1

April 24th:
Congressional Elections
Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 11.

Assignment 2 handed out.
April 26th:
Presidential Elections
Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 10.

May 1st:
Competing Interests in Policymaking, with Tobacco as a Case–Study
Guest Lecturer Dan Kessler.
Reading:

May 3rd:
**In–Class Midterm Examination**
Due: Assignment 2

May 8th:
**Congress**
Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 12.

May 10th:
**Presidency**
Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 13.

May 15th:
**Courts: Structure of the Judiciary**
Fiorina and Peterson, chapter 15.

The Policy Process: An Overview
May 17th – May 22nd:


Assignment 3 handed out —— also counts as half of the final exam.

May 24th –May 29th:
Reischauer, Robert D. "The Dawning of a New Era." in *Setting National Priorities*. Ch 1.
O’Hanlon, Michael "Defense and Foreign Policy: Time to End the Budget Cuts." in *Setting National Priorities*. Ch 2.

May 31st Free Day —— Content to be Determined.
June 5th:
Class Review and Final Exam Preview

Monday, June 11th:
Final Examination 7:00–10:00pm

Teaching Assistant List
office hours to be announced in section

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