

## ***Current Issues in Public Policy***

Fall Semester 2023

<b>Course Code:</b>	JSM703
<b>Instructor</b>	Wendell Goddard
<b>Guarantor:</b>	Arnošt Veselý
<b>Scope:</b>	1/1
<b>Schedule:</b>	The instruction will be given in a bloc form (see schedule below)
<b>Room:</b>	The course will take place in Jinonice For rooms, see the schedule below
<b>Credits:</b>	4
<b>Semester:</b>	Fall
<b>Examination:</b>	Written exam (essay)
<b>Organization:</b>	Department of Public and Social Policy, Institute of Sociological Studies, Charles University, Prague
<b>Moodle</b>	<a href="https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=5152">https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=5152</a>

### **Description of the Course**

This year, the course will address some of the current issues of public policy raised by the continuing war in Ukraine and political developments in the United States. The course will also consider the importance of truth, freedom of speech and privacy, and regulation of the internet. The focus will be on exploring public policy issues in a broader political context.

### **Questions to be Considered**

What are the public policy issues raised by the polarization between political parties in the United States and in Europe, and also by the tensions between Russia, China, and the West? Is the gap closing between liberal democracy and authoritarianism? What are the ethical and legal considerations in the interplay between free speech and privacy? How can we meet the biggest challenges caused by climate change?

### **Course Outline**

1. The War In Ukraine
  - Background
  - 20th Century History
  - Recent Developments
  - What Next?
  - Q&A: Questions and Answers
2. America, Democracy, and Trump
  - Cases against Trump and the 2024 Presidential Elections
  - Q&A
3. Partisan Divide and Guns
  - U.S. Supreme Court on Guns
  - Nashville Shooting, Justin Jones, Joan Baez, and Václav Havel
  - Q&A
4. Truth, Free Speech, and Privacy

- Various Perspectives
  - Advocacy of Violence: *Brandenburg v. Ohio*
  - Hate Speech: Europe vs. United States
  - Fear Speech
  - A.I. and Regulation of the Internet
  - Free Speech on Campus
  - Right to Privacy: Spanish Case against Google
  - Q&A
5. Climate Change
- Recent Updates
  - Various Perspectives
  - Bruno Latour and the Imperatives to Find Ecological Solutions
  - Q&A
6. Threats of Autocracy and Tyranny
- Class Discussion
7. Pro Bono Work (Bratislava)
- Personal Experience
  - Q&A

### **Readings**

- Snyder, Timothy. *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*. New York: Tim Duggan Books. (2017), published in both English and Czech
- Other suggested readings will be available in Moodle

### **Course requirements**

For passing the course it is necessary to fulfill all requirements formulated below, i.e., class participation and final paper.

#### **Class participation**

- Students are required to attend **in person all 3 classes** and be prepared to participate in class discussions and exercises.

#### **Final essay**

- At the end of the course, a student is required to write a short paper in which he/she will choose an issue of public policy (from several to be provided), argue both sides and make a conclusion.
- The approximate length of the paper is 5 double spaced pages, in English.
- Deadline for the paper is January 12, 2024
- The final paper must be uploaded via moodle.

#### **Grading**

The final essays will be graded A-F according to the following criteria:

- Structure, organization and internal coherence of the essay
- Insight into topic, originality and use of evidence

- Clarity of arguments
- Formal aspects (style, grammar, references)
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**Schedule: Week October 16-20, 2023, Jinonice**

Day	Time	Room
Tuesday, October 17	15:30 - 18:20	C423
Thursday, October 19	15:30 - 18:20	B216
Friday, October 20	11:00 - 13:50	C423

**Deadline for submitting the final essay:** January 12, 2024

**Contacts:**

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