Analytical Politics II: Politics and Policymaking
Fall 2019

Professor
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Description
This course aims to provide a rigorous and practical introduction to the politics of the policymaking process. Course objectives are to (1) introduce students to a core set of analytical models and concepts, (2) use these tools to analyze contemporary political institutions and behavior in the United States, and (3) give students an understanding of the real work of policymaking.

Texts
The following books are required:

Requirements
Participation in class discussion and activities: 20%
Election tracking project (details provided separately): 40%
Take home final: 40%

TA Open Office Hours
Mondays 5-6pm
Reading Schedule

1. October 7: Introduction to Spatial Models of Politics
   ● Key topics: theoretical framework; median voter theorem; models of agenda-setting; single vs. multiple dimensions
   ● Required reading:
   ● Supplemental readings:

2. October 14: Public Opinion
   ● Key topics: the formation of public opinion; political communication; public opinion polling
   ● Required readings:
     ○ CQ Researcher. 2015. “Political Polling.”
   ● Supplemental readings

3. October 21: Political Parties and Partisanship
   ● Key topics: historical evolution of party system; current partisan alignments; partisanship in the public
   ● Required reading:
○ Anthony Fowler. 2018. “Partisan Intoxication or Policy Voting?”

- Supplemental reading
  ○ Christopher Achen and Larry Bartels. 2006. “It Feels Like We’re Thinking: The Rationalizing Voter and Electoral Democracy”

4. October 28: Elections and Political Participation
- Key topics: political campaigns and elections; sources of variation in voter turnout; persuasion vs. turning out the base; who are swing voters?
- Required reading
  ○ Charles Stewart. 2011. Analyzing Congress. Chapter 4-5
- Supplemental readings:

5. November 4: Interest Groups
- Key topics: interest group organization (collective action problems); interest group activities and influence; money in politics
- Guest lecture: Daniel Biss
- Required Readings:
  ○ Charles Cameron. The Political Analysis Toolkit, Chapters 3-4; 6-7. Draft.
- Supplemental readings
6. November 11: Local/Urban Politics
Key topics: What is different about local politics? Mobility and interjurisdictional competition; federalism; politics of education and policing; nationalization of local politics

- Required readings

- Supplemental readings

7. November 18: Legislatures
- Key topics: legislative process; role of parties and committees; super-majoritarianism
- Required reading
- Supplemental reading

8. November 25: The Executive
- Key topics: Executive authority; unilateral powers; executive-legislative interaction; Required reading
- Supplemental reading

9. December 2: The Courts, the Bureaucracy, and Policy Implementation
   - Key topics: Courts as policy-making institutions, role of the bureaucracy in implementing and influencing policy; political oversight of the bureaucracy; capture
   - Required reading
   - Supplemental reading
     - Additional reading from the Hollow Hope. Part 1 (Civil Rights, Chapters 2-5), Part 2 (Abortion and Women’s Rights, Chapters 6-9), or Part 4 (Same-Sex Marriage, Chapters 12-13).