Analytical Politics II: Politics and Policymaking
Fall 2023

Professor
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Teaching Assistant
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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: 10%
- Election tracking project (details provided separately): 25%
  - Part 1 due by November 7
  - Part 2 due by December 1
- Take home midterm exam, weekend of October 28-29: 25%
- Take home final exam, weekend of December 2-3: 40%
Assignments will be accepted through Gradescope. No submissions will be accepted via email. Late assignments will be penalized one-half letter grade (e.g., from B+ to B) per day late. No assignment will be accepted more than one week late. Exams will not be accepted late without prior arrangements with Professor Berry.

**Appealing a Grade**
If you believe that your grade on any assignment or exam question is incorrect or unfair, you should request a regrade via Gradescope only. You may watch this tutorial to find out how to request a regrade. You must wait at least 24 hours but not more than one week after you receive your graded assignment or exam before submitting an appeal. Your TA will consider your appeal and respond in writing via Gradescope. If you are not satisfied with the response, you may resubmit the assignment or exam for re-grading in its entirety by Professor Berry. You must do so within one week of receiving your TA’s response. Please do this using the same process via Gradescope. This grade will be final.

**TA Sessions and Office Hours**
There will be two scheduled TA sessions during the quarter, one leading up the midterm exam and one leading up to the final exam. In addition, your TA is available for individual meetings by appointment.

Professor Berry has regular office hours and appointments can be scheduled through Calendly at the following link: [https://calendly.com/chris_berry/15min](https://calendly.com/chris_berry/15min). He is also available for individual meetings by appointment, which can be arranged through his assistant, Heidi Lee (ehlee@uchicago.edu).

**Related Policies and Procedures**

**Disability Accommodations**
The University’s policies regarding students with disabilities are available [here](#). The University of Chicago is committed to ensuring equitable access to our academic programs and services. Students with disabilities who have been approved for the use of academic accommodations by Student Disability Services (SDS) and need a reasonable accommodation(s) to participate fully in this course must follow the [procedures established by the Harris School of Public Policy](#).

Timely notifications are required to ensure that your accommodations can be implemented. Currently registered students are asked to notify the Harris Student Disability Liaison, Eman Alsamara (ealsamara@uchicago.edu) of their access requests by the end of the first week of the quarter. The Harris Student Disability Liaison will work with the student and instructor to coordinate the implementation of student accommodations. *Harris students are not required to*
submit their accommodations letter to the instructor. Students from other divisions in the University must submit their accommodations letter to Eman Alsamara (ealsamara@uchicago.edu) in the Harris Dean of Students Office.

Students who are facing extenuating circumstances at any point during the quarter should reach out to their Academic Advisor in the Dean of Students Office for support. If you feel you need accommodations on an ongoing basis, contact Student Disability Services. To contact SDS: website: disabilities.uchicago.edu phone: (773) 702-6000 email: disabilities@uchicago.edu.

Academic Integrity
All University of Chicago students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic Integrity and honesty. Among other things, this means that students shall not represent another’s work as their own, use un-allowed materials during exams, or otherwise gain unfair academic advantage. The University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty are described here. In summary, “It is contrary to justice, academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit another’s statements or ideas as one's own work. To do so is plagiarism or cheating, offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously.” The Harris School’s student policies are available on the policies page of our website.

Teaching modality
This course is planned as an in-person experience, and students are expected to attend class at Convene. We will endeavor to record the lecture portion of each class and make it available on Canvas afterward; however, we can make no guarantee of the quality or completeness of the recordings.

Video and Audio Recordings
The University has developed specific policies and procedures regarding the use of video/audio recordings: these policies are explicitly described in the University’s student manual as well as in the guidelines for instructors available here. Key components of this policy include the following:

By attending course sessions, students acknowledge that:

i. They will not: (i) record, share, or disseminate University of Chicago course sessions, videos, transcripts, audio, or chats; (ii) retain such materials after the end of the course; or (iii) use such materials for any purpose other than in connection with participation in the course.
ii. They will not share links to University of Chicago course sessions with any persons not authorized to be in the course session. Sharing course materials with persons authorized to be in the relevant course is permitted. Syllabi, handouts, slides, and other documents may be shared at the discretion of the instructor.

iii. Course recordings, content, and materials may be covered by copyrights held by the University, the instructor, or third parties. Any unauthorized use of such recordings or course materials may violate such copyrights.

iv. Any violation of this policy will be referred to the Area Dean of Students.
Reading Schedule

1. **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. **Public Opinion**
   - Key topics: the formation of public opinion; political communication; public opinion polling
   - Required readings:
     - CQ Researcher. 2015. “Political Polling.”
   - Supplemental readings
     - *NY Times*, The Upshot. 2016. “We Gave Four Good Pollsters the Same Raw Data. They Had Four Different Results.” [http://nyti.ms/2cmfFsF](http://nyti.ms/2cmfFsF)

3. **Elections, Interest Groups, and Political Participation**
   - Key topics: political campaigns and elections; sources of variation in voter turnout; persuasion vs. turning out the base; interest groups, campaign finance
• Required reading
  ○ Analyzing Politics, chapter 9.
• Supplemental readings:

4. Minority Representation and Majority Tyranny
• Key topics: substantive vs. descriptive representation; voter bias; race and gender in elections, institutional reforms
• Required readings:
• Supplemental readings:
5. **Political Parties and Partisanship**
   - Key topics: historical evolution of party system; current partisan alignments; partisanship in the public
   - Required reading:
   - Supplemental reading

6. **Legislatures**
   - Key topics: legislative process; role of parties and committees; super-majoritarianism
   - Required reading
   - Supplemental reading

7. **The Executive**
• Key topics: Executive authority; unilateral powers; executive-legislative interaction; Required reading
  o CQ Researcher. 2015. “Presidential Power.”

• Supplemental reading

8. 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

9. 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

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○ Zoltan Hajnal and Jessica Trounstine. 2016. “Race and Class Inequality in Local Politics.”

● **Supplemental readings**


