

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

Department of Public Policy

Advancing Knowledge in the Public Interest

Meredith Phillips
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January 2, 2019

Michael Hackett, Chair
General Education Governance Committee
Attn: Chelsea Hackett, Program Representative
A265 Murphy Hall
Mail Code: 157101

Dear Members of the GE Governance Committee:

The School of Public Affairs proposes a General Education class, Public Affairs 30, titled “Comparative Analysis of Wealth, Policy, and Power.” We are submitting this course for consideration under the Foundations of Society and Culture: Social Analysis category.

This course is an introductory, required lower-division course for the new Public Affairs major. Using tools of social science, the course is built around a series of theoretical frameworks that help students to diagnose, explain, and think prescriptively about social problems. It will explore the strategic interactions that give rise to these social problems, what can be done to address them, and how different polities have tried (and sometimes failed) to mount an effective response.

The course will be taught in spring 2019 by Darin Christensen, Assistant Professor in Public Policy. His approach is interdisciplinary in nature, and draws on development economics, political science, anthropology and journalism. The readings, assignments, and research methods introduce students to the tools of social analysis.

The attached information sheet and syllabus address in greater detail the course’s content and justification/rationale for GE-compliance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 310-794-5475.

Sincerely,



Meredith Phillips
Chair, Undergraduate Program
Associate Professor of Public Policy and Sociology
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

General Education Course Information Sheet

Please submit this sheet for each proposed course

Department & Course Number _____
 Course Title _____
 Indicate if Seminar and/or Writing II course _____

1 Check the recommended GE foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) for this course

Foundations of the Arts and Humanities

- Literary and Cultural Analysis
- Philosophic and Linguistic Analysis
- Visual and Performance Arts Analysis and Practice

Foundations of Society and Culture

- Historical Analysis
- Social Analysis

Foundations of Scientific Inquiry

- Physical Science
With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units (or more)
- Life Science
With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units (or more)

2. Briefly describe the rationale for assignment to foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) chosen.

3. "List faculty member(s) who will serve as instructor (give academic rank):

Do you intend to use graduate student instructors (TAs) in this course? Yes No

If yes, please indicate the number of TAs _____

4. Indicate when do you anticipate teaching this course over the next three years:

2018-19	Fall Enrollment		Winter Enrollment		Spring Enrollment	
2019-20	Fall Enrollment		Winter Enrollment		Spring Enrollment	
2020-21	Fall Enrollment		Winter Enrollment		Spring Enrollment	

5. GE Course Units

Is this an ***existing*** course that has been modified for inclusion in the new GE? Yes No

If yes, provide a brief explanation of what has changed.

Present Number of Units: _____

Proposed Number of Units: _____

6. Please present concise arguments for the GE principles applicable to this course.

General Knowledge

Integrative Learning

Ethical Implications

Cultural Diversity

Critical Thinking

Rhetorical Effectiveness

Problem-solving

Library & Information
Literacy

(A) STUDENT CONTACT PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)

- 1. Lecture: _____ (hours)
- 2. Discussion Section: _____ (hours)
- 3. Labs: _____ (hours)
- 4. Experiential (service learning, internships, other): _____ (hours)
- 5. Field Trips: _____ (hours)

(A) TOTAL Student Contact Per Week **(HOURS)**

(B) OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)

- 1. General Review & Preparation: _____ (hours)
- 2. Reading _____ (hours)
- 3. Group Projects: _____ (hours)
- 4. Preparation for Quizzes & Exams: _____ (hours)
- 5. Information Literacy Exercises: _____ (hours)
- 6. Written Assignments: _____ (hours)
- 7. Research Activity: _____ (hours)

(B) TOTAL Out-of-class time per week **(HOURS)**

GRAND TOTAL (A) + (B) must equal at least 15 hours/week **(HOURS)**

*Public Affairs 30:
Comparative Analysis of Wealth, Policy, and Power
Version: November 9, 2018*

Prof. Darin Christensen¹

¹ 6341 Public Policy
darinc@luskin.ucla.edu
(310) 825-7196

1 *Course Information*

- **Location:** TBD
- **Schedule:** MW, TBD
- **Office Hours:** TBD
- **Course Website:** [TBD](#)
- **Teaching Staff:**

Marissa Ayala, marayala@ucla.edu Samuel Stalls, sgstalls@gmail.com
Robin Brown, bvlbrown@gmail.com Erica Webster, ewebster@ucla.edu

2 *Course Overview*

Around the World, communities confront common social problems, such as how to provide public goods, coordinate investments, or limit corruption. In this course, we explore the strategic interactions that give rise to these problems, what can be done to address them, and how different polities have tried (and sometimes failed) to mount an effective response. Applications will include climate change, the anti-vaccination movement, protest and repression, war and the formation of states, corruption, and human and drug trafficking.

3 *Learning Goals*

By the end of the quarter, you should be able to:

1. Use the tools of social science to explain social problems;
2. Enumerate approaches for addressing each class of problems;
3. Apply this knowledge to specific policy challenges confronting countries and communities around the World; and
4. Demonstrate a familiarity with core concepts from political science and micro-economics.

4 *Assignments and Evaluation*

Extensions on assignments will not be granted barring exceptional circumstances. Late work will not be accepted without prior permission. Makeup exams will not be given, and students who miss exams will receive a score of zero absent extraordinary circumstances.

4.1 *Lectures*

Attendance in lecture is not graded but is essential for success in the class. Any material covered during lecture is fair game for the exams even if it is not covered/emphasized by the readings.

4.2 *Midterm Exam (20%)*

A midterm exam will take place in-class on May 13.

4.3 *Final Exam (30%)*

A cumulative final exam will take place on June X at YY:YY.

4.4 *Papers (40%)*

You will write 2 short (4 page maximum) papers. These papers provide an opportunity to practice different types of writing:

1. Policy Memo: a concise, clearly organized explanation of a policy/programmatic challenge and proposed solutions. **(Due 5/3)**
2. Op-Ed: a polished, evocative piece that relates academic research to a contemporary policy issue of your choosing. **(Due 5/31)**

More detailed instructions for both assignments will be circulated.

Formatting: Format your paper as a Microsoft Word Document with 1" margins, 12 point Times New Roman, and double spacing. Submit via turnitin, which automatically screens for plagiarism.

4.5 *Section Participation (10%)*

You must actively participate in section *every week*. A successful section depends on your willingness to engage with readings, raise probing questions, and offer insightful comments.

You may miss one section meeting without loss of credit. If you miss an additional section, your grade will be docked *unless* you submit a 1-page commentary (see formatting instructions above) synthesizing and/or critically engaging the readings for that week.

This must be submitted to your TA by the next Monday after the section you missed.

5 Course Policies

5.1 Re-grades

If you feel that your grade on an assignment does not reflect the quality of your work, you may appeal through the following procedure:

- Write a memo that explain, in as much detail as possible, why you should receive a different grade.
- Deliver that memo and your graded assignment to your TA within 1 week of the assignment being returned and schedule a meeting to discuss.
- If you and your TA cannot reach an agreement, your TA will pass the memo and assignment to another member of the teaching staff, selected at random.
- That member of the teaching staff will evaluate your work and assign a new final grade.²

² Note: that final grade may be lower than your original grade.

5.2 Academic Accommodations

Academic Accommodations. Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should contact the [Center for Accessible Education \(CAE\)](#) at (310)825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. Students should contact the CAE within the **first two weeks** of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit.

5.3 Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. I encourage you to review the [University's policies regarding academic honesty](#). Senate Regulation A-306 requires that all suspected cases of academic dishonesty be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Specific rules for this course:

- All exams will be "closed book." You may only consult the TA or Professor during exams.
- Written work must be properly cited. Please review [UCLA's definition of plagiarism](#).

5.4 Religious Observances

If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with your TA *before the end of the second week* of the quarter to discuss accommodations.

6 Student Resources

Please review [this more comprehensive listing of student resources](#)

compiled by Professor Hartman (Political Science and Statistics).

This includes information related to immigration; homeless and food shelters; the office for equity, diversity, and inclusion; healthy living; and the UCLA recreation department.

6.1 Mental Health

There are resources on campus for students to help with study habits, anxiety, stress, and depression. Please check out the [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) center at UCLA](#).³ In addition to counseling and other psychological and mental health services, they provide additional resources such as readings on dealing with stress and anxiety, group counseling sessions, mindfulness trainings, and other behavioral services. Walk-in hours are Monday-Thursday 8am-4:30pm and Friday 9am-4:30pm in John Wooden Center West. CAPS services are often covered by UC SHIP.

³ Crisis counseling is also available 24 hours/day at (310) 825-0768.

6.2 Gender Discrimination

Title IX Resources

UCLA prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, there are a variety of resources to assist you.⁴

CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES: You can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center West, CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) also provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768.

⁴ Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator — A NON-CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCE — should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.

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

7 Course Schedule

C.1 Social Science and Public Policy (4/1)

- Putnam, Robert D. "APSA Presidential Address: The Public Role of Political Science." *Perspectives on Politics*, 2003. www.jstor.org/stable/3688898.
- Duflo, Esther. "The Economist as Plumber."
Video: <https://www.aeaweb.org/webcasts/2017/ely>
Paper: <https://economics.mit.edu/files/12569>
- Davenport, Coral. "In the Trump Administration, Science is Unwelcome. So Is Advice." *New York Times*, June 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/06/09/climate/trump-administration-science.html>

C.2 Social Science Methods: Correlation vs. Causation (4/3)

- Henne, Paul. "Correlation and Causation." <https://youtu.be/U-f8RQIIiw>
- Johnson, Steven. "The Investigator" and "Building the Case." Chapters from *The Ghost Map*. Penguin, 2006.
- Gertler et al. "Causal Inference and Counterfactuals." Chapter 3 from *Impact Evaluation in Practice*. World Bank Group, September 2016. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/sief-trust-fund/publication/impact-evaluation-in-practice>

C.3 Social Science Methods: Strategic Thinking (4/8)

- Dixit, Avinash and Nalebuff, Barry. "Introduction" and "Ten Tales of Strategy." Chapters from *Thinking Strategically: The Competitive Edge in Business, Politics, and Everyday Life*. W.W. Norton, 1993.
- Krugman, Paul. "The Fall and Rise of Development Economics." Section titled "Metaphors and Models." <http://web.mit.edu/krugman/www/dishpan.html>
- Complexity Labs. "Game Theory Overview." <https://youtu.be/cNh2GsLTsQg>
- More Advanced Introduction to Game Theory: Humphreys, Macartan. "Introduction." Chapter from *Political Games*. W.W. Norton & Company, 2017.

C.4 Social Dilemmas (4/10)

- "Social Interactions and Economic Outcomes." Chapter from *Economy, Society and Public Policy*, through Section 2.5. <https://www.core-econ.org/espp/book/text/02.html>
- Complexity Labs. "Pareto Optimality." <https://youtu.be/idHVAUEeaqE>

C.5 Externalities: Theory (4/15)

- Complexity Labs. "Social Dilemma." <https://youtu.be/LcuzNfPA584>
- Bueno de Mesquita. "Externalities." Chapter 4 from *Political Economy for Public Policy*, Sections 4.1-4.4 (stop before 4.5 "The Theory of the Second Best").

C.6 Externalities: Application — Pollution, Tragedy of the Commons (4/17)

- Hardin, Garret. “The Tragedy of the Commons.” *Science*, 1968. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/162/3859/1243>
- **Over-fishing:** Jacobs, Andrew. “China’s Appetite Pushes Fisheries to the Brink.” *New York Times*, April 2017. <https://nyti.ms/2piNy27>
- **Climate Change:** Klein, Ezra. “Elizabeth Kolbert: We have locked in centuries of climate change.” *The Ezra Klein Show*, January 2017. <https://goo.gl/WYiHZR>
- Anomaly, Jonny, “Tragedy of the Commons.” https://youtu.be/lj_gLquca7Q

C.7 Externalities: Application — Collective Action (4/22)

- “Social Interactions and Economic Outcomes.” Chapter from *Economy, Society and Public Policy*, Sections 2.6 - 2.8. <https://www.core-econ.org/espp/book/text/02.html#26-free-riding-and-altruism>
- **Herd Immunity:** Belluz, Julia. “I was skeptical that the anti-vaccine movement was gaining traction. Not anymore.” *Vox*, October 2017. <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2017/2/15/14231266/anti-vaccine-movement-trump>
- **(Labor) Organizing:** Matthews, Dylan. “Europe could have the secret to saving America’s unions.” *Vox*, April 2017. <https://goo.gl/uohrxE>
- Anomaly, Jonny, “Collective Action Problems.” <https://youtu.be/p3KlgxYhDbk>

C.8 Coordination Problems: Theory (4/24)

- Bueno de Mesquita. “Coordination Problems.” Chapter 5 from *Political Economy for Public Policy*.

C.9 Coordination Problems: Application — Protest (4/29)

- **Protest:** Heller, Nathan. “Out of Action.” *The New Yorker*, August 2017. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/08/21/is-there-any-point-to-protesting>
- **Repression:** Latif, Abdi. “Cameroon has restricted internet access for more than 150 days in 2017.” *Quartz Africa*, November 2017. <https://qz.com/africa/1138529/>
- **Repression:** King et al. “How the Chinese Government Fabricates Social Media Posts for Strategic Distraction, Not Engaged Argument.” *American Political Science Review*, 2018. http://jenpan.com/jen_pan/50c.pdf

C.10 Commitment Problems: Theory (5/1)

- Bueno de Mesquita. “Commitment Problems.” Chapter 6 from *Political Economy for Public Policy*.
- Farrell, Henry. “Why the hidden internet can’t be a libertarian paradise.” *Aeon*, February 2015. <https://aeon.co/essays/why-the-hidden-internet-can-t-be-a-libertarian-paradise>

POLICY MEMO DUE 5/3

C.11 *Commitment Problems: Application — States (5/6)*

- **Establishing Order:** Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship, democracy, and development." *American Political Science Review*, 1993. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2938736>
- **Promise and Peril of Centralized Authority:** Callimachi, Rukmini. "The ISIS Files." *The New York Times*, April 2018. <https://goo.gl/QCL4z5>

C.12 *Commitment Problems: Application — War and Political Reform (5/8)*

- **War:** Lake, David. "Two Cheers for Bargaining Theory: Assessing Rationalist Explanations of the Iraq War." *International Security*, 2010. https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/10.1162/ISEC_a_00029
- **Political Reform:** Acemoglu, Daron and Robinson, James. "The Vicious Circle." Chapter 12 from *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty*. Penguin Random House, 2013.

C.13 *MIDTERM (5/13)*

C.14 *Agency Problems: Theory (5/15)*

- Marginal Revolution University. "Moral Hazard." September 2015. <https://youtu.be/5v7TWKLYoN0>
- Marginal Revolution University. "Asymmetric Information and Used Cars." January 2015. <https://youtu.be/sXPXpJ5vMnU>
- Gailmard, Sean. "Accountability and Principal-Agent Theory." Chapter from *The Oxford Handbook of Public Accountability*. Oxford University Press, 2014. <https://goo.gl/ijCewY>

C.15 *Agency Problems: Application — Corruption (5/20)*

- Choosing Public Officials: Besley, Timothy. "Political Selection." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2005.
- Corruption: Svensson, Jakob. "Eight Questions about Corruption." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, September 2005.

Related Question — does corruption even matter for development?

- (Blog Post) Blattman, Christopher. "Corruption and Development: Not what you think?" November 2012. <http://chrisblattman.com/2012/11/05/corruption-and-development-not-what-you-think/>
- (Blog Post) Stephenson, Matthew. "Yes, Corruption Is Bad for Development. No, Corruption Is Not a Western Obsession." April 2014. <https://goo.gl/gN9arv>

C.16 *Strategic Adjustment: Theory (5/22)*

- Bueno de Mesquita. "Strategic Adjustment." Chapter 7 from *Political Economy for Public Policy*.

C.17 *Memorial Day — No class (5/27)***OP-ED DUE 5/31**C.18 *Strategic Adjustment: Applications — Smuggling, Performance Pay (5/29)*

- **Irregular Migration and Smuggling:** Davitti, Daria and Ursu, Anca-Elena. “Why Securitising the Sahel Will Not Stop Migration.” *FMU Policy Brief*, January 2018. https://www.clingendael.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/PB_Why_securing_Sahel_won%27t_stop_migration.pdf
- **Drug War:** Garson, Philippa. “Balloons and sausages — understanding the global drugs trade.” *IRIN*, May 2014. <https://goo.gl/q7mfmC>
- **Drug War:** Lopez, German. “The biggest problem with the war on drugs, explained in one video — with dragons.” *Vox*, March 2015. <https://www.vox.com/xpress/2014/8/30/6083923/drug-war-on-drugs>
- **Performance Pay:** Cable, Dan and Vermeulen, Freek. “Stop Paying Executives for Performance.” *Harvard Business Review*, February 2016. <https://hbr.org/2016/02/stop-paying-executives-for-performance>

C.19 *Dangers of Social Engineering (6/3)*

- Scott, James C. “Introduction,” and “Chapter 3.” *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press, February 1999.
- Cole, Teju. “The White-Savior Industrial Complex.” *The Atlantic*, March 2012. <https://goo.gl/GQQYAu>
- Martin, Courtney. “The Reductive Seduction of Other People’s Problems.” January 2016. <https://goo.gl/CuKhBh>

C.20 *Review (6/5)*C.21 **FINAL EXAM**



New Course Proposal

Public Affairs 30

Comparative Analysis of Wealth, Policy, and Power

Course Number Public Affairs 30

Title Comparative Analysis of Wealth, Policy, and Power

Short Title COMP-WLTH POLCY PWR

Units Fixed: 5

Grading Basis Letter grade only

Instructional Format Lecture - 3 hours per week
Discussion - 1 hours per week

TIE Code LECS - Lecture (Plus Supplementary Activity) [T]

GE Requirement Yes

Major or Minor Requirement Yes

Requisites None

Course Description Exploration of strategic interactions that give rise to social problems around the world, what can be done to address them, and how different polities have tried (and sometimes failed) to mount effective response. Applications include climate change, antivaccination movement, protest and repression, war and formation of states, corruption, and human and drug trafficking.

Justification PUB AFF 30 is a required lower division course for new Public Affairs major.

Syllabus File [20181109-lus30.pdf](#) was previously uploaded. You may view the file by clicking on the file name.

Supplemental Information **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Use the tools of social science to explain social problems;
2. Enumerate approaches for addressing each class of problems;
3. Apply this knowledge to specific policy challenges confronting countries and communities around the World; and
4. Demonstrate a familiarity with core concepts from political science and micro-economics.

Grading Structure Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam: 30%
Papers (2): 40%
Section participation: 10%

Effective Date Spring 2019

<u>Instructor</u> Name	Title
Darin Christensen	Assistant Professor

Quarters Taught Fall Winter Spring Summer

Department Public Affairs

<u>Contact</u> Name	E-mail
JOCELYN GUIHAMA	guihama@luskin.ucla.edu

Routing Help

ROUTING STATUS

Role: Registrar's Publications Office

Status: Pending Action

Role: Registrar's Scheduling Office - Hiatt, Michelle N (mhiatt@registrar.ucla.edu) - 424/259-8730

Status: Added to SRS on 12/19/2018 12:40:25 PM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: No Comments

Role: Department Chair or Designee - Guihama, Jocelyn A (guihama@luskin.ucla.edu) - 75403

Status: Approved on 12/14/2018 10:25:34 AM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: Approved as designee for Public Affairs department after review and approval from both Department Chair Meredith Phillips and Luskin FEC Chair Michael Stoll. GE application will be submitted to GE Governance Committee.

Role: FEC Chair or Designee - Stoll, Michael A (mstoll@ucla.edu) - 64774

Status: Approved on 12/11/2018 1:32:02 PM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: No Comments

Role: Department/School Coordinator - Guihama, Jocelyn A (guihama@luskin.ucla.edu) - 75403

Status: Approved on 12/10/2018 3:07:35 PM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: Approved as department designee on behalf of Department Chair Meredith Phillips. Forwarding to Luskin FEC Chair Michael Stoll.

Role: Department Chair or Designee - Phillips, Meredith (meredith.phillips@ucla.edu) - 45475

Status: Approved on 12/10/2018 9:06:00 AM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: No Comments

Role: Initiator/Submitter - Guihama, Jocelyn A (guihama@luskin.ucla.edu) - 75403

Status: Submitted on 11/30/2018 5:15:57 PM

Comments: Initiated a New Course Proposal

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