

CHASS Connect CHF303  
PRIVATE LIVES, PUBLIC LIFE: INDIVIDUALS, INSTITUTIONS, & POLITICAL BIAS  
Winter 2007

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Teaching Assistant: Kyle Karnes  
Peer Mentors: Bill Simpson and Ana Ruhl

**Course Description**

This is a course about people and self-governance. One common understanding of social and political institutions is that they arise to solve a set of problems that plague people in their interactions with each other. What if there were no rules? How easy would it be to make decisions in groups? How easy would it be to manage scarce resources? Could you even survive the day and keep your family and property safe? We're going to think a lot about rules, games, political institutions, social norms during the next 10 weeks.

**Required Reading**

CHF303 Reader. Available in UC-Riverside Bookstore

**Recommended resources to have on hand**

A good dictionary  
Strunk, William, and E.B. White. 2005. *The Elements of Style*. New York : Penguin Press.

**Course Requirements**

Attendance and participation	25%
Workshop grade	10%
Section grade	10%
Midterm	15%
Final	15%
Organization analysis	5%
Rule prospectus	5%
Final paper	10%
Reaction paper	5%

**Course Expectations**

***Attendance, participation, workshops and section***

Attendance is mandatory for all aspects of this class – lectures, peer-mentor workshops, section meetings. Bill, Ana, Kyle, and I will take attendance. Kyle will be responsible for compiling grades, but you should raise grading issues with me first. Bill and Ana are here to help you negotiate academic life at UCR; pay attention to their advice.

Participation is a mandatory aspect of class as well. We expect you to be well-prepared for each class, discussion section, and workshop. Much of the material we read will be new to you, so ask questions and discuss it with us and with each other. Also, ask questions about your writing projects,

### Tests

We are scheduled for a mid-term and final exam. The mid-term will be conducted in class on February 8. The final will be cumulative and is scheduled for March 23 at 8 a.m.

### Research paper: "There ought to be a law!"

You are responsible for preparing a major research paper (8-10 pages) over the course of the quarter. We want you to identify a social or political organization, explain that organization, its membership and purposes. We also want you to propose and describe **a new rule** that would affect the organization – changing something that currently doesn't work well, or something that could work better, or doing something that currently isn't being done, or not doing something that currently is being done. Finally, we want you to explain what your new rule will accomplish – what do you think will happen that is different with this rule in place. In the process of this discussion, you should explain what alternatives there are to the rule you propose and why your rule is better than these alternatives.

To help you organize this assignment, we have two smaller projects related to the paper due during the quarter. The first is a brief on the organization you are interested in changing. This assignment will be due in class on January 23. On February 15, you will turn in a prospectus explaining the rule you want to propose. With both of these assignments in hand, you should be well prepared to write the paper, which is due March 1.

You will turn in this research paper electronically, using ilearn.ucr.edu. We will then assign each of you one of your classmates' papers for a final writing assignment. You will be responsible for assessing the paper of this classmate – are the objectives of the organization and the proposed rule clear? Is the proposed rule fair? This response is due March 13.

### Course Outline

#### January 4. Introduction

January 9 & 11. Seeing what you (might) take for granted: The reckoning of time  
Zerubavel, Eviatar. *The Seven Day Circle*, pp. 1-26, pp. 83-106

January 16. Problems in a world without rules and institutions  
Classroom experiment I

January 18. More problems: Anarchy  
Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. pp. 86-90  
Bickers, Kenneth N., and John T. Williams. *Public Policy Analysis*. pp. 17-34

January 23. Still, more problems: Common pool resource management  
Hardin, Garrett. 1968. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *Science* 162:1243-1248.

**Organization analysis due**

January 25  
Classroom experiment II

January 30. Even more problems: Market failure  
Reading TBA

February 1. Last of the problems for now: Collective decisions  
Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics*. pp. 39-48  
Classroom experiment III

February 6. Thinking about people

Laver, Michael. Private desires, political action. pp. 18-37

February 8. MIDTERM EXAM

February 13. Collective action

Laver, Michael. Private desires, political action. pp. 38-67

February 15. Cooperation

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics*. pp. 197-219

**Rule prospectus due**

February 20 & 22. Solving problems with public goods and other market failures

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics*. pp. 260-296

February 27. Majority rule

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics*. pp. 49-81

March 1 & 6. Voting systems

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics*. pp. 166-191

**Proposed Rule Research Paper DUE March 1**

March 8. Institutions and biases

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics*. pp. 299-311

Ostrom, Vincent. 1980. "Artisanship and Artifact." *Public Administration Review* 40:309-317

March 13

Class discussion of proposed rules

**Response to proposed rule DUE**

March 15

EXAM REVIEW