



## UC CENTER SACRAMENTO SACRAMENTO SEMINAR: PUBLIC POLICY & ANALYSIS

**Instructor team:** Victoria Basolo      victoria.basolo@ucop.edu  
Art Amos      akamos@comcast.net

**Class day & time:** Fridays, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm  
**Class room:** UCCS conference room

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### COURSE OVERVIEW

This course introduces the study of policy and provides training in policy analysis within the context of California. We consider the political and economic theories and realities that shape the policy making and policy implementation process. The course encompasses both an ongoing practicum and a series of substantive themes. The course includes readings, written assignments, and classroom exercises that provide a systematic understanding of the policy process and the position of policy analysis in this process. Students in the class choose a policy topic and develop their own analysis, which will be critiqued, edited, discussed, and presented.

This course also examines the policies that California's democratic representation and political structures have generated in response to some of the Golden State's most critical issues: the budget; corrections; and housing. Class sessions will be divided as follows: 9:30-11:30 am (class lecture and discussion)  
11:30 am – 1:30 pm (thematic sessions, which typically will feature guest speakers/panels)

### Required Reading:

- Peter Schrag. 2006. *California: America's High-Stakes Experiment*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Eugene Bardach. 2005. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*, (2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.
- Joan Petersilia. 2003. *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.
- Other readings as assigned.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

#### WEEKS 1-4: Policy Studies and Policy Analysis

Reading: Weimer & Vining, 1-14; 30-77  
Bardach, pp. xiii-140

#### Important Deadlines

January 19, Policy-research paper topics due.

January 22-28 (Thursday through Wednesday), mandatory one-on-one meeting with Dr. Amos

January 30, Five-minute presentations of paper topics (in class)

## WEEKS 5-6: Understanding the California Policy Context

Reading: Schrag, 1-262

## WEEKS 7-10\*: California: Three Critical Policy Issues

### I. The Budget

Reading: PPIC, "Just the Facts" (February 2008)  
Matsusaka, 2007  
Barbour, pp. iii-29 (recommended)

### II. Corrections: Prison Re-entry

Reading: Petersilia, as assigned

### III. Housing: Homeownership, Foreclosures, and Public Policy

Reading: Basolo, 2007  
Cytron & Lanzerotti, 2006  
Isaacs, 2008

\*One session will be devoted to the policy research paper (independent and/or with instructor)

#### Important deadlines:

February 20, First drafts of policy research papers are due (email electronic copies to Basolo/Amos)

March 6, Final draft of policy research papers due at the beginning of class

March 18 and 19 (Wednesday and Thursday), 10 am – 4 pm, final presentation of policy research paper

March 13, final policy-research paper by 5 pm (email electronic copies to Basolo/Amos)

## COURSE POLICIES

1. All students are expected to attend and participate in class and seminars.
2. Deadlines are firm, except under extraordinary circumstances.
3. Final grading is based on the following course elements:

Attendance and participation:	15%	First outline of research topic	5%
Meetings with instructors:	10%	First complete draft	15%
Assignments/exercises	10%	Final draft	40%
		Oral presentation of final paper	5%

DETAILS: Grading of the **first complete draft** is based on three component scores: completeness, analytical depth, and responsiveness to instructions. The score for the **formal oral presentation(s)** includes components as follows: presentation, content, and discussant role for another classmate. The **final policy research paper** should contain 5-8,000 words (16-26 pages double-spaced). The paper is graded based on these elements: executive summary, strength of argument, use of appropriate and compelling evidence, legislative history, policy recommendations, research resources, and analytical depth. Assignments will be announced in class.