Second Examination

Please answer all parts for each question. If you ignore a portion of the question, you cannot get full credit. Remember to cite sources you use in constructing your answer in both the body of the response and in a works cited list. Only refer to assigned course materials and do not refer to non-assigned outside sources (magazine articles, books, newspapers, etc.) in constructing your answer.

All essay responses must be typed in a word-processing computer program and follow specific formatting rules (12-pt Times New Roman font, double spaced, and one inch margins). Microsoft Word .doc files or Adobe Acrobat .pdf files are preferred. Finished exams have to be submitted to the instructor by e-mail Monday, May 10th before 10 a.m. The email address to submit exams is: pols440@yahoo.com

The test is open-note, meaning you can refer to the required reading materials assigned in the course, as well as notes you have personally taken during lectures and while reading the assigned materials. Throughout the time of the examination, you cannot discuss any of the test items with other students in the course.

1. Throughout the course, we have discussed the importance of theory in social science research in general, and public policy research in particular. What is the purpose of theory in public policy research? What are the characteristics of a useful theory in public policy research? Which of the theories that we discussed in class do you believe is most useful in explaining and predicting the policymaking process? Explain why you think this is the case.

2. Kraft and Furlong (2010) suggest there are five general steps when conducting a policy analysis, while Bardach (2009) suggests there are eight general steps in a policy analysis. Are there any major differences in the behavior that Kraft and Furlong suggest and that Bardach suggests occurs when conducting a policy analysis? At which stage(s) of the policy process model are you likely to see the behaviors described in Kraft and Furlong's description of what occurs during a policy analysis? At which stage(s) of the process model are you likely to see the behaviors described in Bardach's description of what occurs during a policy analysis?

3. Describe the characteristics of a cost-benefit analysis. In other words, when performing a cost-benefit analysis, what characteristics are you likely to see? In what ways is a cost-benefit analysis different from an ethical analysis? Assume you are a policy analyst asked to discuss the restriction of the usage of cell phones while driving an automobile. Detail the costs and benefits that you believe would result from such a policy. Detail the moral or ethical values that would be raised when discussing the cell phone ban.

4. In the last section of the course, we detailed in-depth some of the pressing substantive issues that policymakers are currently tackling. One of these issues was the economy. Please describe the four major goals we discussed that are behind most economic policies. Which goal or goals do you believe could explain the decisions described in the reading materials on the recent auto industry bailout? Explain why you selected the goal or goals that you did.

5. Another substantive issue we discussed in the course was education. Please describe some of the problems that are perceived to currently exist in the public education system. Next, detail the efforts that have been proposed to address these problems. In the Hird et al. (2004) chapter, what is Thernstrom's argument regarding education reform? What is Meier's argument regarding education reform? Of the two, who makes the most persuasive argument? Explain your decision.