Political Science 434: Comparative Public Policy

Fall 2013
M W 14:30-15:45
SBSB 1101

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Alex Jakubow

Required Texts

These texts will be available for purchase from the Bookstore. All other materials will be made available online and/or placed on reserve at the Kellogg Library.


Course Schedule and Reading List

I. Introduction

Monday, August 26: The Case for Looking Abroad

Wednesday, August 28: What is Public Policy?


II. What Explains Policy Choice?

Monday, September 2: NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 4: Socio-Political Theories

**Monday, September 9: Institutional Theories**


**Wednesday, September 11: Structural Theories**


**Monday, September 16: Cultural Theories**


**III. FIGHTING POVERTY**

**Wednesday, September 18: Economic Explanations**

• Alesina and Glaeser 2004, Chs 1-3

**Monday, September 23: Political/Institutional Explanations**

• Alesina and Glaeser 2004, Chs 4-5

**Wednesday, September 25: Cultural Explanations**

• Alesina and Glaeser 2004, Chs 6-8
Monday, September 30: Paradoxes of Redistribution?


Wednesday, October 2: Inequality and Social Mobility

- DeParle, J. (2012). Harder for Americans to rise from lower rungs

IV. HEALTHCARE

Monday, October 7: Models of Care I

- Reid 2009, Chs 1-6

Wednesday, October 9: Models of Care II

- Reid 2009, Chs 7-9

Monday, October 14: Reform in America?

- Reid 2009, Chs 10-13

Wednesday, October 16: Understanding Obamacare

- (2010). Affordable Care Act
- Faler, B. (2012). Unaffordable cost seen for some under Affordable Care Act
• Kirsch, R. (2012). In defense of ‘Obamacare’

Monday, October 21: FILM

• Sick around the World

V. EDUCATION

Wednesday, October 23: Primary Education


Monday, October 28: Choice

• Economist (2010). Keep it in the family: Home schooling is growing ever faster

Wednesday, October 30: Education and Labor Markets


VI. FAMILY POLICY

Monday, November 4: Contrasting Cases


**Wednesday, November 6: The US Experience**


• Cohn, J. (2013). The hell of American day care

**Monday, November 11: NO CLASS**

**VII. TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN PLANNING**

**Wednesday, April 13: Transportation**


**Monday, November 18: Urban Planning**


**VIII. SIN AND VICE**

**Wednesday, November 20: Sex**


**Monday, November 25: Drugs**


• News Articles TBD

**Wednesday, November 27: NO CLASS**

**IX. RACISM**

**Monday, December 2: Racism vs. Freedom of Expression**


**Wednesday, December 4: Racism vs. Freedom of Association**


**REFERENCES**


Economist (2010). Keep it in the family: Home schooling is growing ever faster.


