

Social Justice and Public Policy
PUB PLC 297B
Spring 2019
Faculty Sponsor: Chris Zepeda-Millán

Time & Location

Tuesdays, 4:00 - 5:50
Public Affairs 4371

Facilitation

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Acknowledgement:

Since this course gathers on the unceded land of the Tongva peoples, we ask you to join us in acknowledging the Tongva community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. We acknowledge that UCLA was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those on whose land this institution is located. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

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 marginalizing identities. 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 feature guest speakers who will share insight into the skills they developed to advance a policy issue. This is intended to provide students with both necessary background information on policy issues as well as practical insight into advocating for social justice issues.

Weekly meetings with student facilitation 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 through conversations with practitioners. Each lecturer will be asked: What intervention are you making in public policy to address your definition of social justice? Through discussion with these practitioners, 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 gain:

1. Exposure to content that underscores how marginalizing identities like race, class, gender, sexuality, disability, and others interact with policy areas covered in the course

2. Skills to analyze and advance policy in the interest of communities that have been historically adversely impacted

Grading

This is a 2 unit, satisfactory/unsatisfactory course.

Participation in class discussions	50%
Group project	50%

Participation in class discussions

Students are responsible for submitting 2-3 questions on either the reading or for the guest speaker. Each student must submit questions for at least 5 classes. These will be due as a posting on CCLE by 2pm on Tuesday before class.

Group Project

Students will be required to form groups of 5-6 students and write 2-4 pages on a prompt around the topic of representation in the classroom (why it's important or lessons they've learned from our course that are missing from other courses).

These memos will be compiled into a manual for the UCLA Luskin Public Policy Department as an example of what a more inclusive classroom can look like. PPDE as a group will likely add their own guidance to the memo. For those who don't wish to have their work used in an advocacy setting can choose not to have their work submitted to the department. More information about the final project will be provided to students in class.

Week 1, April 2nd: Introduction

- ★ Set up context for class
- ★ Previewing the structure of class and final project
- ★ Establish community standards and goals

Activities:

Video: Kimberlé Crenshaw on The Urgency of Intersectionality

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

“White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” Peggy McIntosh

<http://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/mcintosh.pdf>

Week 2, April 9th: Housing and Coalition/Capacity-building

Discussion of housing in terms of the impact that gentrification has on communities of color and how building capacity through coalitions and community organizing can address housing issues.

Speaker

Lisa Hasegawa, Neighborworks, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (National CAPACD), Community Liaison for WHIAAPI - Clinton Administration

Housing Readings

- 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/>
- National CAPACD and Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. Our Neighborhoods Report:
https://www.nationalcapacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/anti_displacement_strategies_report.pdf (Pages 1-19)
- Explore:
 - <http://www.urbandisplacement.org/>
 - <http://allincities.org/where-we-work/anti-displacement-policy-network>

Week 3, April 16th: Economic Opportunity

Discussion of economic inequality and organizing for a new economy

Speaker

Armadeep Gill, Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE)

Labor Readings:

- 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 4, April 23rd: Environmental Justice

Discussion of the disparate impact of pollution on California's communities of color and low income communities and ways of achieving environmental health and justice.

Speaker:

Xugo Lujan Jr and Jennifer Ganata, Communities for a Better Environment

Readings:

- Newkirk, Vann R. 2018. "Trump's EPA Concludes Environmental Racism Is Real." The Atlantic Monthly.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/02/the-trump-administration-finds-that-environmental-racism-is-real/554315/>

- TBD

Week 5, April 30th: Social Mobilization

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

Speaker:

Chris Zepeda-Millan, UCLA Associate Professor of Public Policy and Chicana/o Studies

Mobilization Readings:

- Zepeda-Millán, Chris, and Sophia J. Wallace. "Racialization in times of contention: How social movements influence Latino racial identity." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 1.4 (2013): 510-527.
- Zepeda-Millán, Chris. 2016. "Weapons of the (not so) weak: Immigrant mass mobilization in the US South." *Critical Sociology* 42(2): 269-287

Week 6, May 7th: Cannabis Legalization & Racial Justice

Discussion of cannabis legalization in Los Angeles, addressing the equity concerns with the City's phase programming, who becomes first movers, and what enforcement policy means along racial justice lines

Speaker:

Tammy Barreras, Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti

Cannabis Readings:

- Explore: The War On Marijuana in Black And White
<https://www.aclu.org/issues/smart-justice/sentencing-reform/war-marijuana-black-and-white>
- Explore: City of Los Angeles Cannabis Regulation. "Social Equity Program."
<https://cannabis.lacity.org/licensing/social-equity-program>
- Drug Policy Alliance. "Brief History of the Drug War."
<http://www.drugpolicy.org/issues/brief-history-drug-war>

Week 7, May 14th: Immigration

Speaker: Camila Alvarez, CARECEN

Immigration Readings:

- Abrego, Coleman, Martínez, Menjivar, & 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-can-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 8, May 21st: Mental Health, Mental Illness

Speaker: TBD

Readings:

TBD

Week 9, May 28th: Labor/Worker's Rights

Speaker:

TBD

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

Week 10, June 4th: Wrap-Up/Conclusions

- ★ Class Debrief
- ★ Suggestions for Future
- ★ Discussion of Final

Week 11, June 11th: Final Paper Due

Other Readings

Housing

- 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>.
- Global Neighborhoods: New Pathways to Diversity and Separation
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3763509/pdf/nihms481965.pdf>

- Domonoske, C. (2016). “Interactive redlining map zooms in on America’s history of discrimination.” National Public Radio.
<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/10/19/498536077/interactive-redlining-map-zooms-in-on-Américas-history-of-discrimination>
- MAPPING INEQUALITY Redlining in New Deal America
<https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=10/34.0050/-118.1565&opacity=0.8&city=los-angeles-ca>
- Grabar, H. (2018, September 18). “Black space, white blindness: Why white Americans have such a hard time picturing a middle-class black neighborhood.” Slate. Available at
<https://slate.com/business/2018/09/black-neighborhoods-white-racism.html>

Engaging with Power 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.]

Community Impact 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]

Organizing 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>

Criminal Justice Readings:

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

Additional Resources:

Title IX Resources: UCLA prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, there are a variety of resources to assist you. You can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) also provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768. Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, (310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491. These offices may be required to pursue an official investigation.

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) provides counseling and other psychological/mental health services to students. Walk-in hours are Monday-Thursday 8am-4:30pm and Friday 9am-4:30pm in John Wooden Center West. Crisis counseling is also available 24 hours/day at (310) 825-0768.

[The Bruin Resource Center's \(BRC\) Undocumented Student Program](#) offers caring and personalized support to undergraduate and graduate undocumented students. Even if you are not undocumented, you may be able to get legal help for a family member. The USP office provides immigration legal services to students and their family members through a partnership with the UC Undocumented Legal Services Center.

[Bruin Shelter](#) provides a safe, supportive environment for fellow college students experiencing homelessness by fostering a collaborative effort between universities, community-based organizations, and service providers.

[The CPO Food Shelter](#) provides free food for any UCLA student who may be experiencing hunger and/or struggling to attain food due to financial hardships.

