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Fall 2021, Mon. 2:00– 4:40, LeChase 181
Office Hours (Zoom): Wed. 11:15AM– 12:15PM and 1:45–2:45PM

PS#1 : Pa de i Politi s This te sio : De e e ,

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The initial governmental responses to the COVID 19 pandemic rocked the foundations of the world's economy. Decisions to "shut down the economy," however, were not universally praised and remain controversial. Science became more politicized during the pandemic, and Americans could not even agree on whether mask wearing was necessary, often dividing along party lines. In this seminar, we will study the COVID 19 pandemic from a political economy perspective, focusing on the United States and asking difficult questions. Did the shutdowns go too far, or were they necessary to protect public health? Was the run up in government debt due to the pandemic fiscally irresponsible or necessary to prevent an economic depression? Did political polarization make the pandemic worse? Were dissenters who challenged dominant scientific explanations for the pandemic silenced or given a fair hearing? In the spirit of free and open inquiry, seminar participants will consider cutting edge research and discuss competing viewpoints on these and other pandemic related topics. These questions are written in the past tense, but we will also consider the ongoing evolution of the pandemic during the course of the semester.

KEADIV8S

The required readings for this course are available on Blackboard. In addition to the required readings, students should regularly read the news to identify current events relating to the themes of the course. We will set aside time each week to discuss relevant articles, with an eye toward how data, evidence, and research is used in those articles.

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The course will be structured around the idea that how we understand a phenomenon depends crucially on the questions we ask about that phenomenon. (*Journal of Question Formulation Technique* is the title of a book on this subject.) We will practice this skill throughout the semester, using the aptly named "Question Formulation Technique." In class QFT applications will complement the questions students generated as part of the conversation starters discussed below.

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Seminar courses are spaces where ideas should be shared, debated, and challenged, as this is how we strengthen our understandings and beliefs about the world. To that end, we encourage you to choose to articulate your own, create seminars about your interests, and encourage others to challenge him, as well. You are likely to be doing so. Alternatively, you can get on the same bike with a heart rate monitor and push yourself until you are quite uncomfortable. Which is the better workout? Think of a seminar course in the same way: challenge your mind and your ideas.

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Note: Topics are subject to change as the course evolves. Due to the continual release of new research in this area, readings will be finalized about 10 days before each class and go on Blackboard one week in advance of each class. Conversation starters are due by 10AM on the day of class for all weeks except week 1, 11, and 13.

Date	Topic
1. August 30	Introduction and Course Preliminaries
2. September 13	Managing Uncertainty and Risk
3. September 20	The Politicization of Science
4. September 27	Beliefs and Values
5. October 4	Political Polarization
6. October 18	Lockdowns: Public Health vs. (?) the Economy
7. October 25	Politics, Protests, and Pandemics Guest Speaker: Dr. John McGowan
8. November 1	Economic Policy During a Pandemic

- Pizzo, Philip, et al. 2021. "When Physicians Engage in Practices That Threaten the Nation's Health." *K U* 325(8): 723-24.

The Lab Leak Theory

- O'Neal, Adam. 2021. "A Scientist Who Said No to Covid Groupthink." *W* *o* *K*, June 11.
- Rabin, Roni Caryn. 2021. "Caught in the Crossfire Over Covid's Origins." *V* *'* *u*, August 24.

Research

- Kreps, S.E., and D.L. Kriner. 2020. "Model Uncertainty, Political Contestation, and Public Trust in Science: Evidence from the COVID 19 Pandemic." *o* *"* *6:eabd4563*.
- OPTIONAL Bokemper, Scott E., et al. 2020. "Timing of COVID 19 Vaccine Approval and Endorsement by Public Figures." *t* *39:825-29*.

September: "Beliefs and Values"

Background

- Oshinsky, David. 2021. "The Long History of Vaccine Mandates in America." *W* *o* *K*, Sept. 17.

Surveys and Interviews

- Wagner, Dennis. 2021. "When Should Liberty Yield to Public Good?" *yo' u*, Aug. 3.
- Ipsos. 2021. "On COVID 19 Vaccine, Mask Requirements, Americans Prioritize Common Good Over Personal Liberty." Aug. 18.

Civil Liberties (Free Speech and Privacy)

- Schechner, Sam, et al. 2021. "How Facebook Hobbled Mark Zuckerberg's Bid to Get America Vaccinated." *W* *o* *K*, Sept. 17.
- Zimmerman, Jonathan. 2021. "Teachers Have a Duty on COVID 19 Facts." *yo' u*, Aug. 26.
- Woo, Erin, and Kellen Browning. 2021. "New York City's Vaccine Passport Plan Renews Online Privacy Debate." *V* *'* *u*, Aug. 4.
- Cole, David, and Daniel Mach. 2021. "We Work at the A.C.L.U. Here's What We Think About Vaccine Mandates." *V* *'* *u*, Sept. 2.

Research

- Tavernise, Sabrina. 2021. "Vaccine Skepticism Was Viewed as a Knowledge Problem. It's Actually About Gut Beliefs." *V* *'* *u*, April 29.
- Tram, Khai Hoan, et al. 2021. "Deliberation, Dissent, and Distrust: Understanding Distinct Drivers of Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Hesitancy in the United States." *# @)*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab633>.
- OPTIONAL James, Erin K. 2021. "Persuasive Messaging to Increase COVID 19 Vaccine Uptake Intentions." Manuscript.

October: Political Polarization

- Gawande, Atul. 2021. "Inside the Worst Hit County in the Worst Hit State in the Worst Hit Country." *V* *'* *u*
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O to e : Lo kdo s Pu li Health s ? theE o o y

The US Case (Short Run)

- Thompson, Derek. 2021. "The Curious Case of Florida's Pandemic Response." *U* " , March 23.
- Agrawal, Vinat, et al. 2021. "The Impact of the COVID 19 Pandem

- Albanesi, Stefania, and Jiyeon Kim. 2021. "Effects of the COVID 19 Recession on the US Labor Market: Occupation, Family, and Gender." *K* 35(3): 3-24.
- Sáenz, Rogelio, Corey Sparks, and Asiya Validova. 2021. "Inequities in Job Recovery During the COVID 19 Pandemic." # *k*, National Issue Brief #156.

Health Disparities, USA

- Andrasfay, Theresa, and Noreen Goldman. 2021. "Reductions in 2020 US Life Expectancy Due to COVID 19 and the Disproportionate Impact on the Black and Latino Populations." *hV* 118(5):e201476118.

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- Ip, Greg. 2020. "Covid 19 Propelled Businesses Into the Future. Ready or Not." *†* *o* *K*, Dec. 26.
- McKinsey Global Institute. 2021. *u* 7 *†* *o* # *†* *o*. February.
- Galloway, Scott. 2020. *h* # 7 # *†*. New York: Portfolio, Introduction and ch. 4.
- Guo, Eileen. 2021. "Universal Basi