

ECONOMICS 175: PUBLIC POLICY AND THE CALIFORNIA POLITICAL ECONOMY
University of California Center Sacramento (UCCS)
SYLLABUS: SUMMER 2007

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Class meeting time and place: Monday 9:30-11:30 AM, Friday 11:15 AM-12:45 PM, UCCS Conference Room

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course has three components. First, it develops a systematic understanding of policy analysis. Second, it helps students develop their own advanced policy analysis on a California-related policy issue that they care about. Third, it analyzes several key policy challenges that arise due to the socio-economic pressures that globalization at different scales is exerting on California's political economy. Specifically, we will study the recent history of California politics, California's special status as a *chronic-growth, boom-bust economy*, the pressures exerted by *economic globalization* and cross-border migration, and the policy challenges in three areas: California's status as a global hub of the IT industry; California's prison crisis; and California's housing crisis.

The course has four goals for students' educational development:

- first, building skills in designing and writing research-based policy analyses;
- second, providing opportunities to learn to make professional oral presentations;
- third, building knowledge about California policy issues;
- fourth, learning how to think systematically about complex public-policy problems.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Students are expected to attend and actively participate in all class sessions and seminars, to schedule and attend tutorial sessions, to complete several worksheet assignments, and to complete step-by-step assignments linked to their policy analyses. Points in this course will be awarded as follows:

Attendance and participation:	7.5%	First outline of research topic	4%
Meetings with instructors:	6%	Preliminary oral presentation	2.5%
Worksheets:	12%	First complete draft	15%
Formal oral presentation(s)	13%	Final draft	40%

DETAILS: Grading of the **first complete draft** is based on three component scores: completeness (5%), analytical depth (5%), responsiveness to instructions (5%). The score for the **formal oral presentation(s)** includes component scores as follows: preparation, 4%; presentation, 3%; content, 4%; discussant role for another classmate, 2%.

The **final policy research paper** should contain 5-8,000 words (16-26 pages double-spaced). The draft is graded based on these elements: executive summary, 5%; strength of argument, 5%, use of appropriate and compelling evidence, 7.5%, legislative history, 5%, policy recommendations, 5%, research resources, 7.5%, analytical depth, 5%.

COURSE TEXTS: Recommended for purchase. Downloadable readings are shown on next page.

Eugene Bardach, *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving, Second Edition*. CQ Press, 2005. Paperback (ISBN 1568 0292 33)

Peter Schrag, *California: America's High-Stakes Experiment*. Univ. of California Press, 2006. (ISBN: 0520244362)

David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2006, Paperback. (ISBN: 0199283273)

Sasha Abramsky, *American Furies: Crime, Punishment, and Vengeance in the Age of Mass Imprisonment*. Beacon Press, 2007. (ISBN: 0807042226)

Ruth Wilson Gilmore, *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*. University of California Press, 2007. (ISBN: 0520242017).

COURSE SCHEDULE (All dates and assignments subject to change.)

Public policy unit: Monday sessions (9:30-11:30 AM)

June 25 (Wk 2) Overview; Principles of policy analysis (Dymski)

July 2 (Wk 3) California as an open, chronic-growth political economy (Dymski)

July 9 (Wk 4) Media, policy and politics (Block and Gunnison)

July 16 (Wk 5) Environmental policy: between complexity and cooperation (Wandesforde-Smith)

July 23 (Wk 6) California in the age of mass imprisonment (Abramsky)

July 30 (Wk 7) What is sustainability? Science, health, and security (Kleeman)

Aug 6 (Wk 8) Planning California's future I: Social policy, education, infrastructure (Dymski, Amos)

Aug 13 (Wk 9) Planning California's future II: Ecologies of prosperity & survival (Kleeman, Wandesforde-Smith)

California political economy unit: Friday sessions (11:15-12:45 PM)

June 22 (Wk 1) Principles of policy analysis II

June 29 (Wk 2) Neoliberalism and the Age of Globalization

July 6 (Wk 3) Immigration, labor markets, and outsourcing: California's complex matrix

July 11 (Wk 4) Special class -- "Five-minute" oral presentations, 4 PM – 7 PM (with pizza)

July 13 (Wk 4) Crime, punishment, and vengeance in California

July 20 (Wk 5) The "Golden Gulag:" The prison system in the Golden State

July 27 (Wk 6) California's industrial "competitive advantage"

Aug 3 (Wk 7) The New California Housing Crisis: Hunger and Dispossession

Aug 10 (Wk 8) Inequality, Discrimination, and Predatory Lending in California Housing Finance

Aug 17 (Wk 9) California as an Island in a World of Slums?

COURSE READING, WRITING, AND ORAL ASSIGNMENTS

Public policy unit assignments

Wk 1: Reading: Schrag book (entire)

Worksheet 1 distributed June 18; due Monday, June 25, 9:30 AM.

Mandatory get-acquainted meeting with Professors Abramsky and Dymski, week 1.

Wk 2: Reading: Bardach book (entire)

Worksheet 2 distributed June 25, due July 2

Wk 4: Mandatory meeting with Professor Abramsky

Wednesday, July 11, 4 PM: Topic summary/preliminary bibliography for policy-research paper due.

Wk 8: Wednesday, August 1, 5 PM, First draft of policy-research paper due.

Mandatory meeting with Professor Abramsky – August 3-6 (meeting hours TBA)

Reading: Ellen Hanak and Mark Baldassare, *California 2025: Taking on the Future*. (Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), San Francisco, 2005). <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=489>

Wk 10: Tuesday-Thursday, August 21-23, Student oral presentations of policy research projects

(All public-policy students: Please reserve 9-5 PM for August 21-23, to make and hear presentations.)

Final draft of policy-research papers due, Thursday, August 23, 5 PM.

Reading and writing assignments: California political economy unit

June 29 (Wk 2) Readings: Ong book and/or Harvey book. Haveman, Shatz, and Wright, *California and the Global Economy*, PPIC 2005 <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=588>

July 6 (Wk 3) Readings: Haveman and Shatz, *Services Offshoring: Background and Implications for California*. (PPIC, 2004). <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=545>; Neumark, Zhang, and Wall, *Are Businesses Fleeing the State? Interstate Business Relocation and Employment Change in California* (PPIC 2005) <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=640>

July 13 (Wk 4) Readings: Michael E. Porter, "The Economic Performance of Regions," *Regional Studies* 37(6&7), August/October 2003, 549-78. Michael E. Porter, "The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City," *Harvard Business Review*, May-June 1995, 55-71. Gary Dymski, "Business Strategy and Access to Capital in Inner City Revitalization," *Review of Black Political Economy* 24(2-3): Fall 1995-Winter 1996. Pp. 51-65.

July 20 (Wk 5) Reading: Gilmore book (pages TBA)

July 27 (Wk 6) Reading: Abramsky book.

Aug 3 (Wk 7) Reading: Gary Dymski, "What Has Never Happened Before and Is Happening Again: Development and Discrimination in the San Joaquin Valley," *La Raza Law Journal* (forthcoming, 2007).

Aug 10 (Wk 8) Readings: Reed, "Poverty in California: Moving Beyond the Federal Measure," *California Counts*, Volume 7 Number 4, May 2006. PPIC. <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=685>; Lopez and Moller, *The Distribution of Wealth in California*, (California Research Bureau, 2003). <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/03/10/03-010.pdf>

Aug 16 (Wk 9) Readings: Davis book; Johnson, "Illegal Immigration," *At Issue*. April 2006.

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=676>

Worksheet requirements and due dates TBA.