

A Lecture Series on the Progressive Public Policy Landscape

The Roosevelt Institution Decal

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

"A typical vice of American politics is the avoidance of saying anything real on real issues."
Theodore Roosevelt

Class Description

What is progressive policy and what are progressive political issues? This class is intended to give students an overview of current topics on the progressive policy landscape, with topics varying from environmental, technological and foreign policy to how to frame and discuss politics in a progressive way.

Weekly guest lecturers from various departments and organizations will discuss key policy issues, and in addition to class discussions, students will workshop and produce their own short op-ed policy pieces. This class will aid students in thinking critically about current policy issues, facilitate debate and discussion, and help organize, produce and promote student work.

Class website

www.rooseveltinstitution.org/berkeley/decal/spring08

Grading

15% Participation (Questions)/Attendance
20% Weekly Assignments
25% Op-Ed I
25% Op-Ed II
15% Current Event Report

Schedule

Wednesdays 6-8pm, 156 Dwinelle starting February 13th.

Participation

- Participation will be graded by attendance, shown by turning in the day's assignments.
- Before guest lectures, students will turn in two questions about the assigned reading at the beginning of the class.
- Students are permitted two missed classes during the semester.

Weekly Assignments

Weekly assignments will be assigned as necessary and not necessarily weekly. These assignments will aid you in structuring your op-eds, and will typically be less than a page.

Current Events

Once during the semester, you will be asked to research a current event in progressive politics by consulting at least two news sources, write a page on your findings and prepare a 3 minute presentation. This short response should address who, what, where, when and why is this interesting. What does this topic relate to and who does it effect? What are the implications? We will start each class with 3-4 presenters.

Op-Eds

You will be required to write two short 600-800 word Op-Eds in the course of the semester. Specifics will be discussed in class. Op-eds will be due March 19th and April 23rd.

Conferences

- Challenge Conference (University of Chicago): February 29th-March 2nd
- Health Care Conference with the Kaiser Foundation (Washington, D.C): March 14th
- Community Development Conference (UC Davis): April 25-26th
- National Policy Expo (Washington, D.C): July 10-11th

Publications

- CA Publication: March 21st, 2008
- 25 Great Ideas: April 1st, 2008
- <http://rooseveltinstitute.org/publications/25ideas/format>
- Roosevelt Review April 30th, 2008
- http://rooseveltinstitute.org/publications/roosevelt_review/submit
- Essay Contest: March 2nd, 2008
- <http://rooseveltinstitute.org/essay>

Ground Rules

- Listen actively -- respect others when they are talking.
- Speak from your own experience instead of generalizing ("I" instead of "they," "we," and "you").
- Do not be afraid to respectfully challenge one another by asking questions, but refrain from personal attacks -- focus on ideas.
- Participate to the fullest of your ability.
- The goal is not to agree -- it is about hearing and exploring divergent perspectives.
- Be conscious of body language and nonverbal responses