Course Description: This course will provide an introduction to the policy making process, with a focus on the United States. During the first week of the course we will explore the policy theories and models that govern public policy making and the ways institutions structure politics in the U.S. The crux of the class will focus on four core areas of domestic policy—Social Security, poverty, health care and immigration policies. We will explore the impact of ideas, institutions and interests on these four areas of public policy. I will place these policy areas within comparative context, with special attention to how politics in these arenas compare to European politics. For each area we will also explore the historical origins of federal legislation, the racialized and gendered dimensions of the policy and then move onto contemporary debates and trends.

No assumptions are made regarding students’ familiarity with public policy or American politics and history. I do however, assume a willingness on the part of students to spend considerable time engaging with the readings.

Required Texts:


Paul Starr, Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care, 2013. (also available at UCSC Libraries as an e-book)
All other readings are available in the course reader found at Bay Tree Bookstore or are posted online on CANVAS (under files). News articles can be easily accessed with Google search.

**Course Requirements:** There are five requirements for the class (in addition to the completion of assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned).

1. **1st Policy Essay (3 - 4 pages)** 25%
2. **2nd Policy Essay (3-4 pages)** 25%
3. **Participation** 20%
4. **Comprehensive final exam** 30%

**Dates and Deadlines:** The policy memos are due on August 14th and August 23rd during the beginning of class. The final exam will be held in class on the last day of the course. **YOUR MUST HAND IN A HARD-COPY OF THE PAPERS TO THE TA AND ATTACH A COPY TO CANVAS.**

**Attendance and participation:** Lecture attendance is mandatory and any absence from lecture will negatively affect your participation grade. I expect you to come to class prepared. This means that you should come to class having already read the texts that we will be discussing on any given day. Asking clarifying questions about lecture is a good way to show that you have been listening actively and that you are engaging with the course.

**Use of technology and etiquette in class:** You may only use laptops for note taking (and not web surfing). Please remember to turn your phones off before lecture and refrain from texting during class.

**Academic integrity:** I take academic integrity very seriously and I expect all students to do the same. Here is an excerpt from UCSC’s Academic Misconduct Policy for Undergraduate Students (https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct): “Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, or facilitating academic dishonesty... All members of the university community who suspect academic dishonesty should report it to the instructor of record.”

Plagiarism will result in a failing grade.

**Citation and Documentation of Sources in Papers:** All courses in the Politics department use one of two standard forms of citation (1) parenthetical or in-text citations and (2) footnotes. For the in-text system the department follows the *Modern Language Association* (MLA). For footnotes, the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Please familiarize yourself with the style guides for the two systems, which can be found on the Politics Department website at: http://politics.ucsc.edu/undergraduate/citation.php

**Disability Accommodation:** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization form from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person in office hours within the first week of the summer quarter. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

**Policy Regarding Late Papers:** I will accept late papers but you will lose a third of a letter
grade for every day late. For example, if you turn in A- paper a day late you will receive a B+.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

July 31st, Theories of Public Policy


August 2nd, Institutions and US Public Policy Making

Rushefsky, *Public Policy in the United States*, Chapters 1-2, pages 3-62, 75-84


PART TWO: WELFARE STATE, INCOME ASSISTANCE POLICIES

August 7th, History of US Welfare State, US Welfare State in Comparative Perspective

*Part A: American Exceptionalism? Comparative Perspective*


Recommended:


*Part B. History of US Welfare State (Social Security)*

August 9th, Social Security

Part A: Contemporary Debates on Social Security (Wrap Up)


Part B: Public Assistance History, Gender and Race in the Public Assistance


August 14th, Contemporary Debates and the Politics of Welfare Reform

1st Policy Memo Due During the Beginning of Class

Rushefsky, Public Policy in the United States, Chapter 4, pages 143-172 (covers PRWORA)


Ellen Reese, “Business Interests, Conservative Think Tanks, and the Assault on Welfare.” In Backlash against Welfare Mothers, Past and Present, 2005. (Not in reader, but available on CANVAS)


PART THREE: HEALTH CARE POLICY

August 16th, History of Health Care Policy


Paul Starr, Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care, 2013, pages 1-50. (also available as an e-book at UCSC libraries)

August 21st, Contemporary Debates on Health Care (1990s and Obamacare)


Starr, Remedy and Reaction, pages 161-266 (Chapter 6-9). Skim 79-102 (details on Clinton plan)

John Cassidy, “The Health-Care Debacle was a Failure of Conservatism.” The New Yorker, March 24, 2017.

PART FOUR: IMMIGRATION POLICY

August 23rd, Immigration Policy (History of US Immigration)

2nd Policy Memo Due During the Beginning of Class

Roger Daniels, Guarding the Golden Door, pages 1-97.


August 28th, Contemporary Debates on Immigration Reform & Review for Final

Part A: Contemporary Debates on Immigration Reform

Daniels, Guarding the Golden Door, pages 113-144, 219-259.


Part B: Wrap Up and Review

Stone, Policy Paradox, 376-383

Kingdon, Agendas, Alternatives and Public Policies, 215-218

PART FIVE: FINAL EXAM

August 30th, Final Exam