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 (February 22nd), submit outline and list of sources to instructor (February 27th), submit draft to instructor (March 22nd), submit final paper (April 26th). There will be a penalty for skipping or being late on any of these steps. The paper should be 10-12 pages, 12 point Times Roman type, double spaced, one inch margins all around.

Attendance is not required, although it will be difficult to get a good grade if any substantial number of classes are missed.

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

A. Miller, Benjamin, and North, The Economics of Public Issues (17th Edition), Part One, Part Two, Part Seven.
II. The Ethical Critique of Markets


III. ECONOMIC REGULATION

A. Policy


B. Politics


Test 1 – Monday, March 4th
IV. SEEKING EQUALITY: WELFARE AND POVERTY

A. Policy

1. Okun, pp. 88-100
3. George Gilder, Men and Marriage, Chaps. 1-6, 8, 9.

B. Politics


V. SCHOOL CHOICE

A. Policy

2. Judith Pearson, Myths of Educational Choice, Ch. 4-9.

Test 2 – Monday, April 22nd
VI. CRIME AND JUSTICE