CUYAMACA COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD

POLITICAL SCIENCE 180 – INTRODUCTION TO PUBLIC POLICY

3 hours lecture, 3 units

Catalog Description
This course focuses on public policy, including the policy process: problem identification, policy analysis, strategy and policy development, policy enactment, and policy implementation. The course will examine the application of these concepts to policy areas, such as children, families, and communities, criminal justice, democracy and voting rights, economic and budgetary, education and literacy, energy and environment, health and human services, immigrant rights, infrastructure and transportation, mobility and opportunity, science and technology, and water.

Prerequisite
None

Course Content
Units that provide introductory level knowledge of public policy that include:
1) Institutions and processes of public policy making at the local, regional, state, and national levels in the United States, including:
   a. Cities, counties, special districts, and California state government
   b. Regional associations and joint powers authorities
   c. U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, and Executive Branch
2) Definition and description of the policy process, including:
   a. Problem identification
   b. Policy analysis
   c. Strategy and policy development
   d. Policy enactment
   e. Policy implementation
3) Definition and description of policy evaluation, including:
   a. Cost-benefit analysis
   b. Cost-effectiveness analysis
   c. Program cost analysis
4) Definition and description of thinking in systems, including:
   a. Identifying systems problems
   b. Thinking dynamically
   c. Getting operational
   d. Expanding the boundary of inquiry
   e. Looking for feedback
5) Application of the above knowledge, skills, and abilities to at least two of the following policy areas:
   a. children, families, and communities
   b. criminal justice
   c. democracy and voting rights
   d. economic and budgetary policy
   e. education and literacy
   f. energy and environment
   g. health and human services
   h. immigrant rights
   i. infrastructure and transportation

    j.   mobility and opportunity
    k.   science and technology
    l.   water
    m. others, as determined by the instructor or students.

Course Objectives
Students will be able to:
1) Define and explain the public policy.
2) Identify the institutions and processes of policymaking in at the local, regional, state, and national level.
3) Define and explain policy process.
4) Define and explain policy evaluation.
5) Define and explain thinking in systems.
6) Apply public policy, policy process, policy evaluation, and thinking in systems to at least 2 policy areas.

Method of Evaluation
A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.
1) Formative or summative quizzes
2) Written assessments: short answers or essays
3) Discussion posts and replies, in-class or online
4) Analysis of peer-reviewed journal articles
5) Simulations
6) Projects, individual or group-based
7) Research papers or projects

Special Materials Required of Student
None

Minimum Instructional Facilities
1) Smart classroom with current world and regional political maps
2) Preferred: Technology Enabled Active Learning classroom

Method of Instruction
1) Lecture
2) Small and large group discussions
3) Individual and group projects
4) Individual, small, and large-scale simulations
5) Guest speakers
6) Multimedia presentations

Out-of-Class Assignments
1) Canvas enhancement shell for:
    a. Individual and group assignments
    b. Class discussions
    c. Formative and summative quizzes
    d. Individual reflections
2) Individual and group assignments can include:
    a. Analysis and interpretation of chapters in assigned text
    b. Analysis of current events
    c. Analysis of diversity, equity, and inclusion and its relation to course content
    d. Analysis of peer-review journal articles

    e. Public policy-related project

Texts and References
1) Required (representative example):
   a. Public Policy: Politics, Analysis, and Alternatives, 6th, Kraft, Michael, Furlong, Scott, U of Wisconsin © 2017, ISBN: 9781506358154.
2) Supplemental:
   a. "Black Policy Project." n.d. Accessed March 31, 2021. https://bunchecenter.ucla.edu/research/black-policy-project/.
   b. "California Research Bureau." Accessed March 31, 2021. https://www.library.ca.gov/crb/.
   c. "CRS Reports." n.d. Accessed March 31, 2021. https://crsreports.congress.gov/.
   d. "Latino Policy & Politics Initiative." 2020. May 29, 2020. https://latino.ucla.edu/.
   e. "POLARIS." 2021. March 24, 2021. https://www.cdc.gov/policy/polaris/index.html.
   f. "Public Policy Institute of California." 2017. April 1, 2017. https://www.ppic.org/.
   g. "RAND Corporation Provides Objective Research Services and Public Policy Analysis." n.d. Accessed March 31, 2021. https://www.rand.org/.

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1) Describe the institutions and processes of policymaking in at the local, regional, state, and national levels in the United States.
2) Explain public policy, policy process, policy evaluation, and thinking in systems.
3) Create a technical public policy analysis that applies the policy process, policy evaluation, and thinking in systems to at least two specific policy areas.