Session 1: Introduction

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Welcome, a few links to bookmark

- Course GitHub repo
- Running FAQ
- DSPP workspace
    - DM Jiaqin Wu if have issues seeing the private course channel `ppol5202_fall2024_coursegeneral`

Welcome to PPOL 5202!

Structure of today (tl;dr no coding / substantive content yet)

- **Intros:** me + you all

- **Review of syllabus**

- **Class norms activity**

- **Polls on course structure**

Intros

Where we are

- **Intros:** me + you all

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Intros: Me

- Assistant Professor (AP) at McCourt in DSPP since Fall of 2022. Across   before:
  - 2020-2022: AP at Dartmouth College (New Hampshire; Vermont)
  - 2014-2020: Grad student at Princeton (New Jersey with stints in DC)
  - 2012-2014: Pre-doc researcher at NIH Bioethics (DC/Maryland)
  - 2007-2012: BA/MA at Stanford (California)
  - Pre 2007: Midwest

Intros: Me

- Focus on education   + health   but love learning about a variety of topics!
- More on current research here: www.rebeccajohnson.io
- **Coding journey:**
  - Undergrad: STATA
  - Grad school: R (social science/stats training) - > Python (ML training; govt collaborations)
  - Now: both equally with slight preference for

Intros: Your TA Jiaqin Wu

- Graduated DSPP student - 2022 cohort (and an outstanding student in my Fall '22 DS1 class!)
- Policy Fields: Public Health, Housing, Criminal Justice
- From Jiaqin: "Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!"
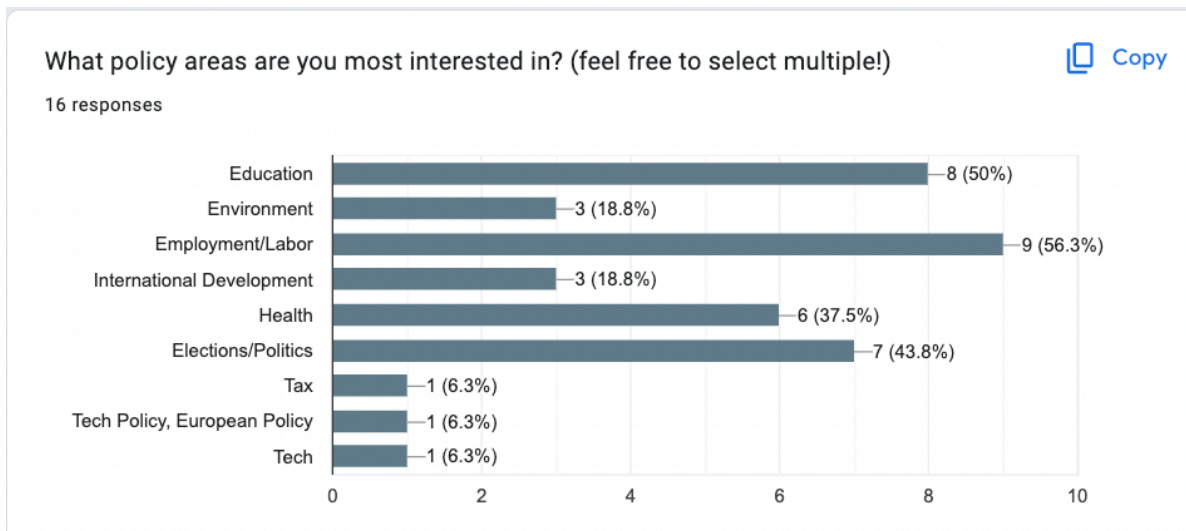
Intros: from survey

Figure 1: Policy Areas of Interest

Ways to improve visualization?

Discuss and (maybe) live code

```r
library(dplyr)
```

```
Warning: package 'dplyr' was built under R version 4.2.3
```

```
Attaching package: 'dplyr'
```

```
The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':

    filter, lag
```

```
The following objects are masked from 'package:base':

    intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
```

```r
policy_areas <- read.csv("policyareas_inputdata.csv")
colnames(policy_areas) <- c("time", "policy_areas")
head(policy_areas, 3)
```

```
              time
1 8/26/2024 15:58:42
2 8/26/2024 16:00:29
3 8/26/2024 16:05:23
                                         policy_areas
1 Education, Environment, Employment/Labor, Elections/Politics
2              Environment, International Development, Health
3                        Employment/Labor, Elections/Politics
```

Intros: Your turn

- Around the room

    - Name

    - A few places you've lived (I know "where you're from" can get difficult!)

    - Favorite DSPP experience thus far

    - Arcane hobby / interest

    - Your dream dataset

Review of Syllabus

Where we are

- Intros
- Review of Syllabus
- Class norms activity
- Polls on course structure

Link (also on Canvas)

[Fall 2024 Syllabus]

Nuts and bolts

- **Slides + activities:** pull from course GitHub repo at beginning of class
- **Slack:** main mode of communication (preferred over email)
- **Canvas:** major course announcements + assignments + grades; minimal content otherwise

Class Norms

Where we are

- Intros
- Review of Syllabus
- **Class norms activity**
- Polls on course structure

Foundations example

1. **Stay engaged, be on time**

2. **Practice empathetic communication:** This is meant to emphasize the idea of understanding and valuing each other's perspectives through empathy and active listening. It encompasses being **empathetic** (putting yourself in others' shoes to understand their feelings, perspectives, and experiences), and **practicing active Listening**.

3. **Balance participation (Step up and step back):** This norm is meant to promote equitable participation by encouraging students to be mindful of their speaking time and to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute.

4. **Make this a safe space:**
   --protect confidentiality
   --maintain respect
   --don't be afraid to ask questions

5. **Be thoughtful and intentional in your communication:** Ensure that your words reflect a genuine effort to understand and connect with others. Consider the impact of your communication, aiming to express yourself clearly and with positive intent, while being mindful of how your message might be received. This norm emphasizes the shared responsibility we all have in creating a respectful and supportive environment.

6. **Foster and respect creativity**

Figure 2: Foundations Norms

For us

Some ideas to get us started:

- How to collect/give feedback on pace and structure of class?
- How to balance responsiveness by myself/Jiaqin without expectations of always online nights/weekends?
- How to overcome fear of "looking stupid" in front of cohortmates?
- How to avoid blank stares/silence in response to questions during lecture?
- *Later in semester*: Group norms for equitable contributions

Polls

Where we are

- Intros
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- Class norms activity
- **Polls on course structure**

Two polls

1. Group formation for final project
2. Guest speakers