

**Syllabus for PS 3127, Section 1
Legislative Policy Seminar
Fall 2017**

Location:

TR 11:00–12:15pm, 177 Schaeffer Hall

Professor: Bryce J. Dietrich

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Office Hours: W 1:30–4:30pm, and by appointment

Texts: There are no required texts. All the readings for this course will be posted on ICON.

Material to be Covered: This course will provide an introduction to the issues and methods used for public policy analysis – with a particular focus on the state of Iowa. By the end of the course, students will be able to answer the following:

- What are the key issues facing Iowa?
- What are the basic theories underlying policy analysis?
- How are policies created, implemented, and evaluated?
- How are experimental designs used to understand policy?
- How should data and results be presented to policy-makers?

Final Project: The due date for each group’s final project will be on **TBD**. The final project will consist of a white paper describing the group’s policy issue. This will include

a potential solution and the results from some preliminary tests. Some basic statistics and graphs will be required. The final project will be worth 40% of your final grade.

Midterm Exam: There will be one midterm exam. This will be on **11/14**. The exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice, matching, true/false, and short answer questions.

Class Participation: Students are expected to participate in class. This means students should have finished all the assigned readings before class and be an active participant in discussion. Your class participation grade will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Group Participation: Students will be assigned to small research teams. These research teams will meet in-class each week. These groups will create their own assignments each week. Those assignments must be completed by the chosen due date. Your group participation grade will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Presentation: Each research team will create a powerpoint presentation explaining their issue, research design, and some preliminary results. These presentations will give both the instructor and other classmates the opportunity to provide constructive feedback. This feedback should be incorporated into the final project. Your group presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Short Assignments: There will be several short assignments. Most of these will consist of writing assignments aimed to move the group project towards completion. These short assignments will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Grading:

Final Project	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Class Participation	10%
Group Participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Short Assignments	10%

Scale:

A	93-100%
A-	90-92.99%
B+	87-89.99%
B	83-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67-69.99%
D	63-66.99%
D-	60-62.99%
F	0-59.99%

Late Work and Make-Up Exams: Late work will not be accepted and no make-up exams will be given. There should be no problems meeting the expectations of the course. All the due dates are given, and I will make sure to give you plenty of notice ahead of time.

Administrative Home: The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Academic Policies Handbook at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>.

Electronic Communication: University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences (Operations Manual, III.15.2, k.11).

Accommodations for Disabilities: The University of Iowa is committed to providing an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (which include but are not limited to mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related conditions). A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet with the course instructor privately in the instructor's office to make particular arrangements. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between the student,

instructor, and SDS. See <http://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/> for information.

Academic Honesty: All CLAS students or students taking classes offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty: "I pledge to do my own academic work and to excel to the best of my abilities, upholding the IOWA Challenge. I promise not to lie about my academic work, to cheat, or to steal the words or ideas of others; nor will I help fellow students to violate the Code of Academic Honesty." Any student committing academic misconduct is reported to the College and placed on disciplinary probation or may be suspended or expelled (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

CLAS Final Examination Policies: The final examination schedule for each class is announced by the Registrar generally by the fifth week of classes. Final exams are offered only during the official final examination period. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. All students should plan on being at the UI through the final examination period. Once the Registrar has announced the date, time, and location of each final exam, the complete schedule will be published on the Registrar's web site and will be shared with instructors and students. It is the student's responsibility to know the date, time, and place of a final exam.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint: Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit with the instructor (and the course supervisor), and then with the departmental DEO. (**Wenfang Tang, 335-2358**) Complaints must be made within six months of the incident (CLAS Academic Policies Handbook).

Understanding Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather: In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Department of Public Safety website.

Calendar The calendar below gives the dates of exams and other important deadlines for the course. Readings should be completed **prior** to the start of class. This calendar is subject to change. Any changes will be announced and posted on Blackboard.

Week 1

Tuesday 22 Aug **Welcome and Introductions**

No Readings

Thursday 24 Aug **Project I: Understanding Issue Space**

Murphy 2016 “Iowa statehouse election winners face critical issues in 2017.” *Cedar Rapids Gazette* <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/iowa-statehouse-election-winners-face-critical-issues-in-2017-20161002>

Petroski and Pfannenstiel 2016 “10 issues likely to spark debate in Iowa Legislature.” *Des Moines Register* <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/local/government/2016/01/09/10-issues-likely-spark-debate-iowa-legislature/78382946/>

Petroski and Noble 2015 “10 issues likely to spark debate in Iowa Legislature.” *Des Moines Register* <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/01/11/issues-facing-iowa-legislature/21613875/>

Week 2

Tuesday 29 Aug **No Class**

Munger, Ch 1

Thursday 31 Aug **No Class**

McDowell et al. 2016 “Organizational Design: The Rise of Teams” <https://dupress.deloitte.com/dup-us-en/focus/human-capital-trends/2016/organizational-models-network-of-teams.html>

Lee, Thomas W., and Terence R. Mitchell. 2011. “Working in research teams: Lessons from personal experiences.” *Management and Organization Review* 7(3): 461-469.

- Week 3
- Tuesday 5 Sep **Market Failure**
Munger, Ch 3
- Thursday 7 Sep **Project II: Introduction to R**
DataCamp. “Introduction to R” <https://www.datacamp.com/courses/free-introduction-to-r>
- Week 4
- Tuesday 12 Sep **Evaluating Market Failure**
Munger, Ch 4
- Thursday 14 Sep **Project III: Introduction to Statistics**
DataCamp. “A Hands-on Introduction to Statistics with R” <https://www.datacamp.com/introduction-to-statistics>
- Week 5
- Tuesday 19 Sep **The Politics of Public Policy, Part I**
Sharkansky, Ira. 1992. “What a Political Scientist can tell a Policy-maker about the Likelihood of Success or Failure.” *Review of Policy Research* 11(3-4): 406-422.
- Thursday 21 Sep **Project IV: Data Visualization**
DataCamp. “Data Visualization with ggplot2” <https://www.datacamp.com/courses/data-visualization-with-ggplot2-1>
- Week 6
- Tuesday 26 Sep **The Politics of Public Policy, Part II**
Munger, Ch 5
- Thursday 28 Sep **Project V: Introduction to Experimental Designs**
TBD

Week 7

Tuesday 2 Oct **Policy Implementation**
Sabatier, Paul, and Daniel Mazmanian. 1979. "The conditions of effective implementation: a guide to accomplishing policy objectives." *Policy analysis* 5(4): 481-504.

Thursday 5 Oct **Project VI: Natural Experiments**
Dunning, Ch 1
Dunning, Ch 2

Week 8

Tuesday 10 Oct **Policy Alternatives**
May, Peter J. "Hints for crafting alternative policies." *Policy Analysis* (1981): 227-244.

Thursday 12 Oct **Project VII: Discontinuity Designs**
Bailey, Ch 11

Week 9

Tuesday 17 Oct **Policy Evaluation**
Wheelan, Ch 5

Thursday 19 Oct **Project VIII: Policy Experiments**
TBD

Week 10

Tuesday 24 Oct **Risk Analysis, Part I**
Munger, Ch 9

Thursday 26 Oct **Project IX: Introduction to Policy Writing**
Dunn, Ch 8
Musso, Juliet, Robert Biller, and Robert Myrtle. 2000. "Tradecraft: Professional Writing as Problem Solving." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 19 (4): 635-646.

Week 11

Tuesday 31 Oct **Risk Analysis, Part II**
Munger, Ch 10

Thursday 2 Nov **Project X: Class Workshop**
No Readings

Week 12

Tuesday 7 Nov **Cost-Benefit Analysis**
Munger, Ch 11

Thursday 9 Nov **Project XI: Class Workshop**
No Readings

Week 13

Tuesday 14 Nov **Midterm Review**
No Readings

Thursday 16 Nov **Midterm Exam**
No Readings

Week 14

Tuesday 21 Nov **Fall Break**
No Readings

Thursday 23 Nov **Fall Break**
No Readings

Week 15

Tuesday 28 Nov **Project XII: Class Workshop**
No Readings

Thursday 30 Nov **Project XIII: Class Workshop**
No Readings

Week 16

Tuesday 5 Dec **Class Presentations**
No Readings

Thursday 7 Dec **Class Presentations**
No Readings

Week 17

Tuesday 12 Dec **White Paper Due (TBD)**
No Readings

Friday 14 Dec **White Paper Due (TBD)**
No Readings