

Public Affairs

Expand and deepen your leadership for the advancement of public good

The Berkeley Master of Public Affairs (MPA) program is a 30-unit one-year program designed to benefit mid-career professionals in the public, private, and non-profit sectors. MPA students are seeking advancement in their careers and are poised to take on greater leadership and policy-focused roles in their workplace and professional communities.

Learn the skills to make an impact

The focus of the degree is on policy analysis combined with deep engagement with questions of organizational leadership and ethics, innovation, economic analysis, and strategy. Students also undertake individual and group assignments that emphasize both short turnaround analyses and in-depth studies of policy issues. Students conclude the program by designing a Capstone project with a real world client. During the Capstone students conduct a thorough analysis of a major policy question facing the organization while applying the interdisciplinary methods, approaches, and perspectives studied in the MPA curriculum.

Learn from distinguished Goldman School faculty and a global community

Classes are taught by top faculty, researchers and practitioners (<https://gspp.berkeley.edu/faculty-and-impact/faculty/>) who are on the leading edge of today's most pressing public policy issues: energy & climate change, national security & international development, information technology, education, race, equity & social justice and urban policy & labor.

Throughout your studies, you will enjoy personal attention in small classes, and join a network of professionals and executives leading the charge to shape government, business and nonprofits.

Please visit our departmental website (<https://gspp.berkeley.edu/programs/masters-of-public-affairs-mpa/>) for comprehensive Admissions information.

- Complete a minimum of 30 units (14 core units earning a grade of 'B' or better plus 16 elective units)
- Complete a Capstone project (included in the 14 core units)

MPA Core Courses (14 Units)

PUB AFF 205	Policy Frameworks and Challenges	1
PUB AFF 235	Research Methods for Policy Leaders	1
PUB AFF 215	Economics for Public Policy Makers	3
PUB AFF 287	Innovation, Strategy and Leadership: Making Change in Public Organizations. (3 units, 1 unit of which may be awarded as a companion PUB AFF 290 course)	2
PUB AFF 245	Inferential Statistics for Policy Makers	1
PUB AFF 207	The Capstone	4

MPA Elective Courses (16+ Units)

MPA students may satisfy the degree's elective requirements by taking graduate or upper division undergraduate level courses at the Goldman School or any other department at the University. Goldman School Public

Affairs courses that can be used to satisfy the elective requirement include the following:

PUB AFF 225	Policy Communications	1
PUB AFF 265	Financial Management and Budgeting	1
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Make It So! The real-life challenges of policy implementation that delivers results.)	1-2
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Politics and Development in the Global South)	1
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Design Thinking)	1
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Strategies to Reach and Sustain International Climate Accords: Tools and Pathways to Success)	1
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Public Budgeting for Policy Leaders)	1
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Data Visualization, 1-2 Principles and Techniques)	1-2
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Storytelling for Leadership)	1
PUB AFF 290	Special Topics in Public Affairs (Digital Economy: Public Policy-Making in the Fourth Industrial Revolution)	1-4

Public Affairs

PUB AFF 201 Confronting Public Policy Challenges 2 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session

This course is designed to introduce mid-career executives to three things: a typology of "kinds of problems" that confront those leading organizations; a sampling of major problems confronting leaders in the next decades; and a sampling of solutions to problems confronting leaders. It introduces the rest of the Berkeley MPA summer core program with examples of the kinds of problems that modern leaders must confront and the kinds of solutions that must be devised. The course features at least one article or book by a GSPP faculty member in each session except the last.

Hours & Format

Summer: 3 weeks - 36 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 202 Policy Analysis Toolkit Course 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

This course is designed to improve our abilities to think creatively and critically about public policy problems and solutions. The course provides the opportunity to synthesize the skills you have acquired through your summer core coursework and apply these skills to real world policy problems. We open the course with a discussion of what it is that policy analysts do and how their work fits into the broader policy process. We then move into an overview of the policy analysis framework, drawing on the eightfold path you were introduced to in the Policy Frameworks course.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 205 Policy Frameworks and Challenges 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session

This course is designed to introduce mid-career executives to "big ideas" in public policy: the fundamental dilemmas in governance, representation, resource creation and distribution, that eternally confront societies and public leaders, and various approaches to resolving these dilemmas.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: This class is takes material from Pub Aff 201 and puts it into a 1-credit class format. Students may not receive credit for both Pub Aff 201 and Pub Aff 205.

Hours & Format

Summer: 6 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Mauldon

PUB AFF 207 The Capstone 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The MPA Capstone Course is designed to enable each MPA student to write their Capstone Analytic Project, which will address a specific policy or programmatic challenge facing a real-world client. The weekly course meetings are structured to help students further hone their creativity, their analytic capacities and their writing and presentation skills as they develop the project through its various stages. Participants work closely together to learn from and help each other. Each student's final product, their CAP, is a thorough analysis of the client's problem or challenge that draws on the interdisciplinary methods, approaches, and perspectives studied in the Toolkit class and other classes in the MPA core curriculum.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 215 Economics for Public Policy Makers 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session

This course is designed to familiarize the executive student with the ways in which microeconomic analysis is brought to bear on public policy issues. You will learn (1) to identify the relevant economic questions concerning policy issues of interest to you, (2) to comprehend the economic arguments that bear on these issues, (3) to evaluate these arguments in terms of their strengths and weaknesses, and (4) when to utilize specific tools and methods from microeconomics to address the policy issues.

Hours & Format

Summer:

3 weeks - 15 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 6-15 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 225 Policy Communications 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session

The Goldman School equips students to speak truth to power. In this course, the goal is to focus on the art and science of persuasive oral communication in policy. This course equips students with the best practices of oral communication and provides them with a safe space to find their voice. We focus primarily on persuasion.

Hours & Format

Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 235 Research Methods for Policy Leaders 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 First 6 Week Session

This course presents an introduction overview of quantitative and qualitative research methods and an introduction to the research process in public policy decision making.

Hours & Format

Summer:

3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 3-12 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 245 Inferential Statistics for Policy Makers 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session

In this course, we are going to study the use of research methods, statistics, and probability theory in public decision making. We will begin with case studies of important public policy topics where key decisions depend on the interpretation of results from empirical research or on probabilistic assessments of the likelihood of various outcomes. We will then study the basics of probability theory, statistical sampling, hypothesis testing, and inferring causality.

Hours & Format

Summer:

2 weeks - 13 hours of lecture per week

3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 255 Risk and Decision Models 1 Unit

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course examines mathematical models useful in policy analysis and management through a series of exercises and hands-on experimentation. It assumes knowledge of basic economics and introductory statistics.

Hours & Format

Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 260 Applied Inferential Statistics for Policy Analysis 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session

There is increasing emphasis throughout the public and non-profit sectors to invest in practices that are "evidence based". In this course, we are going to study the role of empirical research in public decision making and the common research strategies employed to study problems of causal inference and prediction. The effectiveness of specific intervention often relies on research attempting to demonstrate that one variable (for example, a particular educational intervention) has a causal effect on an outcome of interest (for example, successful completion of high school). We will study the various research strategies that are employed to uncover causal effects and to evaluate the effects of programmatic interventions.

Hours & Format

Summer: 1.5 weeks - 13 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Raphael

PUB AFF 265 Financial Management and Budgeting 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session

This course discusses methods for making organizations perform with an emphasis on managerial and financial accounting. Procurement, quality assurance, and performance evaluations of employees are also discussed. Managerial accounting is a set of tools used by managers for planning, implementation, and control. Financial accounting is a set of tools used by managers and outside observers for reporting on and analyzing an organization's financial health.

Hours & Format

Summer: 3 weeks - 5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 270 Negotiations 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

The objective of this course is to improve negotiation skills and to increase the ability to resolve conflicts in a multitude of situations, including public policy disputes. Topics will include: distributive and integrative bargaining; preparation strategies; defense to ploys; power and perceptions; team and multi-party negotiations; political, legislative and regulatory negotiations; emotions and gender, email negotiations, handling difficult negotiators, impact of personality traits and public policy mediation. Simulated negotiation exercises and role-plays will be used extensively.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Dayonot

Formerly known as: Public Affairs W270

PUB AFF 271 Program Evaluation 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

Program evaluation is the systematic investigation of social programs, regulations, or policies. The aim of program evaluation is to provide valid findings in order to determine whether a particular program or policy is achieving its objectives. Evaluations are used for various reasons, most commonly to aid in decisions concerning whether programs should be continued, improved, expanded, or curtailed. This course will introduce students to a variety of research designs and related methodological tools useful for evaluating the impact of public policies and programs.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 3 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Weare

Formerly known as: Public Affairs W271

PUB AFF 274 Storytelling for Leadership 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session

Inspirational and authentic leaders understand that in order to inspire and earn the trusts of others, they must first be willing to reveal who they are and what they truly believe in. In this course, we will study how leaders and change agents use storytelling to inspire people and enroll others into their vision. More importantly, you will have the opportunity to discover and tell your own leadership stories—who you are, your personal beliefs and values, and your personal/professional aspirations and passion. The goal of the course is to provide the foundations to develop both the content and the delivery of a compelling story.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of lecture per week

Summer: 2 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Charnsupharindr

PUB AFF 280 Policy Analysis Using the Eightfold Path 1 Unit

Terms offered: Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session
This course is focused exclusively on teaching a classic method of public policy analysis, the so-called Eightfold Path for Policy Analysis. Class sessions will be devoted to discussion and applications of each step of this approach.

Hours & Format

Summer: 4 weeks - 6 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 283 Leading People and Organizations 1 Unit

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course is designed to help students develop their skills for leading and managing large groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and public advocacy, with the goal of achieving positive social change. Materials include case studies, analyses, and works from several disciplines. This course will provide higher-level topics of leadership strategy, visionary management, and executive communication styles.

Hours & Format

Summer: 1.5 weeks - 13 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 285 Ethical Issues for Policy Leaders 1 or 2 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2020 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2019 Second 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 Second 6 Week Session

The objective of this course is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of ethical arguments in the process and substance of policymaking. Those who seek to govern well inescapably confront questions of value in their political, professional and personal choices. The discussion of ethical dilemmas is designed to provoke analytic reflection on the moral challenges and responsibilities for public policymaking in a democracy. The focus is on the many and often competing obligations, commitments and values that should guide public actors, as well as on the public principles that guide the design of good public policy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 8 weeks - 2-4 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 3 weeks - 5-13 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 287 Innovation, Strategy and Leadership: Making Change in Public Organizations. 2 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2019 First 6 Week Session, Summer 2018 First 6 Week Session

This course focuses on creating and implementing change within public organizations through the application of strategic planning, innovation and leadership. We will discuss where new ideas come from and how they can be generated, evaluated and implemented. The methods developed in other parts of the summer curriculum become the support for proving that new ideas are good ideas (or for finding out that they are bad ideas). We will explore how each method can be useful to a leader (both formal and informal) at various levels within a public organization through case studies and real world examples. The course will introduce leadership themes which will be explored further in PUB AFF 283: Leading People and Organizations.

Hours & Format

Summer:

3 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 5-10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB AFF 288 Digital Economy: Public Policy Making in the Fourth Industrial Revolution 1 Unit

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

In the Fourth Industrial Revolution, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and gene editing will transform the way we work and the way we live. The speed, scope, and scale of the technological changes are unprecedented, which pose serious challenges to policy makers – how do you create agile public policies to not only keep up with technologies, but to anticipate future trends in this fast-moving digital economy? We will take a practical approach to examine the issues and challenges of “tech policy” from a global perspective, including topics such as digital trade, data privacy, digital payment, artificial intelligence, gene editing, blockchain, and more.

Objectives & Outcomes

Course Objectives: Apply the learnings of the class and develop “mock policy” for an emerging technology.

Discover tech policy-making from three different perspectives: government, private sector, and civil society.

Understand the fundamentals of tech policy and how to develop tech policy for the digital economy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 2 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Fan

PUB AFF 290 Special Topics in Public Affairs 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public affairs. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

8 weeks - 2-6 hours of lecture per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

1.5 weeks - 13-40 hours of lecture per week

2 weeks - 12.5-30 hours of lecture per week

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

PUB AFF W290 Special Topics in Public Affairs 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2022 Second 6 Week Session, Fall 2021, Summer 2021 Second 6 Week Session

Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public affairs. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of web-based lecture and 1-4 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Affairs/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

Public Policy

PUB POL C20AC THE 2020 ELECTION 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020

During the fall 2020 semester we will have the quadrennial opportunity to study American politics during a presidential campaign. Combining real-time analysis of the election, an in-depth study of the relevant historical and sociological trends that are shaping this moment, and a lively roster of guest speakers from across the Berkeley campus and community, this class will provide students with a comprehensive and interdisciplinary introduction to American politics in a time of unprecedented crisis and possibility.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Cohen, Jayaraman

Also listed as: AFRICAM C20AC

PUB POL 24 Freshman Seminar 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2016

The Freshman Seminar Program has been designed to provide new students with the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member in a small-seminar setting. Freshman seminars are offered in all campus departments, and topics vary from department to department and semester to semester. Enrollment limited to 15 freshmen.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

PUB POL 39B Freshman/Sophomore Seminar 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2012

Freshman and sophomore seminars offer lower-division students the opportunity to explore an intellectual topic with a faculty member and a group of peers in a small seminar setting. These seminars are offered in all campus departments; topics vary from department to department and from semester to semester. Enrollment limits are set by the faculty, but the suggested limit is 25.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 10 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered. Final exam required.

PUB POL 98 Group Study in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Group study on selected public policy topics. Open to freshmen and sophomores.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PUB POL 101 Introduction to Public Policy Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Spring 2025

A systematic and critical approach to evaluating and designing public policies. Combines theory and application to particular cases and problems. Diverse policy topics, including environmental, health, education, communications, safety, and arts policy issues, among others.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 8-10 hours of lecture and 2-0 hours of discussion per week

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

PUB POL 103 Wealth and Poverty 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2009, Spring 2008

This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding both of the structure of political economy and of why the distribution of earnings, wealth, and opportunity have been diverging in the United States and in other nations. It is also intended to provide insight into the political and public policy debates that have arisen in light of the divergence as well as possible means of reversing it.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Reich

PUB POL C103 Wealth and Poverty 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding both of the organization of the political economy in the United States and of other advanced economies, and of why the distribution of earnings, wealth, and opportunity have been diverging in the United States and in other nations. It also is intended to provide insights into the political and public-policy debates that have arisen in light of this divergence, as well as possible means of reversing it.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for C103 after taking 103.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Reich

Also listed as: L & S C180U

PUB POL 105 Negotiations 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The objective of this course is to improve negotiation skills and to increase the ability to resolve conflicts in a multitude of situations, including public policy disputes. Topics will include: distributive and integrative bargaining; preparation strategies; defense to ploys; power and perceptions; team and multi-party negotiations; political, legislative and regulatory negotiations; emotions and gender, email negotiations, handling difficult negotiators, impact of personality traits and public policy mediation. Simulated negotiation exercises and role-plays will be used extensively.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Dayonot

PUB POL 117AC Race, Ethnicity, and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The objective of this course is to use the tools and insights of public policy analysis as a means of understanding the ways in which policies are shaped by and respond to issues of race, ethnicity, and cultural difference. The course is organized around a series of discrete policy problems involving issues of race and ethnicity. It is designed to allow for comparative analysis within and across cases to explore the variety of ways in which policy intersects with different racial and ethnic groups.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

PUB POL 132 Global Challenges 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

This course will survey societal challenges that are fundamentally global in nature, in contrast to challenges that are more effectively addressed by domestic policies. The goal of the course is to understand the cause and structure of a broad set of global challenges, with an eye towards eventually participating in their management or resolution. The first part provides foundations for understanding the governance context in which global challenges emerge. The second part of the course examines individual topic areas, building students' knowledge of modern issues and policy debates. Topics may include, but not limited to the governance of oceans; poverty and development; scientific research and technology transfer; international aid.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Hsiang

PUB POL 138 Game Changer? An Introduction to A.I. and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course examines the public policy challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI). This class offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the policy implications of AI. You will engage in key debates surrounding AI ethics and explore regulatory frameworks for AI, comparing national and international approaches to governance. The course assesses AI's role in exacerbating or mitigating inequalities. You will be challenged to consider how public policy can balance innovation with public safety, democratic values, and human rights. By the end of the course, you will be equipped to analyze the public policy implications of AI technologies and develop informed, actionable strategies for governing their societal impact.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Reddie

PUB POL 141 Behavioral Economics for Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course introduces a range of economic phenomena that cannot be explained by standard, fully rational economic models, and explores implications for public policy. Why do we vote for social security despite the fact that it reduces our freedom to choose how we spend our money? What would happen to job seeking behavior if we cut off unemployment benefits in multiple steps? Why do fines work better than bonuses (except when they don't)? What kinds of policies should the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau implement? Behavioral Economics provides answers to these questions that standard economics does not.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Acland

PUB POL C142 Applied Econometrics and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020

This course focuses on the sensible application of econometric methods to empirical problems in economics and public policy analysis. It provides background on issues that arise when analyzing non-experimental social science data and a guide for tools that are useful for empirical research. By the end of the course, students will have an understanding of the types of research designs that can lead to convincing analysis and be comfortable working with large scale data sets.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 140 or 141 or consent of instructor

Credit Restrictions: Students who completed Econ C142 receive no credit for Econ N142.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-3 hours of lecture and 1-0 hours of discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6-6 hours of lecture and 2-0 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Also listed as: ECON C142/POL SCI C131A

PUB POL 147 Progress? An Introduction to Technology and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course examines the intersection between politics, security, and technology in the U.S. and across the globe. The course is divided into four parts: 1) Technology in Theory 2) Technology and War: A History; 3) Today's "Emerging" Technologies; and 4) Tomorrow's Technologies. The seminar considers work from international relations, economics, science and technology studies, law, as well as policy writing. Topics include: offset strategies, offense-defense balance theory, grey-zone competition, escalation, the economics of industrial policy, and innovation policy. Technologies considered include: robotics, autonomous platforms (UAVs, UUVs), machine learning, hypersonic missiles, missile defense technologies, and nuclear modernization.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Reddie

PUB POL C151 The Final Frontier? Space Technology and National Security Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025

This course explores the intersection of space and national security policy, focusing on the impacts of the evolving strategic environment in space. Students examine the key actors, technologies, and policy frameworks that shape the role of space in the global economy and in modern defense. Topics include: satellite technologies, the militarization of space, the role of private industry in the domain, and governance challenges posed by emerging technologies. The course engages with case studies on U.S., Russian, and Chinese space policies, and international efforts to govern space. By the end of the course, students will understand how space capabilities influence international security and are prepared to take part in policy debates.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Instructor: Reddie

Also listed as: AERO ENG C193P

PUB POL 155 Introduction to Security Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course introduces students to the arena of security policy. Students will learn the origins and evolution of the governing framework for security policy in the United States, including the post-9/11 creation of Homeland Security, and key methodologies of security policy, including risk assessment. The course will evaluate the variety of scales at which security policy is enacted, from state/local to federal and even international. The course delves into defining security dilemmas of the present: the challenge of securing democracy against both internal and external threats; the challenge of cybersecurity in a networked world; and global climate change. The course concludes with a required one-day crisis simulation exercise.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructors: Sargent, Napolitano

PUB POL 156 Program and Policy Design 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2016, Fall 2011

Studio/laboratory in the design of nonphysical environments.

Complements courses in policy analysis, public management, economics, and political science; especially intended to integrate elements of professional programs in public policy and related areas. Students will design, in groups and individually, programs and policies that create value in the public sector, including statutes, regulations, and implementation projects. Comparative reviews will feature invited guests. Undergraduate level of 256.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam not required.

Instructor: O'Hare

PUB POL 157 Arts and Cultural Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

Survey of government policy toward the arts (especially direct subsidy, copyright and regulation, and indirect assistance) and its effects on artists, audiences, and institutions. Emphasizes "highbrow" arts, U.S. policy, and the social and economic roles of participants in the arts. Readings, field trips, and case discussion. One paper in two drafts required for undergraduate credit; graduate credit awarded for an additional short paper to be arranged and attendance at four advanced colloquia throughout the term. Undergraduate level of 257.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: O'Hare

Formerly known as: 108

PUB POL C157 Arts and Cultural Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2014, Spring 2013

Survey of government policy toward the arts (especially direct subsidy, copyright and regulation, and indirect assistance) and its effects on artists, audiences, and institutions. Emphasizes "highbrow" arts, U.S. policy, and the social and economic roles of participants in the arts. Readings, field trips, and case discussion. One paper in two drafts required for undergraduate credit; graduate credit awarded for an additional short paper to be arranged and attendance at four advanced colloquia throughout the term. Undergraduate level of 257.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for Public Policy C157/Letters and Science C180x after taking Public Policy 108 or 157.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: O'Hare

Also listed as: L & S C180X

PUB POL 160AC Work, Justice and the Labor Movement 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2020

This course provides a broad, inter-disciplinary overview of the U.S. labor movement in the fight for social and economic justice. It will introduce students to critiques of racial capitalism and the power dynamics inherent in paid work, while considering why and how workers form unions in response. One of the primary objectives of this course is to develop a theoretical and analytical understanding of contemporary workers' experiences of work in the U.S. shaped by race, class, gender, sexuality, immigration status, language, religion, and other social constructs. There will be a special comparative focus on the role of structures and the space for agency and mobilization in the Latinx, Black and Asian American communities.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Co-enrollment in PUB POL 199C or ETH STD 199C

Requirements this course satisfies: Satisfies the American Cultures requirement

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD 160AC

PUB POL 162AC Field Study in Labor Organizing 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2021

This fieldstudy course is designed for undergraduates/graduates who have an interest in social/economic justice, and seek to earn academic credit while gaining exp in organizing. Building upon the Labor Center's Summer program, it allows students to apply existing organizing skills/ acquire new knowledge in community and labor organizations. Students will be matched with our community partners that promote the interests of Bay area working families. Classroom-based guided reflection, skills development, career information, and engagement with current debates will complement the fieldwork. This exp can open the door to life-long careers as organizers, researchers, policy analysts, political lobbyists, communication specialists and leaders.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 6 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD 197AC

PUB POL C164 Impact of Government Policies on Poor Children and Families 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2007

Examination of the impact of policies of state intervention and public benefit programs on poor children and families. Introduction to child and family policy, and study of specific issue areas, such as income transfer programs, housing, health care, and child abuse.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: This course may be applied to the Demography major.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Mauldon

Also listed as: DEMOG C164

PUB POL C164A Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for Action and Policy (L-RAP) 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023

This course is an introduction to social science research methods that center principles of equity and justice connecting the Berkeley Changemaker L&S 12 to the discipline of public policy in the field of work and employment relations. It is based on the premise that the COVID-19 pandemic presents an opportunity to reshape the economy for a fair, inclusive, and democratic society with the participation of people typically excluded from policy development. Currently, young workers are at the helm of transforming the labor market by leading union organizing at workplaces. This course examines the position, attitudes, and interests of young workers through the lens of critical race theory, feminist and queer theory, and disability justice.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD C164A

PUB POL 165 Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This course will examine the nature and extent of poverty in the U.S., its causes and consequences, and the antipoverty effects of existing and proposed

government programs and policies. The first ten weeks of this course focuses on social science theory and evidence about the causes, consequences and costs of poverty. The last four weeks of the course examines child poverty policies, employment policies, and setting an overall agenda for poverty policy.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 165 after completing PUB POL 165. A deficient grade in PUB POL 165 may be removed by taking PUB POL 165.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Johnson

PUB POL C184 Energy and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Energy sources, uses, and impacts: an introduction to the technology, politics, economics, and environmental effects of energy in contemporary society. Energy and well-being; energy in international perspective, origins, and character of energy crisis.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week
10 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES C100

PUB POL W184 Energy and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2025 8 Week Session, Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session

Energy sources, uses, and impacts: an introduction to the technology, politics, economics, and environmental effects of energy in contemporary society. Energy and well-being; energy in international perspective, origins, and character of energy crisis.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 1 hour of web-based discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 1.5 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES W100

PUB POL 187 Energy Regulation and Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The class focuses on the economic regulation of electricity and natural gas and its role in public policy innovation. We will explore the regulatory rationale in the context of microeconomic principles, the nature and evolution of energy technology and regulation in the United States, and the ways to advance public policy objectives. The class covers the alternatives to traditional cost-of-service rate regulation, the electricity deregulation experiment, the resulting energy crisis in California, and current efforts to reconsider the utility business model. We will delve into how the economic regulatory framework creates opportunities to implement public policy, and the enhanced role climate change now plays in decision making worldwide.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Weissman

PUB POL C189 Social Science & Crime Prevention Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

In this interdisciplinary course students examine the relationships among social science, law, and crime prevention policy. Emphasis is placed on how psychological science (clinical, developmental, social) can inform decisions about individuals at high risk for repeated involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. Topics of focus include risk assessment, adolescent development and juvenile justice, and prevention/intervention/correctional psychology. Students will have an opportunity to master a specific problem area. Broadly, goals are for students to a) become comfortable in translating crime prevention problems into social scientific questions, and b) specifically understand how research findings can inform law and policy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Final exam required.

Instructor: Skeem

Also listed as: SOC WEL C181

PUB POL 190 Special Topics in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public policy. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester. Open to students from other departments.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring:

7 weeks - 2-8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 2-4 hours of lecture per week

15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 1.5-7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternative to final exam.

PUB POL 192AC Social Movements, Organizing & Policy Change 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020

This class will provide students with a grounding in the literature of social movement theory and history, with a special emphasis on social movements led by African American, Latinx, indigenous, and Asian Pacific Islander communities for equity. The class will also introduce students to the basics of social movement organizing, including mobilizing unlikely voters through organizing technique, and the theory of nonviolent direct action, all with a focus on race and gender equity.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Summer: 6 weeks - 7.5 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Letter grade. Alternate method of final assessment during regularly scheduled final exam group (e.g., presentation, final project, etc.).

Instructor: Jayaraman

PUB POL 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Group study of a selected topic or topics in Public Policy. Meetings to be arranged.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PUB POL 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2020

For upper division students wishing to pursue special study and directed research under direction of a member of the staff. Enrollment restrictions apply; see the Introduction to Courses and Curricula section of this catalog.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 2.5-10 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 2-7.5 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 1.5-6 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

PUB POL C199C Berkeley Changemaker: Labor Research for Action and Policy (L-RAP) 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021

This practicum is an applied research training course that accompanies PUBPOL 160AC Work, Justice, and the Labor Movement and connects the Berkeley Changemaker L&S 12 to the discipline of public policy. It is designed to provide a robust training in research methods and community engagement with worker organizations to inform policies for a fair, inclusive, and democratic society. The practicum integrates elements of quantitative and qualitative research methods in a semester-long service-learning project in partnership with a worker organization. Students will work in teams to collect and analyze data thematically, and learn to use digital tools to disseminate the research findings to various audiences.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Co-enrollment in PUB POL 160AC, ETH STD 160AC, or SOCIOL 116AC

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of lecture and 2 hours of fieldwork per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Undergraduate

Grading/Final exam status: Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Alternative to final exam.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

Also listed as: ETH STD C199C

PUB POL 200 Introduction to Policy Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017

This introductory course will integrate various social science disciplines and apply these perspectives to problems of public policy. Throughout the academic term, students will apply knowledge of politics, economics, sociology, and quantitative methods in the analysis of case studies of policymakers and managers making decisions. Students learn to use the techniques of social science to evaluate projects and programs. Course will include the preparation of a major paper for a client.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 200A Foundations for Public Policy Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This is a course about how to identify public problems and craft policies to best address those problems. The course is designed to improve our abilities to think creatively and critically about public policy issues, whether as politically-engaged citizens, advocates for policy change, practicing policy analysts, or members of one of the many disciplines and professions shaped by public policy. This course focuses on the art and science of public policy analysis. We address the following fundamental questions: What kinds of problems are public problems? How do we know when government should get involved? What kinds of solutions are available to government? How do we confront the trade-offs between possible solutions?

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 200A after completing PUB POL 200A, or PUB POL 200A. A deficient grade in PUB POL 200A may be removed by taking PUB POL 200A, or PUB POL 200A.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Linquiti

PUB POL 200B Professional Policy Practice 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This introductory course will integrate various social science disciplines and apply these perspectives to problems of public policy. Throughout the academic term, students will apply knowledge of politics, economics, sociology, and quantitative methods in the analysis of increasingly complex problems.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 200B after completing PUB POL 200B, or PUB POL 200B. A deficient grade in PUB POL 200B may be removed by taking PUB POL 200B, or PUB POL 200B.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Bird, Adams, Sadin

PUB POL 205 Advanced Policy Analysis 6 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Each student will conduct thorough analysis on a major policy question.

In this research, students will apply the interdisciplinary methods, approaches, and perspectives studied in the core curriculum.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to majors who have completed the core curriculum

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 210A The Economics of Public Policy Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Theories of microeconomic behavior of consumers, producers, and bureaucrats are developed and applied to specific policy areas. Ability to analyze the effects of alternative policy actions in terms of 1) the efficiency of resource allocation and 2) equity is stressed. Policy areas are selected to show a broad range of actual applications of theory and a variety of policy strategies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of session per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Raphael

PUB POL 210B The Economics of Public Policy Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Theories of microeconomic behavior of consumers, producers, and bureaucrats are developed and applied to specific policy areas. Ability to analyze the effects of alternative policy actions in terms of 1) the efficiency of resource allocation and 2) equity is stressed. Policy areas are selected to show a broad range of actual applications of theory and a variety of policy strategies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of session per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Friedman

PUB POL 217 Gender, Sexuality, & Family Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024

This class explores the social construction of gender and sexuality and the ways society has produced and reproduced these constructions through public policy. We examine how policy has been used to influence who forms family, how families are structured, and what life looks like inside families. Over the course of the semester, we cover policy histories and current debates in key domains, including marriage and children, social safety net, paid and unpaid work, reproductive rights, and domestic and sexual violence.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Bird

PUB POL 220 Law and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Focuses on legal aspects of public policy by exposing students to primary legal materials, including court decisions and legislative and administrative regulations. Skills of interpretation and legal draftsmanship are developed. Relationships among law-making agencies and between law and policy are explored through case-centered studies.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kirp

PUB POL C221 Climate, Energy and Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017

Graduate seminar examining the role of energy science, technology, and policy in

international development. The course will look at how changes in the theory and practice

of energy systems and of international development have co-evolved over the past half-

century, and what opportunities exist going forward.

A focus will be on rural and decentralized energy use, and the issues of technology, culture,

and politics that are raised by both current trajectories, and potential alternative energy

choices. We will explore the frequently divergent ideas about energy and development that

have emerged from civil society, academia, multinational development agencies, and the

private and industrial sector.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: DEVP C221/ENE,RES C221

PUB POL 224 Negotiations 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The objective of this course is to improve negotiation skills and to increase the ability to resolve conflicts in a multitude of situations, including public policy negotiations. The course will examine the theory and dynamics of negotiation and various approaches to negotiating.

Topics will include: distributive and integrative bargaining; preparation strategies; defense to ploys; power and perceptions; multi-party negotiations; working with lawyers; impact of gender, cross-cultural negotiations, organizational change and mediation. Simulated negotiation exercises will be extensively used.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Slater

PUB POL 229 Challenges and Innovation in Labor Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022

This seminar course offers students the opportunity to develop and hone research skills that can shape campaigns to improve workers' lives. We will address priority questions that have emerged in ongoing organizing and advocacy campaigns led by labor partners. The class will culminate in presentations of findings, analyses, and policy recommendations to key stakeholders. Through a combination of lectures, key readings, and active participation in a "live" research initiative, students will develop an understanding of the current challenges that the labor movement in California faces and contribute to innovative policy advocacy and political action. This course can be a gateway to applied research capstone projects in different disciplines.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ferus-Comelo

PUB POL 230 Politics and Policymaking in Comparative Perspective 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This graduate course provides an introduction to the relationship between politics, policy-making, and development in the Global South. Sections may focus on a range of countries or countries from a specific region. The course will examine the political institutions underlying the policy process and the role played by groups with diverse policy interests, as well as specific policy interventions. In doing so, we will evaluate the characteristics of political competition and the dynamics of political participation in highly dynamic contexts.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL C231 Critical Race Theory in Planning, Design, and Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023

This course focuses on four inter-connected areas of pedagogy important to urban planning, design, and public policy that repair, rather than perpetuate, systemic harm. First, we will examine the main tenets of critical race theory to address the structural roots and history of injustice. Second, students will learn the theory, methodology and practice of transformative community planning, design and public policy principles that center the lived experiences, experiential knowledge, and agency of people directly impacted by systemic injustice. Third, we will examine the role of individual and collective healing focusing on the principles of restorative justice. Fourth, we will explore the theory and practice of love-based justice.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: ENV DES C231

PUB POL 232 Global Challenges 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

This course will survey societal challenges that are fundamentally global in nature, in contrast to challenges that are more effectively addressed by domestic policies. The goal of the course is to understand the cause and structure of a broad set of global challenges, with an eye towards eventually participating in their management or resolution. The first part provides foundations for understanding the governance context in which global challenges emerge. The second part of the course examines individual topic areas, building students' knowledge of modern issues and policy debates. Topics may include, but not limited to the governance of oceans; poverty and development; scientific research and technology transfer; international aid.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hsiang

PUB POL 235 Implementation: Key Issues in Managing California Cities 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

The course provides students an in-depth understanding of key issues and constraints facing top officials in running a city. The course examines the extent cities are viable: can they provide services residents demand and deserve; can they provide for public safety, jobs, housing, schools, basic services, and fill potholes? And there is the public interest question: viable for whom and in benefit of whom? Using Oakland and Bay Area cities as case studies, the course integrates direct front-line experience with broader conceptual analyses. Students work on projects of current importance and gain familiarity with a wide-range of city policies and programs. The class will include presentations by key city decision-makers.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Lindheim

PUB POL 236 Politics of Civil War 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022

This course provides an overview of the causes and consequences of civil war. The course is organized around three units. First, we investigate some of the structural conditions and individual reasons for engaging in rebellion. Why do people fight? The second unit turns to the internal dynamics of conflict. How are civilians treated during the war? Why do rebels and civilians cooperate? The third unit explores conflict resolution and post-war politics, where we explore issues of peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and post-war reconstruction. In the end, students should leave with an understanding of why civil wars occur and an improved capacity to devise solutions for ongoing contentious political events around the world.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Liu

PUB POL 237 Politics and Development in the Global South 3 Units

Terms offered: Prior to 2007

This course examines how politics affects development in the Global South. First, we will examine state institutions and the enduring effects of natural resources, conflict, and historical legacies on present-day development. We will then explore the role of elections and political participation in shaping public goods provision, and how politicians leverage development and security for political gain. Finally, we will focus on a broad variety of development interventions, covering areas such as conflict, education, and gender. Readings will draw primarily from the political science and economics literature and concepts are grounded in case analyses from the Global South.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Liu

PUB POL 240A Decision Analysis, Modeling, and Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

An integrated course on the use of quantitative techniques in public policy analysis: computer modeling and simulation, linear programming and optimization, decision theory, and statistical and econometric analysis of policy-relevant data. The student develops a facility in distilling the policy relevance of numbers through an analysis of case studies and statistical data sets.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 240B Decision Analysis, Modeling, and Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

An integrated course on the use of quantitative techniques in public policy analysis: computer modeling and simulation, linear programming and optimization, decision theory, and statistical and econometric analysis of policy-relevant data. The student develops a facility in distilling the policy relevance of numbers through an analysis of case studies and statistical data sets.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 240C Decision Analysis, Modeling, and Quantitative Methods 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

This course covers intermediate quantitative methods for public policy analysis. The primary learning goals for the course are that students understand how to 1) implement and interpret linear regression; 2) distinguish correlation from causation; 3) code descriptive statistics, regressions, and data visualizations; and 4) engage in self-learning of additional methods depending on the student's research interests. We will also learn, in a mostly conceptual way, about more advanced linear models and 'quasi-experimental' research design such that students leave the course as effective consumers of these methods.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 246 Data Science for Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024

Data and analytics have become essential for tackling real-world social and policy problems. This course will cover key tools in this setting: data wrangling and description with (often messy) data sets, including data aggregation and manipulation; visualization; and introduction to more advanced statistical programming. Students will explore these topics via individual- and group-based applied data projects, including hands-on assignments during class. The goal is for students to "get their hands dirty" with data and to produce workable—rather than ideal—solutions to problems. Data sets will be drawn from governments, non-profits, and other partner organizations. The course will be taught using the open-source programming language, R.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Public Policy 240B with a grade of B+ or better; or with permission of the instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of laboratory per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Feller, Owusu

PUB POL 247 Progress? An Intro to Tech and Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Not yet offered

This course explores the intersection of technology and public policy. You will examine the impact of technology on society and how public policy can shape the development and use of technology. You will also delve into the ethical considerations surrounding technology, including privacy, security, and accessibility. By the end of the course, you will have a deeper understanding of how technology and public policy intersect and how you can use this knowledge to make a positive impact in the world. Technologies discussed include AI, cybersecurity, renewable energy, geoengineering, biotechnology, robotics, spatial computing, distributed ledger technology, 5G networks, wireless communication, and quantum computing.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Reddie

PUB POL 249 Statistics for Program Evaluation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

How do we know whether a program or policy is having its intended impact? This course will cover the methods used to answer this question. The focus will be on quantitative studies, with an emphasis on the econometric techniques used in experimental and non-experimental evaluations. We will also discuss the role of program evaluations in policy analysis and design and the limits to program evaluation as a tool for policy improvement. Examples will be drawn from real-life social policy interventions in domestic and international settings.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 250 The Politics of Public Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023

This course examines the political and organizational factors involved in developing new policies, choosing among alternatives, gaining acceptance, assuring implementation, and coping with unanticipated consequences. Materials will include case studies, theoretical, empirical, and interpretive works from several disciplines.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Anzia

Formerly known as: 230A

PUB POL 251 Microeconomic Organization and Policy Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

Research seminar to develop public policy analyses based on microeconomic theories of organization, including collective demand mechanisms, behavioral theory of regulatory agencies and bureaucracies, and productivity in the public sector.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Business Administration 101B or Economics 200A or equivalent, and consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Friedman

PUB POL C253 International Economic Development Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

This course emphasizes the development and application of policy solutions to developing-world problems related to poverty, macroeconomic policy, and environmental sustainability. Methods of statistical, economic, and policy analysis are applied to a series of case studies. The course is designed to develop practical professional skills for application in the international arena.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Also listed as: A,RESEC C253/DEVP C253

PUB POL 255 Introduction to Security Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course introduces students to the arena of security policy. Students will learn the origins and evolution of the governing framework for security policy in the United States, including the post-9/11 creation of Homeland Security, and key methodologies of security policy, including risk assessment. The course will evaluate the variety of scales at which security policy is enacted, from state/local to federal and even international. The course delves into defining security dilemmas of the present: the challenge of securing democracy against both internal and external threats; the challenge of cybersecurity in a networked world; and global climate change. The course concludes with a required one-day crisis simulation exercise.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 255 after completing PUB POL 255, or PUB POL 255. A deficient grade in PUB POL 255 may be removed by taking PUB POL 255, or PUB POL 255.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Sargent, Napolitano

PUB POL 256 Program and Policy Design 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2016, Fall 2011

Studio/laboratory in the design of non-physical environments.

Complements courses in policy analysis, public management, economics, and political science; especially intended to integrate elements of professional programs in public policy and related areas. Students will design, in groups and individually, programs and policies that create value in the public sector, including statutes, regulations, and implementation projects. Comparative reviews will feature invited guests. Graduate level of 156.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: O'Hare

Formerly known as: 206

PUB POL 257 Arts and Cultural Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

Survey of government policy toward the arts (especially direct subsidy, copyright and regulation, and indirect assistance) and its effects on artists, audiences, and institutions. Emphasizes "highbrow" arts, U.S. policy, and the social and economic roles of participants in the arts. Readings, field trips, and case discussion. One paper in two drafts required for undergraduate credit; graduate credit awarded for an additional short paper to be arranged and attendance at four advanced colloquia throughout the term. Graduate level of 157.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: O'Hare

Formerly known as: 208

PUB POL 259 Benefit-Cost Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course discusses and criticizes the conceptual foundations of cost-benefit analysis, and analyzes in depth some important applied aspects such as endogenous prices of other commodities, methods to infer willingness to pay, valuation of life, uncertainty and the rate of discount. The goal of this course is to teach you the theory and practice of cost-benefit analysis, with an eye to preparing you to confidently conduct a CBA for an employer or client starting on day one of your career as a policy analyst. There will be three main components to the course: The textbook, discussion, and the semester project.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Instructor: Acland

PUB POL 260 Public Leadership and Management 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2014

This course is designed to help students develop their skills for leading and managing groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and public advocacy, with the goal of achieving positive social change. Materials include case studies, analyses, and works from several disciplines. Course is open to first and second year MPP students, but recommended for first year.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open only to students in the Graduate School of Public Policy and a select few students at other graduate schools

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Reich

PUB POL 263 Financial Modeling for Nonprofit Organizations 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

Financial modeling is a process by which organizations test key revenue, expense and programmatic assumptions and examine the likely outcomes of a projected course of action. Financial modeling offers nonprofit leaders and social entrepreneurs a way of clarifying the financial implications of various options and facilitates critical, intentional, and informed decision making. Real-world case studies will be used to train students in the highly-iterative process of financial model development. Students will learn how to identify key variables, articulate underlying assumptions, construct staffing models, develop and analyze multi-case funding scenarios, and identify key questions critical to organizational decision making.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 263 after completing PUB POL 263. A deficient grade in PUB POL 263 may be removed by taking PUB POL 263.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Copen

PUB POL C264 Early Childhood Policy - Children, Contexts, and Politics in Diverse Societies 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024

Course reviews theories of why the state enters the child and family policy arena, then walks through four specific policy domains. Utilizing multi-media material, funded through ILTI at UCOP, including interviews with leaders in the field, video clips, and conventional academic journal articles.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for EDUC C264 after completing EDUC W164, PUB POL 264, or EDUC C264. A deficient grade in EDUC C264 may be removed by taking PUB POL 264, or EDUC C264.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Formerly known as: Education 264

Also listed as: EDUC C264

PUB POL 265 Race & Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This class examines the racist history of public policy in the U.S. and teaches students to use radical imagination to inspire new policy ideas for a transformative social change. We will explore how the legacy of stolen land and human bondage persist in exclusionary government policies that generate, maintain, and enforce inequitable systems. We will learn from advocates, researchers, and practitioners engaged in the collective process of radical imagination across a wide range of social spheres. Students will come to understand how policies can contribute to or mitigate the interlocking and mutually reinforcing nature of racism and anti-Blackness and will begin to envision policies towards building a thriving multiracial democracy.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Glover Blackwell

PUB POL 267 The Social Safety Net, Poverty and Income Inequality 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024

We will examine the nature and extent of poverty and inequality in the U.S., its causes and consequences, and the effects of government programs and policies. The first unit covers the measurement of poverty and inequality and reviews the evidence for the trends in the U.S. and other developed countries. The next unit covers the causes of poverty and inequality, particularly the influences of the labor market and education. The course also surveys the government policies and programs such as taxes, government transfers, active labor market policies, and labor market institutions such as unions and minimum wages. Throughout the course, policy context is highlighted, in terms of reviewing prior reforms and the potential prospective changes.

Rules & Requirements

Credit Restrictions: Students will receive no credit for PUB POL 267 after completing PUB POL 267. A deficient grade in PUB POL 267 may be removed by taking PUB POL 267.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hoynes

PUB POL 268 Financial Management of Nonprofit Organization 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

An effective nonprofit leader must be able to analyze and act upon financial information as part of an overall approach to strategic decision making. This course will focus on the core financial management issues faced by board members and by senior and executive managers in large and small nonprofit organizations. Students will learn the tools and techniques for effective financial management, including pricing, program analyses, budgeting, forecasting and overall business model sustainability. The course will address current regulations and issues that impact nonprofit financial management. The development and use of internal and external financial reports will be studied with an emphasis on using financial information in decision-making.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Copen

PUB POL 269 Public Budgeting 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

Public sector budgeting is an activity that incorporates many, perhaps most, of the skills of the public manager and analyst. The goal of this course is to develop and hone these skills. Using cases and readings from all levels of American government, the course will allow the student to gain an understanding of the effects and consequences of public sector budgeting, its processes and participants, and the potential impacts of various reforms. Graduate level of Public Policy 179.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Ellwood

Formerly known as: 209

PUB POL 270 Kid-First Policy: Family, School, and Community 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2015, Spring 2014

This seminar appraises the critical policy choices that shape the lives of children and adolescents from birth through high school and beyond. The issues are as varied-and hotly debated by politicians and policy-makers-as banning Coke machines in schools to reduce obesity, regulating teenage abortion, providing universal preschool and helping abused children. Students from across the campus-public policy, education, social welfare, business, sociology, political science, economics-bring different perspectives. Discussions and readings draw on insights from across the policy sciences. Problem-solving is the focus in seminar meetings and research projects.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kirp

PUB POL 271 The Political Economy of Inequality 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

This course is designed to provide graduate students with a deeper understanding of the organization of the political economy of the United States and why earnings and wealth have been diverging over the last thirty-five years. Given that most of the underlying forces causing this trend in the U.S. are also prevalent in other nations, the lessons learned in this course are likely to be relevant elsewhere. The course is also intended to provide insights into the political and public policy debates that have arisen in light of this divergence, as well as possible means of reversing it.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: REICH

PUB POL C271 Energy and Development 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2016

This advanced graduate seminar will examine the theoretical frames and models used to examine the linkages between energy and development, and the impacts of one on the other.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Energy and Resources ENE,RES C100 or C200 or Public Policy PUB POL C184 or C284 Energy and Resources ENE,RES 102 Environmental Economics and Policy ENVECON C151 or ECON C171 or equivalent Economics course

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES C271

PUB POL 273 Public Management and Policy Implementation 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2022

This course examines concepts and case studies to illustrate how to be an effective organizational leader in government and the non-profit sector. Topics include formulating and articulating goals; the influence of assets and the external environment; the importance of structure, culture and craft; reforming when resources are scarce; negotiation techniques; and elements of crisis management. students are expected to read all assignments before class and be prepared to be active participants in class discussion, debates and negotiations. The instructor will provide discussion questions for each subsequent session.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Nacht

PUB POL 275 Spatial Data and Analysis 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2020, Fall 2019

This course introduces students to spatial data and its analysis, modeling of spatially dependent processes, and related policy problems. Through hands-on analysis, students will learn to extract quantitative information from spatial data for applied research and public policy. Students will be introduced to spatial statistics, spatially dependent simulation, and spatial optimization. Students will learn to think creatively about spatial problems through examples drawn from economics, politics, epidemiology, criminology, agriculture, social networks, and the environment. Students will benefit from prior experience with basic computer programming, although prior experience is not required.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Introduction to Statistics

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 4 hours of lecture and 2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Hsiang

PUB POL 279 Research Design and Data Collection for Public Policy Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Fall 2011

Public policy analysis requires a sophisticated understanding of a variety of types of data. Empirical arguments and counterarguments play a central role in policy debates. Quantitative analysis courses teach you how to analyze data; this course will introduce you to strategies of data collection and principles for critically evaluating data collected by others. Topics include measurement reliability and validity, questionnaire design, sampling, experimental and quasi-experimental program evaluation designs, qualitative research methods, and the politics of data in public policy.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: At least one semester of statistics

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: MacCoun

PUB POL 280 Ethics, Policy, and the Power of Ideas 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2016, Fall 2014

This seminar brings together two related frames for policy thinking: the ethics of policy, that is, what does it mean to do the right thing? and the intervention of policy, that is, how do new policy paradigms emerge? Those who seek to govern well inescapably confront questions of value in their political, professional, and personal choices. The discussion of ethical dilemmas, which will take up the first half of the semester, is designed to provoke analytic reflection on the moral challenges and responsibilities of public policymaking in a democracy. The focus is on the many and often competing obligations, commitments and values that should guide public actors, as well as on the public principles that guide the design of good public policy. Politics and conventional analytics dominate policy in the short run. But over the longer term, conceptualizations as varied as exit/voice/loyalty, satisficing, the tipping point, memes, winner-take-all, strong democracy, broken windows, and the prisoners dilemma profoundly influence the policy conversation.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kirp

PUB POL 282 Environment and Technology from the Policy and Business Perspective 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2008

Most environmental issues involve technology, either in the role of "villain" or "hero." This course uses the lens of specific technologies to survey environmental policy and management, with an emphasis on the complexities of policy-making with diverse interest groups. The class includes case studies, guest practitioners, and a group project in which students employ a range of analytic tools and frameworks in order to develop creative, effective, and actionable environmental solutions.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Taylor

PUB POL 283 Renewable Energy Policy in the United States 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

This course will focus on the evolution and current status of renewable energy policy on the federal, state, and local levels. It will explore the context for promoting renewables in a country that has long subsidized fossil production and nuclear power and encouraged greater consumption. We will explore the particular tools and perspectives that governments on different levels bring to the challenge and the ways various governmental bodies have seized that opportunity. We will move beyond consideration of broad policies to examine the specific policy challenges and opportunities faced by proponents of each of the major renewable energy technologies.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Weissman

PUB POL C284 Energy and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Energy sources, uses, and impacts; an introduction to the technology, politics, economics, and environmental effects of energy in contemporary society. Energy and well-being; energy international perspective, origins, and character of energy crisis.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Summer:

8 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

10 weeks - 6 hours of lecture and 1.5 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES C200

PUB POL W284 Energy and Society 4 Units

Terms offered: Summer 2024 8 Week Session, Summer 2023 8 Week Session, Summer 2022 8 Week Session, Summer 2021 8 Week Session, Fall 2020

Energy sources, uses, and impacts: an introduction to the technology, politics, economics, and environmental effects of energy in contemporary society. Energy and well-being; energy in international perspective, origins, and character of energy crisis.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of web-based lecture and 1 hour of web-based discussion per week

Summer: 8 weeks - 6 hours of web-based lecture and 1.5 hours of web-based discussion per week

Online: This is an online course.

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Kammen

Also listed as: ENE,RES W200

PUB POL C285 Nuclear Security: The Nexus Between Policy and Technology 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

The course will review the origins and evolution of nuclear energy, how it has been applied for both peaceful and military purposes, and the current and prospective challenges it presents. The purpose of the course is to educate students on the policy roots and technological foundations of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons so they are positioned to make original contributions to the field in their scholarly and professional careers.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: Nacht, Prussin

Also listed as: NUC ENG C285

PUB POL 286 US National Security Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Spring 2019

An extensive examination of contemporary U.S. national security issues and how policy is developed and implemented. Topics include Russia after the Cold War with emphasis on nuclear and biological weapons; crisis decision-making and the key players in national security policy; the struggle against terrorism, especially since 9/11, with some reference to homeland security; the challenges to U.S. policy in the Middle East after the Arab spring; China as the chief great power rival; and the role of unmanned vehicles, cyber, and special operations as key elements of U.S. policy. Students will write policy memos, participate in crisis simulation exercises, and complete a take-home final examination.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Nacht

PUB POL 287 Energy Regulation and Public Policy 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

The class focuses on the economic regulation of electricity and natural gas and its role in public policy innovation. We will explore the regulatory rationale in the context of microeconomic principles, the nature and evolution of energy technology and regulation in the United States, and the ways to advance public policy objectives. The class covers the alternatives to traditional cost-of-service rate regulation, the electricity deregulation experiment, the resulting energy crisis in California, and current efforts to reconsider the utility business model. We will delve into how the economic regulatory framework creates opportunities to implement public policy, and the enhanced role climate change now plays in decision making worldwide.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Weissman

PUB POL 288 Risk and Optimization Models for Policy 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2022, Fall 2019, Fall 2018

Optimization and simulation models in stochastic and deterministic contexts. Monte Carlo simulation, Bayesian models and decisions, linear and nonlinear programming, queuing models, and a review of heuristics and biases in individual risk assessment. Hands-on exploration of tools oriented to management and policy decisions in public and nonprofit organizations. Objective for students: lifelong habit of learning and using new analytic methods.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructors: O'Hare, Cardenas

PUB POL 290 Special Topics in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public policy. Topics may vary from year to year and will be announced at the beginning of the semester. Open to students from other departments.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture and 0-2 hours of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: The grading option will be decided by the instructor when the class is offered.

PUB POL 292 Directed Advanced Study 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special study and research under direction of a member of the staff.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-12 hours of independent study per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 1.5-18 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 295 Supervised Research Colloquium 1 - 9 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2021, Spring 2009, Fall 2008

Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special research under direction of a member of the staff. Discussion and analysis of dissertation research projects, including conceptual and methodological problems of designing and conducting policy research.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PUB POL 296 Ph.D. Seminar 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Discussion and analysis of dissertation research projects, including conceptual and methodological problems of designing and conducting public policy research.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Must be a Ph.D. student in public policy in third year or beyond

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 297 Graduate Student Led Course in Public Policy 1 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

Course examines current problems and issues in the field of public policy. Topics vary from year to year.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Open to graduate students only

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PUB POL 297A Dismantling Racism in Planning, Design, and Public Policy Clinic 3 - 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

This Clinic seeks to develop students to advance an anti-racist future guided by the principles of love, healing, and justice. Students are required to enroll in the companion theory course, EnvDes C231, Critical Race Theory in Planning, Design, and Public Policy. This Clinic focuses on four areas of professional practice. First, students are supervised by experienced professional practitioners. Second, students will learn the framework of racial equity analysis through applied theoretical frameworks and case study pedagogy. Third, students will apply the framework of racial equity analysis to real-world projects. Fourth, students will engage in reflection of their experiences through peer learning and regular journal entries.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 7-9 hours of clinic and 3-3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Also listed as: ENV DES C297

PUB POL 298 Directed Advanced Study 1 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Open to qualified graduate students wishing to pursue special study and research under direction of a member of the staff.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

6 weeks - 1-5 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 1-4 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

PUB POL 299 Independent Study in Preparation for the Advanced Policy Analysis 3 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024

By arrangement with faculty. Open only to qualified second-year graduate students working toward the M.P.P. degree.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of faculty

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

PUB POL 375 GSI Practicum 2 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

This course is directed at Graduate Student Instructors for undergraduate and graduate courses, and reviews the most important elements of effective teaching, especially teaching graduate students in professional programs like the Master of Public Policy. It satisfies the graduate division requirement for a 300 course for GSI's.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Public Policy/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: O'Hare

Formerly known as: Public Policy 300