

# Global Public Policy (capstone in IR)

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Class Room: Online

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## Course Objectives

A few days ago, Joe Biden started his first term as president of the United States. Like any incoming president, he announced several initiatives to kickstart his presidency. From COVID to climate change, from North Korea to financial regulations, plenty of crises threaten the well-being of the US and other countries.

In this capstone, you will serve as his advisor to tackle some of the most pressing issues he believes need to be addressed.

This course's primary objectives are:

- To develop your analytical and problem-solving skills
- To develop your ability to apply what you learned over the last few years to real life issues.
- To train your communication skills

All meetings will take place via Zoom (<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/93595012713>). Given the uncommon nature of this semester, we may have to modify the schedule as we go. Make sure to keep an eye on your emails and course announcements for any change!

Note: these are challenging times. If you run into any issues that may affect your work for this course, then please let me know as soon as possible. I can be reached at [aklin@pitt.edu](mailto:aklin@pitt.edu).

## Requirements

- Short assignments (40%).
- A concept paper (30%)
- A policy memo (30%)

**Grade scale:** 0 < 60: F, 60 < 64: D-, 64 < 67: D, 67 < 70: D+, 70 < 73: C-, 74 < 77: C, 77 < 80: C+, 80 < 84: B-, 84 < 87: B, 87 < 90: B+, 90 < 94: A-, 93 or more: A. "Y < X" means: "from Y up to, but not including X". Grades are not rounded up.

**Late submissions** are penalized by a loss of 2 points (from your total) per day. If you have issues that prevent you from submitting an assignment on time, then please let me know immediately.

If you inform me *after* a deadline has passed, I will need to be provided justification (e.g. doctor's note) to cancel the late submission penalty.

**Important note:** you can discuss ideas with your fellow students, but you must do your assignments individually. For pedagogical reasons, it is essential that you must try to understand the material on your own.

## Readings

There are no required textbooks for this class. Books that will be used (and that are available at the library):

- Aklin, M, P. Bayer, S.P. Harish, and Johannes Urpelainen. *Escaping the Energy Poverty Trap*. MIT Press. Hereafter: **Aklin et al.**
- Baldwin, Robert, Martin Cave, and Martin Lodge. *Understanding Regulation: Theory, Strategy, and Practice (2nd edition)*. Oxford University Press. Hereafter: **BCL**.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and Alastair Smith. *The Dictator's Handbook*. Public Affairs. Hereafter: **BDMS**.
- Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. *Political Economy for Public Policy*. Princeton University Press. Hereafter: **EBDM**.
- Sandler, Todd. *Global Collective Action*. Cambridge University Press.
- Shambaugh, George and Paul Weinstein. *The Art of Policymaking: Tools, Techniques and Processes in the Modern Executive Branch*. SAGE. Hereafter: **SW**.

For articles: the pdf of this syllabus contains links to the papers listed below.

## Course policies

### Disability Resource Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

### Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, noted below, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. (For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to [www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html](http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html).)

### E-mail Communication Policy

Each student is issued a University e-mail address ([username@pitt.edu](mailto:username@pitt.edu)) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and

complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Addresses, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to [www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html](http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html).)

## **Diversity and Inclusion**

The University of Pittsburgh does not tolerate any form of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation based on disability, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, familial status, sex, age, sexual orientation, veteran status or gender identity or other factors as stated in the University's Title IX policy. The University is committed to taking prompt action to end a hostile environment that interferes with the University's mission. For more information about policies, procedures, and practices, see: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/about>. I ask that everyone in the class strive to help ensure that other members of this class can learn in a supportive and respectful environment. If there are instances of the aforementioned issues, please contact the Title IX Coordinator, by calling 412-648-7860, or e-mailing [titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@pitt.edu). Reports can also be filed online: <https://www.diversity.pitt.edu/civil-rights-title-ix-compliance/make-report>.

## Class Schedule

The schedule is subject to change.

### Week 01, 01/25: Introduction

No reading.

### Week 02, 02/01: Principles of politics (1)

We study social and collective action problems. We will review various ethical frameworks for public policy. What should public policy achieve?

*To read:*

- EBDM, chapter 1.

*Optional:*

- EBDM, chapter 4, 5, 6.
- For a refresher on game theory, I highly recommend my colleague Will Spaniel's excellent videos (<https://www.youtube.com/c/Gametheory101/videos>).

### Week 03, 02/08: Principles of politics (2)

We continue our investigation of political and market failures. We examine how we can conceptualize these problems and how we can address them. We apply these models to specific cases, with a focus on international collective action problems.

*To read:*

- Sandler, chapter 2.
- BDMS, introduction and chapter 1.

*Optional:*

- Putnam, R.D. 1988. [Diplomacy and domestic politics: the logic of two-level games](#). *International Organization*.

**Deadline (due Friday): short assignment.**

### Week 04, 02/15: Principles of public policy (1)

Having identified (domestic and international) political and market failures, we next study the ways in which they can be addressed.

*To read:*

- BCL, chapter 7.
- Feldman, M.L. 2013. [The Domestic Implementation of International Regulations](#). NYU Law Review 88.

*Optional:*

- BCL, chapter 8, 9, and 10.

## Week 05, 02/22: Principles of public policy (2)

To read:

- BCL, chapter 15.

Deadline (due Friday): short assignment.

## Week 06, 03/01: Workshop

Optional:

- SW

## Week 07, 03/08: Application: energy policy (1)

To read:

- Aklin et al., chapter 1.

Deadline (due Friday): short assignment.

## Week 08, 03/15: Application: energy policy (2)

To read:

- Van de Graaf, T. 2013. [Fragmentation in global energy governance: explaining the creation of IRENA](#). *Global Environmental Politics* 13(3): 14-33.

## Week 09, 03/22: Application: energy policy (3)

To read:

- Bednar, D.J. and Reames, T.G. 2020. [Recognition of and response to energy poverty in the United States](#). *Nature Energy* 5: 1-8.

Deadline (due Friday): short assignment.

- Bouzarovski, *Energy Poverty*, chapter 3

## Week 10, 03/29: Presentations

## Week 11, 04/05: Presentations

## Week 12, 04/12: Presentations

## Week 13, 04/19: Conclusion

No readings.

Assignments: final concept and policy memo.