

2017

POLS 2110 AA: Contemporary Issues in U.S. Public Policy

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PolicyMap Assignment

POLS 2110 AA: Contemporary Issues in U.S. Public Policy

Prof. Taylor

Fall 2016

Due Monday 9/25/17

The “policy environment”, the arena in which the public policy process operates, consists of four interrelated sub-environments: the *structural*, *political*, *social*, and *economic*. You will be using your home congressional district to explore your congressional representation and the policy environment in your home district. Use PolicyMap to conduct a basic spatial analysis of social or economic drivers that you feel are especially critical in terms of public policy issues within the community.

1. Look up your Congressional representative and your home district number using this link: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>.
2. Research your Representative. On which committees does your representative serve? What are the issues on the committee’s agenda this year? Based on the material presented on the official webpage of your Representative, what are his/her key policy interests? Which of the issues that your Representative is pursuing in committee or as a Representative do you feel is most important?
3. Use PolicyMap to explore your Congressional District. Select a social environment indicator and an economic environment indicator that you feel are important to why your Representative would be interested in the policy issue you have selected
4. Use PolicyMap to create a map and a table of the data for each of the indicators that you have selected.
5. Write a report (2 – 3 pages, double spaced, 1” margins) that clearly identifies your Congressional District and Representative. It should provide a detailed description of your Representative in terms of key policy issues they identify for their constituents and Congressional committee assignments and the agenda items being pursued. Identify a policy issue that your Representative is involved with currently. Be sure to provide a detailed explanation of the policy issue from multiple perspectives, and link it to the social and economic environments you have chosen from your district. How does the policy environment effect the policy framing and policy options advocated by your Representative? Finally, attach the maps and the tables you created as individual pages at the end of the report. Label them clearly and refer to them in the text of the report where appropriate. The maps and tables do not count towards the 2-3 page requirement of the report.

Grading Rubric

	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5
Congressional District and Representative	Poor understanding of both Representative and District is presented	Weak understanding of both Representative and District is presented	Solid understanding of both Representative and District is presented	Strong understanding of both Representative and District is presented
Policy Issue	Poorly defined or too broad for analysis	Well researched but missing both a local connection and Representative connection	Well researched but missing either a local connection or Representative connection	Well researched and tied directly to local issues and Congressional Representative
Map Series and Data Table	Less than two indicators presented.	Two indicators presented.	Two indicators presented in an easy to read and understand manner.	Two indicators presented in a manner that conveys the importance of these factors to the local community.
Analysis	No connection between social/economic environment and policy	Weak connection made between social/economic environment and policy	Strong connection made between social/economic environment and policy	Interesting and informative connection made between social/economic environment and policy
Quality of Writing (Grammar, spelling, punctuation, citations)	Substantial errors in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and citations.	Multiple errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, or citations.	Minor errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, or citations.	No errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, or citations.