

APPENDIX A.

Social Justice and Public Policy

**Listed as "Introduction to Public Policy"*

PUB PLC 297B

Spring 2018

Faculty Sponsor: Michael Lens

Time & Location

Mondays, 4:00-5:50pm

Humanities A40

Facilitation

Gina Charusombat - g.charusombat@gmail.com

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Description:

This is a student-led course examining issues of social justice in public policy. Students will analyze political institutions and systems of power in the context of race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability. Topics of focus will include immigration, housing, criminal justice, and labor. While these subject areas are by no means comprehensive, they are intended to expose students to several policy areas with interconnected core issues of inequality.

Course weeks will alternate between topics weeks and skills weeks with guest speakers who will share insight into the skills they developed to advance a policy issue. This format is intended to provide students with both necessary background information on policy issues as well as practical tools to address these issues.

Weekly meetings with student facilitation/presentations on assigned readings. (2 units S/U)

Objective:

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a framework for critically examining the processes and outcomes of public policy. Using a guiding question of "what's missing?", students will critically engage a broad range of policy issues through an intersectional lens that is often overlooked in policy discussions.

Upon completion of this course, students will have

1. Exposure to content that underscores how race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability interact with policy areas covered in the course
2. Insight to be able to discuss "What's missing?" in the conversation of policy areas beyond the content covered in the course
3. Skills to analyze and advance policy in the interest of communities that have been historically adversely impacted

*Due to administrative challenges, 297B Introduction to Public Policy is the only course number available to list a course in the Public Policy Department.

Grading

This is a 2 unit, satisfactory/unsatisfactory course.

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| Participation in class discussions and workshops | 50% |
| Group project addressing topic and skill integration | 50% |

Group Project

Students will be required to select from the syllabus one (1) policy topic and one (1) skill to present. During these topic and skill weeks groups of students will lead a discussion of assigned readings, including their relationship to weekly speaker's presentation.

Class Discussion Guidelines:

- Share three takeaways from the readings
- Prepare three questions for group discussion
 - Keep in mind how do these questions address the question of “what’s missing in policy discussions?”

In the final class meeting, student groups will present about their chosen policy topics and discuss how each skill can be applied to the policy area in question. All groups final projects will be compiled as a toolkit that will serve as a resource to the UCLA Luskin Public Policy Department. More information about the final project will be provided to students in class.

Week 1: Introduction (April 2, 2018)

- ★ Establishment of community standards
- ★ Group project and topic presentation sign-ups
- ★ Discussion of readings (provided in class)

Activities:

Video: Kimberlé Crenshaw on The Urgency of Intersectionality

https://www.ted.com/talks/kimberle_crenshaw_the_urgency_of_intersectionality/transcript

Week 2: Immigration (April 9, 2018)

Discussion of US immigration policies and narratives as they relate to the treatment and framing of immigrant groups in the country.

Speaker

Abel Valenzuela, Professor of Chicano Studies and Urban Planning at UCLA

Readings

- Abrego, Coleman, Martínez, Menjívar, & Slack (2017): *Making Immigrants into Criminals: Legal Processes of Criminalization in the Post-IIRIRA Era*
<http://jmhs.cmsny.org/index.php/jmhs/article/view/105> [download available on page]

- Montanaro, Gonzales, & Totenberg (2018): *Supreme Court Ruling Means Immigrants Could Continue to Be Detained Indefinitely*
<https://www.npr.org/2018/02/27/589096901/supreme-court-ruling-means-immigrants-could-continue-to-be-detained-indefinitely>
- Luibheid, Eithne (2008): *Sexuality, Migration, and the Shifting Line between Legal and Illegal Status* [Uploaded to course website]
- Wallace, Steven P. et al. (2013): *Undocumented and Uninsured: Barriers to Affordable Care for Immigrant Population* [Uploaded to course website]

Week 3: Organizing (April 16, 2018)

Discussion of organizing as a tool of mobilization and collective action.

Speaker

Jacob Waxman, Campaign Trainer and Coach, Leading Change Network, SEIU

Readings

- *Leading Change: Leadership, Organization, and Social Movements* by Marshall Ganz (2010)
<http://marshallganz.usmblogs.com/files/2012/08/Chapter-19-Leading-Change-Leadership-Organization-and-Social-Movements.pdf>
- *Organizing Obama: Campaign, Organization, Movement* by Michael Ganz
<https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/27306258/Organizing-Obama-Final.pdf?sequence=1>

Week 4: Housing (April 23, 2018)

Discussion of housing as it relates to financial capital, housing as a human right vs. form of wealth, history of racism in housing through redlining, neighborhood covenants, and more.

Speaker

Michael Lens, Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Public Policy at UCLA

Readings

- Hannah-Jones, Nikole. 2015. "Living Apart: How the Government Betrayed a Landmark Civil Rights Law." ProPublica. June 25.
<https://www.propublica.org/article/living-apart-how-the-government-betrayed-a-landmark-civil-rights-law>.
- Ta-Nehisi Coates. 2015. "The Case for Reparations." 2015. The Atlantic Monthly.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

- Dillon, Liam. 2017. "California Lawmakers Have Tried for 50 Years to Fix the State's Housing Crisis. Here's Why They've Failed." Los Angeles Times. June 29, 2017.
<http://www.latimes.com/projects/la-pol-ca-housing-supply/>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3763509/pdf/nihms481965.pdf>

Week 5: Assessing Community Impacts & Communication Strategies (April 30, 2018)

Discussion of how to analyze legislation and policy as they relate to community impacts and implications for vulnerable populations.

Speaker:

Tia Koonse, Legal and Policy Research Manager at UCLA Labor Center

Readings:

- Anti-Trafficking Legislation Shouldn't Come at a Cost to Victims, Sex Workers
<https://rewire.news/article/2018/03/01/anti-trafficking-legislation-shouldnt-come-cost-victims-sex-workers/>
- Transformative Planning for Community Development by Marie Kennedy
<https://eschol...item/14r1s460>
- Race and Anti-LGBT Legislation: An Analysis of "Religion Freedom" Coverage in Mississippi and National Newspapers
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1461670X.2017.1292860> [requires UCLA login]

Week 6: Criminal Justice (May 7, 2018)

Discussion of the United States criminal justice system as it relates to mass incarceration, the history of the prison system and racial control, and questions of prison reform vs. abolition.

Speaker:

Kelly Lytle Hernandez, Professor of History and African American Studies at UCLA

Readings:

- Hernández, Kelly Lytle. "Introduction - Conquest and Incarceration," "Chapter 1 - An Eliminary Option," & "Chapter 2, Hobos in Heaven in City of Inmates. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2017. (32 pages)

Week 7: Engaging with Power (May 14, 2018)

Discussion of how to engage with lawmakers in order to effectively advocate policy agendas that promote social justice.

Speaker:

Sonja Diaz, Founding Director of UCLA's Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

Readings:

- "Responsibilities of Local Law Enforcement Agencies under Secure Communities." California Department of Justice.
<https://www.scribd.com/document/115637516/Responsibilities-of-Local-Law-Enforcement-Agencies-under-Secure-Communities#download>
- "Stop Sanctuary Cities and Protect Americans Act." Office of the Attorney General. [Uploaded to the course website.]
- "Secure Communities is Optional, Harris says." The Los Angeles Times. [Uploaded to the course website.]
- "Interpretation and Implementation of the TRUST Act." TRUST Act Memorandum. [Uploaded to the course website.]

Week 8: Labor (May 21, 2018)

Discussion of how organized labor in the United States has excluded non-white races/ethnicity historically. In recent years, organized labor has been driven by non-white races/ethnicity and how this has effectively shaped the policies labor supports.

Speaker:

Alma Hernandez, Executive Director of SEIU California

Readings:

- Powell. 2018. "For People With Disabilities, Earning Pennies Per Hour Is Only Part of the Problem," Rewire, May 17.
- Pierce. 2017. "The Racist Origins of Right to Work," Labor Notes, August 3. URL
- Waheed & Orellana. 2017. "Ready to Work, Uprooting Inequity: Black Workers in California." Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Labor Center. 3 pages.
- LA Metro's Construction Careers Policy. (Skim this - serves as an example of community benefits labor agreement in collaboration with Los Angeles for a New Economy (LAANE))
- Léon. 2017. "America's Racist History of Labor," The Root, September 4. [VIDEO]

Week 9: Memorial Day - No Class (May 28, 2018)

Enjoy your day!

Week 10: Wrap-Up/Conclusions (June 4, 2018)

Discussion of application of course topics and skills to real world policy.

Speaker:

Ananya Roy, Professor of Urban Planning, Social Welfare, and Geography at UCLA; Inaugural Director of The Institute on Inequality and Democracy at UCLA

Readings:

TBD

Week 11: Final Paper Due (June 12 at 5 p.m.)

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Final Group Paper

Due: June 12, 2018 at 5 p.m.

Groups

- Based on topic area
- 3 people
- Each person should focus on one skill from class

Formatting

- 8-10 pages (up to 5,000 words)
- Double spaced
- Times New Roman or similar font

Guidelines

- Identify a problem (based on class topic areas)
- What scale of the problem will you focus on? (federal, state, local). For example, housing and criminal justice are primarily handled at the state and local level, but immigration might operate more at the federal level.
- What policy mechanisms affects this problem?
- What is the nature of social injustice in this domain?
- What change needs to be created?
- How do the skills (organizing, community impacts, engaging with power) shape the problem?
- How can the skills be marshalled to create more just outcomes?