

Current Issues in Public Policy

Summer Semester 2018

Course Code:	JSM703
Instructor	Wendell Goddard
Guarantor:	Arnošt Veselý
Scope:	1/1
Schedule:	The instruction will be given in a bloc form (see schedule below)
Room:	See the schedule below
Credits:	4
Semester:	summer
Examination:	Unclassified credit (graded: pass or fail)
Organization:	Department of Public and Social Policy, Institute of Sociological Studies, Charles University, Prague
Moodle	https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=5152

Description of the Course

This year the course will address some of the current issues of public policy raised by the recent elections in the United States and the Czech Republic. The focus will be upon concrete legal cases that will be explained in non-legal jargon and in a broader political context. The course will also cover other issues of public policy such as regulation of the internet, privacy, freedom of speech and national security.

Questions to be considered include:

Part I - What are the public policy issues raised by the elections in the U.S. and the C.R.? Why did Trump and Zeman win and what are the consequences? Will public policy be different now and why? How has Europe responded to Trump's declaration of "America first"?

Part II - What are the ethical and legal considerations in the interplay between free speech, privacy and national security?

This course will provide an open forum to discuss all these questions.

Course Outline

I. Public Policy Issues raised by the recent Presidential Elections

A. Background: U.S. Constitution

- Electoral college vs. popular vote

B. Voting Rights Issues

- Jim Crow laws and post-slavery racism in the United States
- Voting Rights Act
- Access to voting: requirements for voter identification
- Gerrymandered voting districts

C. Political Issues

- Vladimir Putin: How Russia Pays to Play
- Hacking the Democratic National Committee in the U.S.
- Mueller Investigation: Collusion with Russia and Obstruction of Justice

- D. Social Issues: Does Truth Matter?
 - Fake news/“post-truth”/“alternative facts”: what can be done?
 - Free speech considerations, regulation of the internet
- E. The Erosion of Democracy
 - Donald Trump
- F. A Broader Look at Europe: A Swing to the Right
 - Czech Republic
- G. Finding Middle Ground
 - Lessons from the 20th century, *On Tyranny*

II. Selected Issues in Public Policy Update: Ethical and Legal Perspectives

- A. Interplay between Free Speech, Privacy and National Security
- B. Philosophical Underpinnings
- C. Privacy and the Right to be Forgotten
 - Spanish case against Google
- D. Public Policy Concerns in the World We Live In
 - Terrorist attacks, invasions of privacy and immigration
 - Trump’s third executive order
 - Debate over DACA
 - A world of walls
- E. Free Speech
 - Advocacy of violence: Brandenburg v. Ohio
 - Free speech in Poland
 - The cake cases: U.S. and Ireland
- F. Campus Issues
 - Restrictions on speech and safe spaces
 - Sanctuaries and ICE investigations
- G. Free Speech and the Media, *The Post*

Readings

- Snyder, Timothy. (2017). *On tyranny: Twenty lessons from the twentieth century*. New York: Tim Duggan Books.
- Other suggested readings will be available shortly in moodle.

Course requirements

The course requirements include:

- 1) Class participation
- 2) Final essay

Class participation

- Students are expected to attend all 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 June 1, 2018, 16.00.
- The final paper must be uploaded via moodle.

Schedule

Day	Time	Room
Monday March 5, 2018	14-16.50	3018
Wednesday March 7,2018	14-16.50	3018
Thursday March 8, 2018	12.30-15.20	3019

Deadline for submitting a final essay: June 1, 2018

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