UCLA School of Public Affairs

Department of Public Policy

PP 10A  Introduction to Public Policy
Fall Quarter, 2014
M, W 12:00pm - 1:20pm
Rm. 190, Royce Hall
Prof. Michael A. Stoll
mstoll@ucla.edu
Office Hours: M, W 1:30 - 2:30pm
Rm. 6331 Public Policy Bldg.

TAs**
Mayte Cruz  R: 1:00pm - 3:00pm  e-mail: mcruz11@ucla.edu
Natalie Knight M, W: 10:30am - 11:30am  nknight@ucla.edu

**All TA Office Hours will be held in room 6243, Public Affairs Bldg.

Description: What is Public Policy? Do we need government intervention? If we do, why and how should government intervene? These are some of the fundamental questions that form the ‘field’ of public policy. As is evident, public policy is about making decisions, usually tough ones at that where values, ideologies and politics come into play. Public policy analysts and policy makers are constantly making decisions, about whether to end affirmative action, about whether to tax firms that pollute, and about whether to have universal health care. Most often, these decisions are made in shifting and politically loaded environments. Decision-makers are constantly balancing morals, ethics, values and the like on the one hand with notions of ‘science’ (that is, dealing with uncertainties and complexities such as time constraints, incomplete information, exceptional situations in a rational way) on the other hand to decide how best to meet socially defined ends. This course introduces students to these challenges by providing students a general overview of the process, content and substance of public policy and policy analysis.

Objectives: This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to the field of public policy, to overview key concepts in public policy analysis and to develop skills in public policy analysis. It proposes to do so by exposing students to the methods and ‘science’ of public policy, by writing public policy analysis papers, by inviting presentations by experts in the field of public policy and by case study learning. It also serves as the gateway course into the public policy minor program.

Requirements: The course requirements include 2 policy memos (50% of course grade), 2 midterms (45% of course grade), and workshop attendance and participation (5% of the course grade).
There are two (2) required books for class. The books are:

*Public Policy: Perspectives and Choices* by Charles L. Cochran and Eloise F. Malone (C & M).


The books are available from UCLA’s LuValle Store.

**Memo Assignments:** The paper assignments will include 2 memos (usually 5-8 pages long, not including the references, tables, figures, or supporting documentation; the latter documents should be attached to the back of the memo). The memos should be double-spaced, in 11-12 point font with 1” inch margins on all sides. The specific assignments will be passed out at least 10 days before assignments are due. Memos are due by 5:00pm on due date, and must be turned in with a hard copy. Electronic copies of memos will not be accepted. Memos not turned in during class can be turned in to Rm. 6338 (in a box labeled PP 10A) on the 6th floor in the Public Policy Bldg. Only the instructor will excuse late memos. All other late memos will be penalized by one-third a letter grade per late day.

**Please make one copy (either hard or electronic disk copy) of all memos. If memo is accidentally misplaced or lost by either student or faculty, you should have a copy readily available.**

Paper assignments will also be available online. Web address will be provided in class.

**Midterms:** There will be two midterms in the course. Midterms are closed notes and closed books, will take place in-class and will cover all reading materials (covered in class or not) from the previous midterm. The midterms will include multiple choice, short answer and essay type questions. Makeup midterms will only be given with approval of the instructor, and only for exceptional circumstances. Makeup midterm arrangements must be made before the formal midterm. Failure to do so will result in grade penalties that will be determined by the instructor.

**Workshop:** There will be one mandatory workshop required for the course. This workshop, given by the TAs, will be held during the second week of the course. Two sessions will be offered and you can choose to attend one: Thursday, October 16th between 3:20pm and 4:20pm, or on Friday, October 17th between 2:00pm and 3:00pm. Both will be held in Room 2355 in the Public Affairs Building. These dates are before the first paper assignment is due. This workshop will cover issues regarding how to write and organize memos. This workshop is necessary for effective memo writing, and the grading of memos for the course will in part reflect the principles learned during the workshop; thus, students will not be excused from attending the workshop.
Week 1

Monday (10/6) Course Introduction

Wednesday (10/8) *What is Public Policy and why do we need it?*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 1 Basic Concepts in Public Policy

Week 2

Monday (10/13) *Process of Policy Analysis*

Readings, Bardach, Policy Analysis, Pages 1-53.

*Values, Morals, Ideas and Constraints in Public Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 4 Polarized Politics, Ideology, and Public Policy

Wednesday (10/15) *Values, Morals, Ideas and Constraints in Public Policy* Continued

Readings, C & M, Ch. 4 Polarized Politics, Ideology, and Public Policy

Discuss **Memo #1**

Handout Memo #1 Assignment (**Due Wednesday 11/12**)

*Memo Writing Workshop* - see last page of syllabus for dates/times/place

Week 3

Monday (10/20) *Economics and Public Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 5 Economic Theory as a Basis of Public Policy

Wednesday (10/22) *Public Policy Internships & the Undergraduate Minor*

Special Visit, Maciek Kolodziejczak, Graduate Student Advisor, Dept. of Public Policy

Nancy Huynh, Graduate Student Advisor, Dept. of Public Policy
Week 4

Monday (10/27)  *Rational Policy Analysis*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 2 Methods and Models for Policy Analysis

Wednesday (10/29)  *Rational Public Choice*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 3 Rational Public Choice

Week 5

Monday (11/3)  **Midterm #1** – Covers topics through Wed (10/29)

Wednesday (11/5)  *Economic Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 6 Economic Policy: Translating Theory into Practice

Week 6

Monday (11/10)  *Economic Policy* continued

Readings, C & M, Ch. 6 Economic Policy: Translating Theory into Practice

Wednesday (11/12)  *Environmental Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 12, Environmental Policy: Issues on a Global Scale

**Memo #1 Due (Wednesday 11/12)**

Week 7

Monday (11/17)  *Inequality and Public Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 7 The Politics and Economics of Inequality

Discuss **Memo #2**

Handout Memo #2 Assignment (Due Wednesday 12/17)
Wednesday (11/19) *Crime Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 8 Crime: Changing Issues, New Concerns

**Week 8**

Monday (11/24) *Health Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 10 Health Care: Diagnosing A Chronic Problem

Wednesday (11/26) Memo #2 Library Research

**Week 9**

Monday (12/1) *Housing Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 11 Mortgage Meltdowns and Reregulation

Wednesday (12/3) *Education Policy*

Readings, C & M, Ch. 9 Education Policy: A Larger Role for National Government

**Week 10**

Monday (12/8) *Immigration Policy*

Readings, TBD

Wednesday (12/10) **Midterm #2** - Covers topics from Wednesday 11/5 through Monday (12/8)

**Memo #2 Due Wednesday, December 17 by 5:00pm**
Summary of Assignment Due Dates

Memos: Due by 5:00pm, Rm. 6338 Public Policy Bldg., PP10A Box

Memo #1 Due Wednesday (11/12)

Memo #2 Due Wednesday (12/17)

Midterms: – In Class

Midterm 1, Monday (11/3)

Midterm 2, Wednesday (12/10)

Workshop: - One mandatory workshop is scheduled for the course.

Workshop:

Choose one to attend:

Thursday, October 16, 3:20-4:20 pm

Friday, October 17, 2:00-3:00pm

Both will be held in Room 2355, Public Affairs Building