

ESM 241: Environmental Politics and Policy, Winter 2021

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 - 10:45 AM

Sections: Tuesday 12:30-1:20; 3:30-4:20; Wednesday 2:30-3:20; 3:30-4:20

Professors: Sarah Anderson (sanderson@bren.ucsb.edu)
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TA: Elliott Finn (efinn@bren.ucsb.edu)

Materials: All materials can be accessed at: gauchospace.ucsb.edu

Slack: All course communications by Slack ([invitation link](#))

Office hours: Anderson: By appointment ([link to book 15 min. appointment](#))
Buntaine: By appointment ([link to book 15 min. appointment](#))
Finn: Tuesdays 1:30-3:30 PM and by appointment

Overview

This course focuses on the politics of the policy process. The goal is to give you a clear picture of the processes through which societies arrive at collective or public choices through the operation of the political system. Our principal objective is to inform how you will engage with the policy process in your careers by exploring how the policy process shapes the political feasibility of environmental solutions.

While designing and assessing policy options based on their technical merits is crucial, there are other courses at the Bren School that address these issues (e.g., your core course on environmental economics or conservation planning). The fact is that these “optimal” policies are rarely adopted. Instead, the political system shapes what is or is not adopted. ESM 241 seeks to illuminate the policy process itself and to shed light on the forces that determine actual policy choices in contrast to examining the pros and cons of policy options regarding specific issues. Understanding the politics of the policy process should help you to understand whether seemingly attractive policy options are politically feasible and how to frame and present policy options in ways that enhance their prospects for enactment and successful implementation.

We will seek to answer the following types of questions. How do elections shape the adoption of policy solutions? How do institutional rules for decision making create veto points that constrain policy adoption? How does the executive promulgate rules on environmental governance? How are individual issues identified and framed for consideration as matters of public policy, and what determines whether they reach the top of the policy agenda?

Perhaps more importantly, the course is designed around activities to prepare you for the professional tasks you might undertake in your career in interaction with the policy process. These include deciding on a venue in which to make a policy proposal, commenting on executive rulemaking, developing coalition strategies, designing effective messaging, and exerting pressure for policy change.

Policy processes are generic in the sense that they occur in all political systems. But they are affected in important ways by the specific institutional character of particular political systems. Although our primary focus in this course will be on the American political system, we will refer to other political systems as a means of illuminating distinctive features of the American system and of providing a point of departure for exploring the effects of these features on the results of the policy process.

Resources

- The [US Constitution](#) as amended
- The [Polity IV Project](#) for an overview of political regimes worldwide.

COVID

We know that the global pandemic has made everything more challenging and stressful. Please reach out if you are struggling with any elements of this class or if you need accommodations or support. It's our first time putting this class online, so we also welcome your feedback at any time either directly or anonymously (see Gauchospace suggestion box).

Procedures and Requirements

Please see detailed policies and resources at the end of this document.

The deliverables for ESM 241 include:

- 2.1 Spatial Analysis and Paragraph (15%, due F 1/15)
- 2.2 Comment on Executive Rulemaking (10%, due at end of class 1/13)
- 4.1 Chart of Coalition Strategy (10%, due: M 1/25 during class)
- 4.2 Communication Targeting Analysis (15%, due F 2/5)
- 5.1 Policy Transportability (15%, due M 2/1, comments due W 2/3)
- 5.2 Policy Memo (20%, due M 2/15)
- Active participation in class and section (15%)

Late Policy: Late assignments will not be accepted without prior permission from the instructor. They will be marked down by 10%.

Section

Section 1 (week 2): Come with an example of a policy that seems economically efficient or technically appropriate. Why is it not gaining traction?

Section 2 (week 3): Facilitated discussion of public comment.

Section 3 (week 4): Discussion and debrief from the international negotiation session. Presentation by groups of their negotiated outcomes and comparison of differences.

Section 4 (week 5): Presentation of political advertisements (Session 4.2).

Section 5 (week 6): Virtual poster session for “politically feasible” policy proposal

Class Sessions and Readings

Note: additional (optional) readings and resources for each session and the activities guides are posted on Gauchospace.

Session 1.1: Introduction to course goals — *why don't economically and technically appropriate policies that address environmental problems get adopted or implemented successfully? What can be done about it?*

Mildenberger & Stokes: <http://bostonreview.net/science-nature-politics/matto-mildenberger-leah-c-stokes-trouble-carbon-pricing>

Majkut:

<https://www.niskanencenter.org/the-immediate-case-for-a-carbon-price/>

Session 1.2: Elections and political parties — *how do people gain political power? What do we know about the importance of issue positions for turnout and vote choice, which determine election outcomes? How does the shadow of future elections impact decisions once in office?*

[FIORINA VIDEO](#)

Anderson, Butler, and Harbridge-Yong [How primaries result in lack of compromise.](#)

Spoon, Jae-Jae, Sara B. Hobolt, and Catherine E. de Vries. 2014. [“Going Green: Explaining Issue Competition on the Environment.”](#) *European Journal of Political Research* 53(2): 363–80.

Session 2.1: Elites and Rules (Veto players at multiple levels) – *how does the structure of collective decision-making and policy enactment determine the policies that get adopted?*

Dan Butler video: [Will Democrats Get Rid of the Filibuster in 2021?](#)

Bryner, 1995, “From the Clean Air Act of 1970 to the 1990 Amendments” - GS

Session 2.2: Executive rule-making – *how does the executive branch make policy? What determines the types of interests that the executive responds to when crafting rules?*

VIDEO: [Executive Agencies and Rulemaking](#)

You, Hye Young. 2017. "[Ex Post Lobbying](#)." *The Journal of Politics* 79(4): 1162–76.

Session 3.2: International agreements – *what are the unique challenges of creating binding rules for managing the environment at the international level?*

Victor, D. G. (2006). [Toward effective international cooperation on climate change: Numbers, interests and institutions](#). *Global environmental politics*, 6(3), 90-103.

Session 4.1: Interest groups and coalitions – *how do interest groups organize to bring about effective political pressure on decision-makers? What types of coalitions or groups are able to gain influence through active campaigning or other political pressure?*

Daniel Butler Wilson-Lowi matrix video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EV19dAapnQ>

Lobbying clip: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4820064/interest-groups-lobbying>

Climate Leadership Council clip: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4820009/climate-leadership-council>

Weible, C. M. (2007). [An advocacy coalition framework approach to stakeholder analysis: Understanding the political context of California marine protected area policy](#). *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 17(1), 95-117.

Session 4.2: Public campaigns and opinion – *who shapes public opinion? When and why do policy-makers respond to public opinion? How can information campaigns be targeted to have more of an effect on policy-maker choices?*

Dan Butler Video: <https://youtu.be/JoQKHysCRsg>

Levine, A. S., & Kline, R. (2017). [A new approach for evaluating climate change communication](#). *Climatic Change*, 142(1-2), 301-309.

Session 5.1: Comparative policy analysis – *why do we see similar policy proposals succeed in some places and not others? What does this teach us about the ability of different systems to produce policies?*

Baldwin, E., Carley, S., & Nicholson-Crotty, S. (2019). [Why do countries emulate each others' policies? A global study of renewable energy policy diffusion](#). *World Development*, 120, 29-45.

Session 5.2: Politically feasible policies – *what are the ingredients for a politically viable policy proposal? Under what circumstances are new policy proposals likely to succeed?*

Jakob, M., Steckel, J. C., Jotzo, F., Sovacool, B. K., Cornelsen, L., Chandra, R., ... & Robins, N. (2020). [The future of coal in a carbon-constrained climate](#). *Nature Climate Change*, 10(8), 704-707.

Prakash and Dolvsak. [Biden's Biggest Climate Challenge Is To Satisfy Both The 'Workers' And The 'Elites'](#).

Detailed Policies and Procedures

Individual Differences and Accommodations

UCSB is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (<http://www.ada.ucsb.edu>). If you anticipate experiencing difficulty in this course for any reason, please consult with the instructor. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact the Disabled Students Program as soon as possible. Any student wishing to receive accommodations for a verified disability should request academic accommodations through the Disabled Students Program (<http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu>, 893-2668) as soon as possible.

Academic integrity/Responsible Scholarship

Honesty and integrity in all academic work are essential for a valuable educational experience. The Office of Judicial Affairs has policies, tips, and resources for proper citation use, recognizing actions considered to be cheating or other forms of academic theft, and students' responsibilities, available on their website at: <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu>. Students are responsible for educating themselves on the policies and to abide by them.

Religious Observances

UCSB is committed to providing reasonable academic accommodations to allow students observances of their religious beliefs. Whenever possible, students will be given reasonable time to make up any academic assignment that is missed due to participation in a religious observance. It is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible of any intended absences for religious observances.

Copyright and Course Recording Policy

All course materials (class lectures and discussions, handouts, examinations, web materials) and the intellectual content of the course itself are protected by United States Federal Copyright Law, the California Civil Code. The UC Policy 102.23 expressly prohibits students (and all other persons) from distributing or selling lectures notes and all other course materials without the prior written permission of the instructor (See <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2710530/PACAOS100>). Students are permitted to make notes solely for their own private educational use. Exceptions to accommodate students with disabilities may be granted with appropriate documentation. To be clear, in this class students are forbidden from completing study guides and selling them to any person or organization. In addition, students and class visitors may not make audio or

visual recordings of lectures, class discussions, or class presentations without the advance written consent of the instructor. Approved recordings are to be solely used for the purposes of individual or group study by students enrolled in the class. If the recordings are to be used in any other manner, including any form of reproduction or distribution on the Internet or any other media, then in addition to the advance written consent of the instructor, the person making the recording shall obtain written consent from any student whose words or likeness appear in the recording. Inherent within this policy, instructors recognize that they must take into consideration and make accommodations to students who require access to course materials in compliance with the University's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

As faculty members and instructors, we are required to report discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence involving students. All UC employees including faculty and supervisors (except those specifically identified as confidential employees) are required to notify the Title IX office if anyone in the University community brings information about, or an employee becomes aware of, a possible incident of discrimination, sexual violence, or sexual harassment. Such reports are not confidential and all parties must be named.

The Title IX Compliance and Sexual Harassment Policy Compliance Office (TIX/SHPC) provides assistance in preventing and resolving & investigating complaints of sexual harassment/sexual violence and gender discrimination. It is also illegal to discriminate against a woman because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth. <http://www.oeosh.ucsb.edu/> If you believe you may be experiencing discrimination, exclusion from or denial of benefits of any program at UCSB, on the basis of your sex, gender or gender presentation, the TIX/SHPC is available to receive and respond to your complaint.

If you would like confidential support, the CARE: Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education program can provide confidential emotional support, connect you with medical care, give you options for filing a report, help you understand your legal rights, facilitate housing needs, and connect survivors to campus and community funding sources. Resources can be found at: <http://sexualviolence.ucsb.edu/get.help/>

Distressed Students

UCSB is committed to providing a quality learning environment for its students. It is not uncommon for students to encounter emotional and mentally stressful challenges over the course of their studies. If you would like to talk with a counselor, please reach out to [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) at 805-893-4411. If you know of

someone else in distress who may need help, please encourage them to contact CAPS or submit a referral online. UCSB's [Student Wellbeing site](#) and the [Bren School's Student Resources](#) website include other links to resources that can help you take care of yourself and others in our community. Please be kind to yourself and others during this difficult time.

Assignment completion policy: You must complete all assignments to pass the course, even if skipping an individual assignment would not result in a non-passing grade by percentage.

Grading: We take student evaluation seriously and do not entertain requests to re-grade assignments unless we receive a formal, written request for a re-grade that compellingly documents a serious oversight on our part. A serious oversight on our part indicates that the entire assignment should receive further attention. Your score may go up or down if we decide that an assignment needs this kind of attention, so plan accordingly. That being said, we strongly encourage you to meet with us to discuss any feedback on your assignments.