Syllabus

California State University, Sacramento
Public Policy and Administration 210
Spring 2013

**PPA 210: Political Environment of Policy Making**

**Dr. Su Jin Jez**
The best way to reach me: jez@csus.edu or at office hours (see below)
Other ways to reach me:  o 916.278.5955  |  c 415.786.8846

**Meeting times:**
Wednesdays 6p-8:50p

**Meeting location:**
AIRC 1009

**Office hours:**
Wednesdays 3p-5p (except the 2nd Tuesday of each month, no office hours)
And by appointment
Office: Tahoe 3035

**Course goals:**
This course aims to assist students in learning to identify the political factors impinging on the policy process and in learning to cope with them. With special emphasis on the California political environment and issues, this course employs case studies and structured role-playing. The course will require students to develop politically feasible policy alternatives and advise hypothetical clients. The goal is to equip students to work effectively as politically aware policy analysts.

At the end of PPA 210, a student who successfully completes the course will be able to:

1. Learn the knowledge and skills derived from the political science literature on agenda setting.
2. Learn how to recognize when to advance policies based on whether windows of opportunity are open or closed.
3. Understand the multiple streams model of how and why policies are chosen.
4. Understood how political entrepreneurship affects what policy choices are made.
5. Understood how the diversity of political actors affects the type of policy choices that are made.
6. Learn how the way a policy choice is framed affects its potential for support.
7. Consider how public policy choices may be viewed from different ethical frameworks (e.g., utilitarianism, Rawlsian justice).
8. Understood the ethical subtleties of professional role obligations, such as when and how it is appropriate to challenge decisions of superiors.

9. Learn a variety of analytical tools that are helpful in the political arena (e.g., tools to resolve collective action problems, negotiation skills).

Course requirements: As a graduate seminar, I expect all students to come to class having had completed the assigned reading and spent time thinking about the concepts and ideas introduced. During the course of the semester, you are expected to actively participate in in-class discussions and activities, lead a class discussion on a given topic, write a policy memo, and complete a midterm exam, and a final project. You are encouraged to work together, but each assignment is individual.

Lead class discussion - 20%
California policy memo on Kingdon - 20%
Exam - 20%
Final project - 40%

See attendance policy and the impact of missed classes on your grades in the Policies and logistics section below

Lead class discussion: On the first day of class, each student will select a class in which s/he will lead a 45 minute discussion based on at least one of the assigned readings. This discussion will include a short recap of the reading(s) covered but will mostly focus on engaging the class in a discussion of the material, with a specific focus on applying the reading to California’s political landscape. Students must meet with me with their plan for the class discussion ahead of time.

Policy memo: You will write a short memo using Kingdon’s model to explain the movement of a California policy item on a political agenda. The assignment will be discussed further in class. This is due 3/20/13.

Ethics exam: Students will be given an exam on 5/1/13.

Final project: Students will work in teams to produce a written policy brief as your final project. This will be discussed further in class and will be due 5/17/13.

Late and make-up assignments: At my discretion, a student who misses a deadline may be given a make-up assignment. Whether or not a penalty will be assessed depends on the reason.

Policies and logistics:
- Please complete all readings listed for the class date prior to coming to class.
- You should inform me prior to the session if you miss class on a specific day. Except under very unusual circumstances, a student who misses three classes will be penalized one entire grade (e.g. a B+ for the course will become a C+), and a student who misses more than three classes will receive a failing grade.
- If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.
• Please no cell phones or web surfing in class. If laptops are being abused in class, I may prohibit their use for all.

**Academic Honesty**

I take plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty very seriously. I reserve the right to fail students that are academically dishonest and escalate the case to the University. Note that academic dishonesty can be grounds for dismissal from the university. Details are available at the University Policy Manual found at [http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm](http://www.csus.edu/umanual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm). Plagiarism is one case of academic dishonesty, and here is an excerpt from the manual on plagiarism:

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a form of cheating. At CSUS plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution. Regardless of the means of appropriation, incorporation of another's work into one's own requires adequate identification and acknowledgement. Plagiarism is doubly unethical because it deprives the author of rightful credit and gives credit to someone who has not earned it. Acknowledgement is not necessary when the material used is common knowledge. Plagiarism at CSUS includes but is not limited to:

1. The act of incorporating into one's own work the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work without giving appropriate credit thereby representing the product as entirely one's own. Examples include not only word-for-word copying, but also the "mosaic" (i.e., interspersing a few of one's own words while, in essence, copying another's work), the paraphrase (i.e., rewriting another's work while still using the other's fundamental idea or theory); fabrication (i.e., inventing or counterfeiting sources), ghost-writing (i.e., submitting another's work as one's own) and failure to include quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged; and

2. Representing as one's own another's artistic or scholarly works such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawing, sculptures, or similar works.

**Getting help**:
If there are concepts or ideas covered in a class session that you do not understand, it is important to your overall success in the course that you get these misunderstandings resolved *before the next time we meet*. You can do this by talking to your fellow classmates (I encourage you to form study groups or electronic study networks), visiting me in office hours, sending me an e-mail question to address listed above or phoning me at one of the numbers listed above. Questions, comments, and discussion about material assigned for a class are always encouraged during that class. Other questions will be answered in the manner discussed above. Office hours are also open for suggestions on how I teach, a general discussion of the political context of policy making, the MPPA, or your career plans.

**SacCT**:

---

1 Adapted from Rob Wassmer's EdD 602 syllabus.
This course requires that you have access to the World Wide Web and SacCT. Readings, assignments, exams, and all class messages will be sent out via SacCT. SacCT also allows e-mails to fellow students and chat room participation with them.

Required books (also on reserve at the library):

To order from amazon.com, click here

To order from amazon.com, click here

To order from amazon.com, click here

To order from amazon.com, click here

I encourage you to buy online and purchase a used, softcover version to save money. I have also asked the Sac State Bookstore to stock these titles. If you wish to purchase there, please call for availability.

Be aware that you should get the books ASAP and begin reading ahead. There are Harvard cases assigned throughout the semester. You are expected to download them yourselves – instructions are in the course schedule where cases are assigned.

---

Course schedule

Class 1: Welcome, administrative items, and begin Kingdon
1/30/13
- Introductions
- Review syllabus
- Sign up for leading class discussion
Readings for class:
  Kingdon, Chapter 1

Class 2: Kingdon: Problems
2/6/13
Readings for class:
  Kingdon, Chapters 2-5
Class 3: Start Kingdon: Policy primeval soup
2/13/13
Readings for class:
   Kingdon, Chapter 6

   “From Research to Policy: The Cigarette Excise Tax” Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Case
   To purchase this case, please go to http://ksgcase.harvard.edu/ and search for it (its case reference number is 1233.0, if that helps). It’s $3.45 for a softcopy.

Class 4: Kingdon: The political stream
2/20/13
Readings for class:
   Kingdon, Chapters 7-10
   Edward Lascher, “Lessons from the Collective Action Game” – distributed in class

Class 5: Healthcare & Kingdon... then Policy Paradox: Politics
2/27/13
Readings for class:
   Kingdon, Epilogue
   Jacob S. Hacker, "The Road to Somewhere: Why Health Reform Happened or Why Political Scientists Who Write about Public Policy Shouldn't Assume They Know How to Shape It," Perspectives on Politics, v. 8, no. 3 (September, 2010), pp. 861-876 **you can download this online via the Sac State library**
   Stone, Part I

Class 6: Policy Paradox: Goals
3/6/13
Readings for class:
   Stone, Part II: Goals

Class 7: Policy Paradox: Problems
3/20/13
Readings for class:
   Stone, Part III: Problems

California Policy Memo due 3/20/13 to me via email – jez@csus.edu

***Spring break 3/25-3/9***

Class 8: Policy Paradox: Solutions
4/3/13
Readings for class:
   Stone, Part IV: Solutions

Class 9: Policy Paradox: Applied Policy Analysis
4/10/13
Readings for class:
Stone, Conclusion and Policy Paradox in Action (pp. 376-414)

Class 10: Ethics of administrative discretion and entrepreneurship
4/17/13
Readings for class:
Justice, Chapters 1-6
“The Case of Segregated Schools”, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Case
To purchase this case, please go to http://ksgcase.harvard.edu/ and search for it (its case reference number is 531.0, if that helps). It’s $3.45 for a softcopy.

Class 11: Ethics of public policy decisions I
4/24/13
Readings for class:
Justice, Chapters 7-10
“Matters of life and death: defunding organ transplants in the State of Arizona” Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Case
To purchase this case, please go to http://ksgcase.harvard.edu/ and search for it (its case reference number is 821.0, if that helps). It’s $3.45 for a softcopy.

View in class:

Class 12: Ethics exam
5/1/13
In-class exam covering cumulative material with a focus on ethics content

Class 13: Negotiations I
5/8/13
Readings for class:
Fisher, Ury, and Patton parts I and II

Class 14: Negotiations II
5/15/13
Readings for class:
Fisher, Ury, and Patton parts III-V