

**COURSE ON THE POLITICS AND POLICY OF  
CRISIS AND RISK**

CHRISTOPHER ANSELL (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY)

**ABSTRACT**

This course explores how crisis and risk shape policy and policymaking and, reciprocally, how policies shape our ability to respond to and manage crises and risks. The course begins with an examination of different types of crises (e.g., creeping, transboundary, compound, etc.) and risks (e.g., systemic, catastrophic, existential, etc.) and their implications for public policy.

The course then explores the politics of crisis and risk, examining how claims about crisis and risk can galvanize or derail policymaking and influence problem definition and policy design. We will also consider the relationship between crisis and risk, on the one hand, and policy failure and the politics of blame, on the other, and then touch on some grander themes such as the “protective state” “risk society” and debates about the relationship between crisis and emergency.

We will then investigate the strategic and institutional issues that arise in preparing for, responding to, and managing crises and risks. Here we will explore key debates in the crisis and risk management literatures, focusing on topics such as preparedness, precaution, resilience, reliability and robustness.

The course will adopt a comparative and multilevel perspective and draw on examples and research from different policy sectors.

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**PLANNING**

**MONDAY JUNE 10**

9.00 - 10.00	<b>WELCOME SPEECH</b>
10.00 - 10.15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
10.15 - 12.15	Course 1: In this opening class, we will begin with a discussion of the definition of crisis and then consider different types of crises identified by crisis researchers. We will then discuss the difference between strategic and operational crisis management and consider the larger role that crisis plays in politics and policy, examining how crisis can serve as a focusing event for political and institutional reform and how it can become a particular pattern of policymaking ("crisisification"). As a reference case, we will examine national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
12.15 - 14.00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14.00 - 15.30	Workshop 1: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 1 (14.00 – 14.45) - (15') Presentation by Jasleen Kaur - (10') Discussed by Guiselle Romero Lora - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper
15.30 - 15.45	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
15.45 - 17.15	Workshop 1: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 2 (15.45 – 16.30) - (15') Presentation by Gah-Kai Leung - (10') Discussed by Samanta Varela - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper

**BERKELEY SUMMER SCHOOL 2024**

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### TUESDAY JUNE 11

9.00 - 10.00	MORNING LECTURE
10.00 - 10.15	COFFEE BREAK
10.15 - 12.15	Course 2: Today's class examines the concept of "disaster" and considers natural and man-made disasters. Disaster research raises important issues about community vulnerability and resilience and emphasizes the inequities that disasters and disaster response can produce. The class then examines some of the specific characteristics of disasters, such as their potentially cascading dynamics. We will discuss the Kelman (2020) and Keating et al. (2017) readings to probe some of the policy implications of disasters.
12.15 - 14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00 - 15.30	Workshop 2: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 3 (14.00 – 14.45) - (15') Presentation by Renata Matsumoto - (10') Discussed by Monica Belen Hernandez-Bennettz + Jackrit Kamudhamas - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper
15.30 - 15.45	COFFEE BREAK
15.45 - 17.15	Workshop 2: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 4 (15.45 – 16.30) - (15') Presentation by Nicklas Peters - (10') Discussed by Gah-Kai Leung - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper



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### WEDNESDAY JUNE 12

9.00 - 10.00

#### MORNING LECTURE

10.15 - 12.15

Course 3: This class takes a broader look at how the State deals with crises, disasters and risk in general. The focus is on the "Protective State" and how "protection" is a critical factor in understanding the political legitimacy of the State. The Ansell (2019) reading argues that the Protective State is characterized by a tension between reactive and preventive approaches to risk and points out that a key political and policy dynamic is the determination of who bears the risk. Intervention to protect citizens leads to fundamental political and policy debates about State "paternalism."

12.15 - 14.00

#### LUNCH BREAK

14.00 - 17.00

#### FREE AFTERNOON - OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

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### THURSDAY JUNE 13

9.00 - 10.00	MORNING LECTURE
10.00 - 10.15	COFFEE BREAK
10.15 - 12.15	Course 4: This class begins by examining different types of risk (e.g., systemic, compound, catastrophic, etc.) and then examines debates about risk management principles (e.g., the precautionary principle) and they play out in various policy domains. The readings investigate how different approaches to risk are socially constructed and contrast different framings of risk (e.g., systemic versus reductionist). We will conclude by discussing how the politics of risk can trigger "blame games" that shape our evolving understanding of risk
12.15 - 14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00 - 15.30	Workshop 3: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 5 (14.00 – 14.45) - (15') Presentation by Monica Belen Hernandez-Bennettz - (10') Discussed by Nicklas Peters - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper
15.30 - 15.45	COFFEE BREAK
15.45 - 17.15	Workshop 3: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 6 (15.45 – 16.30) - (15') Presentation by Guiselle Romero Lora - (10') Discussed by Renata Matsumoto - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper

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### FRIDAY JUNE 14

9.00 - 10.00	MORNING LECTURE
10.00 - 10.15	COFFEE BREAK
10.15 - 12.15	Course 5: Our last class introduces the concept of "risk regimes" which can be useful for describing variations in how risks are regulated. We then focus on the challenge of regulating emerging technologies, which can create a high degree of uncertainty for regulators and policymakers. The readings focus on the regulation of artificial intelligence.
12.15 - 14.00	LUNCH BREAK
14.00 - 16.00	Workshop 4: Discussion on participant's research project Presentation 1 (14.00 – 14.45) - (15') Presentation by Samanta Varela - (10') Discussed by Jasleen Kaur - (20') General discussion with the group of his/her Paper
16.00 - 17.00	CONCLUSION



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**READINGS****MONDAY:****REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Greer, S. L., King, E., Massard da Fonseca, E., & Peralta-Santos, A. (2021). *Coronavirus Politics: The Comparative Politics and Policy of COVID-19*. University of Michigan Press. READ: Chapter 1: Introduction: Explaining Pandemic Response, pp. 3-33, and READ one other chapter of your choice and be prepared to discuss key findings.

**TUESDAY:****REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Kelman, I. (2020). *Disaster by Choice: How our Actions Turn Natural Hazards into Catastrophes*. Oxford University Press. Ch. 4: "Vulnerability by choice," 79-96.
- Keating, A., Campbell, K., Mechler, R., Magnuszewski, P., Mochizuki, J., Liu, W., ... & McQuistan, C. (2017). Disaster resilience: what it is and how it can engender a meaningful change in development policy. *Development Policy Review*, 35(1), 65-91.

**WEDNESDAY:****REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Ansell, C. (2019). *The Protective State*. Cambridge University Press. READ: pp. 1-46.

**THURSDAY:****REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Collier, S. J., & Lakoff, A. (2021). *The Government of Emergency: Vital Systems, Expertise, and the Politics of Security*. Princeton University Press. READ: Ch. 9: Epilogue: From Nuclear War to Climate Change," 329-340.
- Ansell, C., & Baur, P. (2018). Explaining trends in risk governance: How problem definitions underpin risk regimes. *Risk, hazards & crisis in public policy*, 9(4), 397-430.

**FRIDAY:****REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Hood, C., Rothstein, H., & Baldwin, R. (2001). *The Government of Risk: Understanding Risk Regulation Regimes*. OUP Oxford. READ: Ch. 1: "What are Risk Regimes? Why do they Matter?" pp. 3-19.
- Taeihagh, A. (2021). Governance of artificial intelligence. *Policy and Society*, 40(2), 137-157.