POLS 400G – Comparative Public Policy
Fall 15
Section 1-Wednesday 3:00-5:30 PM (207A Morgan Hall)

Instructor: Julia Albarracín     Office: 428 Morgan Hall
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Objectives
The course will examine the public policy process and public policy outcomes using a comparative perspective. The first part of the class addresses the different explanations that account for policy outputs (political parties and ideologies, institutions, and interest groups). The second part will analyze different policy areas (HIV Prevention, drug cartels policy, immigration, and crime) in diverse contexts – e.g. industrial and developing countries – and in selected cases in the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Required Readings
1. There are four required books

2. Other required readings are on Western Online.

Examinations & Course Requirements
1. Attendance. Students are expected to attend class and to have completed the readings before the class. Students are allowed to miss 1 class. Beyond that they will be discounted ½ a point for each class they miss. Students will also be asked to share their thoughts in class.
2. Reviews. In addition to regular class participation, students will write 6 (undergraduate) and 10 (graduate) 2-page papers starting week 2 reacting to ALL the readings of the week. In this paper, students will briefly summarize the readings and offer their own view point about the material. These papers will be due on the day before class by 6:00 PM and should be posted on the discussion board on Western Online. In addition, students will be required to bring a hard copy to class. Each paper will be worth 5.33 points (undergraduate students) and 3.2 points (graduate students) and together will account for 32% of your grade. Students will be able to turn in two late papers. To avoid problems with file conversion, please paste paper in the body of the post.
3. Presentation: students will be required make a 20 minute presentation and lead a discussion (prepare questions) on a topic related to the readings for class starting week 4. Further guidelines will be explained in class.
4. **Final Paper**: students will be required to write a final paper. Paper guidelines will be distributed later in the semester and will be different for seniors and graduate students. A paper proposal with an annotated bibliography will be due on 11/11 and the final paper on 12/16 at 3:00 PM.

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**Schedule of Readings**

**Week 1: 8-26-Introduction**

**Part 1-What Explains Different Policy Outcomes?**

**Week 2: 09/2**

Political Parties and Ideologies *(politics matter!)*

Topics: Ideological bases of public policies; social democracy and the left; neo-liberalism.


**Political institutions (and Culture)**

Topics: How institutions shape politics and policy-making processes.


**Week 3: 9/9/30**

How interest groups matter – *Pluralism vs. Corporatism.*


**Characterizing the Welfare State**


Part 2 - Education Policy

Week 4: 9/16
All: Comparative Prevention, chapters 1 (Comparative Education-Intro), 2 (Institutionalizing International Influence), 6 (Equality in Education) and 8 (Centralization and Decentralization).

Graduate: Chapter 7 (Women’s Education)
Presentation: (6, 8 and 7)

Week 5: 9/23
All: Comparative, chapters 10 (Australia, Britain and the US), 12 (Latin America), 14 (Middle East), and 16 (Africa).

Graduate: 18 (Globalization and Its Discontents)
Presentation: (14, 16, and 18)

Part 3 - Drug Policy

Week 6: 9/30
All: Crime and Public Policy, Chapters 13 (Drugs, Crime and Public Policy)


All: Drug War, pp. 1-34.

Presentation: (Crime and Public Policy 13)

Week 7: 10/7
Drug War, chapter 2 (Cold War), 3, (Political Economy of the War on Drugs), and 4 (Getting Rich Quick).

Presentation: (3 and 4)

Week 8: 10/14
Drug War, Chapters 5 (The Change), 6 (War is Peace), and 7 (Another Century of Drug War).
Presentation: (7 or 6 and 7)

Part 4 - Immigration Policy

Week 9: 10/21
All: Controlling Immigration, Chapters 1 (intro) and 2 (US)

Graduate: Controlling Immigration, Chapter 3 (Canada)
**Presentation:** (2 and 3)

**Week 10: 10/28**
All: *Controlling Immigration*, Chapters 5 (France) and 6 (Great Britain)

Graduate: *Controlling Immigration*, Chapter 7 (Germany)
**Presentation:** (5 or 6 and 7)

**Week 11: 11/4**
All: *Controlling Immigration*, Chapters 11 (Italy) and 12 (Spain)

Graduate: *Controlling Immigration*, Chapter 13 (Japan and South Korea)
**Presentation:** (12 or 12 and 13)

**Part 5 – Crime Policy**

**Week 12: 11/11**
All: *Crime and Public Policy*, Chapters 1 (Intro), 2 (Crime in International Perspective), and 3 (Crime and Biology).

Graduate: *Crime and Public Policy*, Chapter 5 (Race and the Administration of Justice in the US)
**Paper proposal due***

**Week 13: 11/18**
All: *Crime and Public Policy*, Chapters 6 (Street Gangs), 10 (Gun Control), and 15 (Prosecution).

Graduate: *Crime and Public Policy*, Chapter 18 (Prisons)
**Presentation:** (6 or 6 and 10)

**Thanksgiving Break: 11/23-27**

**Week 14: 12/2**
All: *Crime and Public Policy*, 16 (Sentencing), and 20 (Democratic Policing on the Evidence).

**Presentation:** (16 or 16 and 20)

**Week 15: 12/04**
Presentations papers
**Paper Draft due****

**Final Paper due 12/16 at 3 PM.**