Course Objectives:

The course will focus on and attempt to bring together two separate questions.

First, what are good policies? Just what makes a policy “good” anyway. We will analyze policy in terms of economic efficiency – maximizing the goods and services available to members of society, and equality – how these goods and services are distributed. We will examine several apparently disparate policy areas.

Secondly, the policy-making process in each of the policy areas will be surveyed. Students are encouraged to evaluate the extent to which the political process in various policy areas is conducive to rational policy making.

Requirements:

One paper will be required which will analyze a particular program or issue of the student’s choice. Since this is a “writing development” course, students will be required to get an early start on the paper, submit an outline to the instructor for comments, and then submit a draft for further comments. Deadlines: discuss paper with instructor (Oct. 1st), submit outline and list of sources to instructor (Oct. 22nd), submit draft to instructor (Nov. 12th), submit final paper (Dec. 1st). There will be a penalty for skipping or being late on any of these steps. The paper should be 13-17 pages, 12 point Courier type, double spaced, one inch margins all around.

There will be two essay exams during the term and an essay final. The grade will consist of: the exams, 20% each, final 30%, paper 30%. There will be a study guide and review sessions for each exam.

Course Outline:

I. INTRODUCTION -- The Virtues of Markets

II. The Ethical Critique of Markets


III. ECONOMIC REGULATION

A. Policy


B. Politics


IV. SEEKING EQUALITY: WELFARE AND POVERTY

A. A. Policy

1. Okun, pp. 88-100

B. Politics

1. Danziger & Weinberg, Chap. 13

V. SCHOOL CHOICE

A. Policy


VI. CRIME AND JUSTICE