

Economics 4999 Colorado Economy

Fall 2008

Professor Barry W. Poulson

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment

Office: Econ 107

Syllabus

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce students to major policy issues confronting the Colorado economy. The course is divided into three major policy issues: state and local government issues; economic growth, infrastructure and the environment; and human resources. In each of the three sections of the course major issues are identified.

Within each issue area a number of specific questions are suggested. Students should select within each of the three major sections of the course. Readings and important links are suggested to help students explore these questions. Students may also propose an alternative specific question to explore as long as it relates to one of a major issue confronting the Colorado economy.

Course requirements:

Students are required to write three essays, one for each of the questions they have chosen from the three sections of the course. These essays should be between 10 and 15 typewritten pages, double spaced. They should include appropriate documentation including both a bibliography and footnotes or endnotes.

Students who have chosen to write essays on a specific issue will present summaries of their paper in class. The class presentation should focus on the position they have taken on the policy issue and defense of that position. Students should not plan to read their paper. They should plan on about 10 minutes for each presentation. They will be expected to discuss and defend the position they have taken on the question with other class members.

Class attendance and participation are an important part of this course. Students can miss one class in each of the three sections of the course without penalty, additional absences will result in lower grades on that topic.

In addition to the suggested readings on the syllabus students should develop their own bibliography in writing these essays. Additional source materials can be found in the following suggested sources:

Colorado Government Source Materials (see State of Colorado web site)

Colorado State Think Tanks

Independence Institute
Bighorn Center
Bell Policy Center
Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Other State Think Tanks: (see State Policy Network web site)

National Think Tanks

CATO
Heritage Foundation
Brookings Institute
American Enterprise Institute
Urban Institute
Reason Foundation
National Center for Policy Analysis

National Organizations Focused on State Issues

American Legislative Exchange Council
National Conference of State Legislatures
National Association of State Budget Officers
National Governors Conference

National Taxpayer Organizations

Tax Foundation
Americans for Tax Reform
Americans for Prosperity
National Taxpayers Union

Grading

Students will receive three grades representing each section of the course. Each of those grades will be based upon the essay and class attendance and participation. Each of the three grades will be equally weighted in the final grade.

Disclaimer:

This class will be conducted in conformity to all of the rules and procedures which are provided in publications by the University of Colorado

Topical Outline and Assignments

I State and Local Government (Aug 26-Oct 2)

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy

<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies

<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

<http://www.cclponline.org>

State Policy Network

<http://www.spn.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Is It Too Easy To Change the Colorado Constitution?

Lecture Aug. 28

Roundtable Sept. 9

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Constitution (for reference purposes)

<http://i2i.org/Publications/ColoradoConstitution/iscolocn.htm>

Referendum O Citizen-Initiated State Laws

Colorado Legislative Council

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

A Colorado Constitutional Paradox: Initiatives, Referenda, and the Eclipse of Original Intent in County governance.

<http://i2i.org>

Protecting the People's Voice: Identifying the Obstacles to Colorado's Initiative and Referendum Process

<http://i2i.org>

Does Colorado Need a New Fiscal Constitution?

Lectures Sept. 2-4

Roundtable Sept.11

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Constitution (for reference purposes)

<http://i2i.org/Publications/ColoradoConstitution/iscolocn.htm>

Initiative #126

Colorado Legislative Council

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Initiative #126 Changing Education Funding and Ending Future TABOR Rebates
Colorado Legislative Council

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Memorandum: Proposed Initiative Measure 2007-08 #126, Concerning Education Funding

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Henry Sobanet TABOR 101: How Colorado's Budget works

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Legislative Staff Discussion on Referendum C and D

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05taxandfinance.htm

Legislative Staff Report on Referendum C Revenue and Spending

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Referendum #88 Rebate of Money Above referendum C Estimates

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/c6083eca0cdbe3fd87257186007644c5?OpenDocument>

Other Publications

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Linda Gorman and Ben DeGrow, Exposing TABOR Data Games

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Penn Pfiffner, TABOR Benefits Colorado's Citizens

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Robert Bigot, California TABOR Dreamin

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Mark Hillman and Amy Oliver, State Budget Scrutiny Reveals Ref C Shuffle

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Barry W. Poulson, Amendment 23, An \$11 Billion Tax Increase

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Tax and Spending Limits: Theory Analysis and Policy

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, A Constitutional Impasse: Gallagher, Bird/Arveschaugh, TABOR, and Amendment 23

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=441

Barry W. Poulson, Getting the Government that Colorado Citizens Want and are Willing to Pay For

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Californicating Colorado's Economy

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Surveying the Battleground on Tax and Spending limits, Reason Foundation Annual Report on Privatization 2006

<http://www.reason.org/>

Barry W. Poulson Colorado's TABOR Amendment: Recent Trends and Future prospects Americans for Prosperity Foundation

http://www.americansforprosperity.org/includes/filemanager/files/co/pdf_co_paulson0704a.pdf

Lind Gorman, Referendum C: Rewarding the Colorado assembly for Behaving Irresponsibly
<http://i2i.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute Colorado Center on Law and Public Policy
<http://www.cclponline.org>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
www.cbpp.org

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Should Colorado Governments Use the Power of Imminent Domain to Promote Economic Development?

Lecture Sept.16

Roundtable Sept. 18

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Constitution (for reference purposes)
<http://i2i.org/Publications/ColoradoConstitution/iscolocn.htm>

Colorado Legislative Staff 2008 Legislative Issues Government Local Urban Renewal Authorities/Downtown Development Authorities
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Land Use and Property Rights Bills 2007
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Growth and Land Management Legislation 2003
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2003/research/03GROWTHANDLANDMANAGEMENT.htm

Other Publications

Independence Institute, Property Rights Project, Legislation
<http://i2i.org>

Jessica Peck Corey, At the Crossroads of Condemnation
http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_1_2006_b.pdf

Jessica Peck Corry, Tower Tussle: The Colorado Battle Over Extraterritorial Condemnation
<http://i2i.org>

David Loos, One Year Post –Kelo: America’s Response
[Blog Archive » ONE YEAR POST-KELO AMERICA’S RESPONSE.htm](#)

Wayne Laugesen, Unstolen: Boulder Weekly on Property Rights
[Blog Archive » Unstolen Boulder Weekly on Property Rights.htm](#)

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Should Colorado Freeze Property Taxes?

Lecture Sept. 23

Roundtable Sept. 25

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Governor Ritter Unveils Colorado Children’s Amendment, Press Release, 13 March 2007
<http://www.colorado.gov/governor>

2008 Legislative Issues Government Local Taxes/Tax Revenues
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Senate Bill 07-199 Digest of Bills – 2007 Education Public Schools
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

State Tax Rankings Office of State Planning and Budgeting
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Other Publications

Ben DeGrow, A Property Tax Increase By Any Other Name
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Ben DeGrow, Ritter Plan Increases Burden on Taxpayers
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Ben DeGrow, Ritter's Tax Freeze Plan is Melting
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
<http://www.cclponline.org>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute Aiming for the Middle
<http://www.cclponline.org>

Should Colorado Increase the Severance Tax?

Lecture Sept. 23

Roundtable Sept.25

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Initiative 113 Severance Taxes on the Oil and Natural Gas Industry

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Memorandum Proposed Initiative Measure 2007-2008 #113 Concerning Severance Tax

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Initiative 119 Concerning the Allocation of Severance Tax Revenues

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Initiative #120 Use of Severance Tax Revenue for Highways

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Memorandum Proposed Initiative Measure 2007-2008 #120 Concerning Severance Tax – Transportation

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

The Oil and Gas Industry in Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Severance Taxes Colorado Office of State Planning and Budgeting

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Initiative 23 Proposed Initiative Measure 2007-2008 Concerning the Imposition and Distribution of Severance Tax on Oil and Gas

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Memorandum Proposed Initiative Measure 2007-2008 Initiative for severance tax on gas and oil

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

Coloradan's for a Stable Economy

<http://www.facethestate.org>

The Colorado Oil and Gas Severance Tax Break: Eliminating This Subsidy Will Not Affect Consumer Energy Prices

www.sonoran.org

Separating the Severance Tax Issues, gjfreepress

<http://www.gjfreepress.com>

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center

<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
<http://www.cclponline.org>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute Aiming for the Middle
<http://www.cclponline.org>

Are There Opportunities for Budget Reform in Colorado?

Lecture Sept. 30

Roundtable Oct. 2

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Legislative Staff 2007 Fiscal Bills
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Other Publications

Geoffrey Segal, Priority Colorado
<http://i2i.org>

Barry Poulson
Budgeting for Fiscal Discipline (mimeo)

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
<http://www.cclponline.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute Aiming for the Middle
<http://www.cclponline.org>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

II Economic Growth, Infrastructure, and the Environment (Oct 7-Oct 30)

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Office of Economic Development and International Trade
<http://www.state.co.us/oed/index.cfm>

Property Rights Project
<http://www.propertyrightsproject.org/>

Center for the American Dream
http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page_id=10

Office of Smart Growth,
<http://www.dola.state.co.us/smartgrowth/index.htm>

Independence Institute, Growth Policy Studies (various papers)
<http://i2i.org/ResearchAreas/Growth/index.htm>

Bell Policy Center (various papers)
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Smart Growth Issues

Lecture Oct. 7

Roundtable Oct. 9

Suggested Questions

- Should cities impose growth management planning?
- Should Colorado cities plan for urban renewal projects?
- Should local governments use zoning to control economic development?
- Should local governments impose limits on employment growth?
- Should local governments impose taxes and fees to control development?
- Should enterprise zone legislation be modified or repealed

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter's Anti-Poverty FY 2008-09 Budget Request

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Legislative Staff Land Use and Property Rights Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Senate, Growth Legislation 2005

http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25growth%25

Legislative Staff, Government – Local

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Growth and Land Management Legislation 2003

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2003/research/03GROWTHANDLANDMANAGEMENT.htm

Other Publications

Independence Institute, Property Rights Project, Legislation

<http://i2i.org>

Randal Otoole, The Planning Penalty

<http://www.i2i.org/articles/3-2006.pdf>

Stephen Hackman, Creating a Housing Crises

<http://i2i.org>

Jennifer Lang, New urban Renewal in Colorado's Front Range
<http://i2i.org>

Kathleen Cologne The Truth About Transit Oriented Development
<http://i2i.org>

Dick Foster, Fort Carson Growth Double Edged
<http://i2i.org>

Transportation Issues

Lecture Oct 7

Roundtable Oct. 9

Suggested Questions

- Should the state build more toll roads?
- Should the state convert existing highways into toll roads?
- Should the state use peak load pricing on toll roads?
- Should the state rely more heavily on alternative transportation?
- Should the state raise the sales tax on gasoline?
- Should the state privatize RTD?
- Should the state rely on private construction of toll roads?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Legislative Staff Transportation 2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

Randal Otoole Great Rail Disasters
<http://www.i2i.org/articles/1-2004.pdf>

Randall OToole Rail Disasters 2005
<http://i2i.org>

Randal OToole The Mobility Plan for Denver
<http://i2i.org>

Randall OToole The Full Truth about Fastracks

<http://i2i.org>

Randall OToole, Why Rail When Bus Works Better

<http://i2i.org>

Robert Poole, The Train Drain: Brookings Institution on Rail Transit in America

www.brookings.org

Randal O'Toole, America's greatest Invention

<http://i2i.org>

Mark Hillman, Roads Short Changed in State Budget

<http://i2i.org>

Independence Institute, Colorado Transportation Center (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/cad.aspx>

State Policy Network

<http://www.spn.org>

Water Issues

Lecture Oct. 14

Roundtable Oct 16

Suggested Questions

Should the state plan and implement policies for the interbasin transfer of water?

Should the state facilitate smaller regional agreements for water transfers and storage?

Should Colorado reclaim water now flowing to out of state users?

Should the state create a claim on water resources for environmental and recreational uses?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Legislative Staff, Government –Water Legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Water Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government, Water Legislation 2005

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05Water.htm

Colorado Senate, Water Legislation 2005

http://www.coloradosenate.com/mainlist3.php3?subject_search=%25water%25

Referendum A: Revenue Bonds for Water Projects

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2003/ballot/2003BlueBookforInternet2.pdf

Initiative Proposal De-authorization of Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

Natural Resources Law Center

<http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc>

Natural Resources Law Center, Water and Growth in Colorado: A Review of Legal and Policy Issues

<http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/waterandgrowth.htm>

Natural Resources Law Center, Two Decades of Water Law and Policy Reform: A Retrospective and Agenda for the Future

http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/2001_Conference_Report.pdf

J. Craig Green, Let Colorado Water Markets Work

http://www.i2i.org/articles/6_2004.pdf

J. Craig Green, Politicians Duped by Water “Crises”

source materials 4999fall 07\water\Politicians, Media Duped By Water “Crisis”.htm

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers on water issues)

<http://i2i.org/environment.aspx>

Natural Resources Law Center

<http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/nrlc/publications/.htm>

State Policy Network

<http://www.spn.org>

Energy Issues

Lecture Oct. 21

Roundtable Oct. 23

Suggested Questions

Should the state mandate the use of alternative fuels in autos?

“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ to generate electricity?

Should oil and gas operators be required to compensate for impacts caused by exploration?

Should the state subsidize research in alternative fuel technology?

Should the state allow local governments to regulate oil and gas activities?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Governor's Office of Energy

<http://www.colorado.gov/energy>

Colorado Legislative Staff, Energy Legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Mining Oil and Gas Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Energy Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government –Renewable Energy

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Government –Transportation and Energy

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Amendment 37 Renewable Energy Requirement

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2004/ballot/2004BluebookforInternet.PDF

Initiative 2007-2008 #11 Local Regulation of oil and gas

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

Gary A. Young, Corn Ethanol: Right Problem, Poor Solution
<http://i2i.org>

Barry W. Poulson, Decarbonizing Colorado
http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Alex Schroeder, The Application and Administration of Inducement Prizes in
Tecnology
http://www.i2i.org/articles/IP_11_2004.pdf

Randall OToole, The False Panacea of Renewable Energy
<http://i2i.org>

Donald Beezley, Political Price Gauging
<http://i2i.org>

Independence Institute, Technology, Energy and Utilities
<http://i2i.org/teu.aspx>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Environmental Issues

Lecture Oct. 28

Roundtable Oct. 30

Suggested Questions

- Should the state impose auto emission standards?
- Should the state subsidize energy conservation measures?
- Should the state subsidize recycling?
- Should the state impose restrictions on the emission of greenhouse gases?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Legislative Staff Natural Resources Legislation 2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Natural Resources Legislation 2007
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff, Natural Resource Legislation 2005
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2005/research/05NaturalResources.htm

Initiative #35 2007-2008 Greenhouse Gas Emission Standard
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Initiative #17 2007-2008 for Colorado Department of Environmental Conservation
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

J. Craig Green, Use It or Lose It Colorado's Oldest and Best Recycling Programs
<http://i2i.org>

Independence Institute, Environmental Policy Studies (various papers)
<http://i2i.org/environment.aspx>

Beth Skinner, Wasted in Denver Brief on Denver's Contract for Waste Disposal
<http://i2i.org>

Jay Ambrose, Under-Reported Scandal May Kill Again
<http://i2i.org>

Benjamin Powell, The Faulty Economics of Colorado's Climate Change Action Plan: A Peer Review
<http://i2i.org>

IV Human Resources (Nov 4- Dec 11)

Important Links

Colorado Legislative Council
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Office of State Budget and Planning
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Bell Policy Center
<http://www.thebell.org/>

Independence Institute
<http://i2i.org/>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
<http://www.cclponline.org>

The Bighorn Center
<http://www.bighorncenter.org/index.cfm>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org/publications>

Education Issues

Lecture Nov. 4

Roundtable Nov. 6

Suggested Questions

Should school districts be required to allocate 65% of operational expenditures to the classroom?

Should school choice be expanded through voucher?

“ “ “ “ “ “ charter schools?

Should tax credits be expanded for donations and expenditures for private schools

Should the state implement more rigorous testing in the schools?

Should minimum requirements be imposed for high school graduation?

Should the voucher program in higher education be increased and expanded to all post secondary schools?

Should services in education be privatized or contracted out?

Should community colleges and universities be privatized?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter's Anti-Poverty FY 2008-09 Budget Request

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Legislative Council K-12 Education legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Higher Education legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff K-12 Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Higher Education Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff High School Graduation Requirement Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff School Choice Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff School Finance Act 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Government –Education

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff School Finance in Colorado

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Colorado Public School Accountability

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Amendment 39, School District Spending Requirements

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/570ef8fde282b79d87257168005fe3d7?OpenDocument>

Colorado Legislative Staff, How Colorado Compares in K-12 Funding

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/schfin/k-12Funding0100.pdf

Legislative Staff K-12 Student Assessments

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/2000/research/00K-12studentassessment.htm

Other Publications

Benjamin DeGrow, A Second Look at K-12 Cash: Updating the Facts about Per Pupil Spending in Colorado

<http://www.i2i.org>

Krista Kafer A Chronology of School Choice in the U.S.

<http://www.i2i.org>

Benjamin DeGrow Denver's ProComp and Teacher Compensation Reform in Colorado

<http://www.i2i.org>

Stevn Pittz Bad Choices Bring Bad Times Analyzing the NCEE's 2006 Report

<http://www.i2i.org>

Benjamin De Grow, Counting the Cash for Kids

<http://www.i2i.org>

End Compulsory Schooling

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=878

Barry W. Poulson, The Common School Movement in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, A Good Deal for Higher Ed Students, and for Taxpayers

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Solving Colorado's Education Finance Problem

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Post Secondary Education in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Barry W. Poulson, Reforming Higher Education in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Voucher and Tax Credit Programs in the Nation

http://www.i2i.org/main/page.php?page_id=111

Pam Benigno, Offer Greater School Choice in Colorado

<http://www.i2i.org>

Ben De Grow, Right Side Wrong Reasons

<http://www.i2i.org>

Jay Ambrose, School Days

<http://www.i2i.org>

Ben Degrow, Romanoff Task Force Should Hear From Wide Range of Voices

<http://www.i2i.org>

The Bighorn Center, K-12 Education.

<http://www.bighorncenter.org/index.cfm>

Headfirst, Who's Controlling Colorado's Schools?
<http://www.headfirstcolorado.org/index.php>

The Bell Center, Colorado Issues Education (various papers)
http://thebell.org/ed_op.html

Coloradokids, A Call for High School Reform
<http://www.coloradokids.org/PDF%20files/A%20Call%20for%20High%20School%20Reform.pdf>

State Policy Network Education
<http://www.spn.org/publications>

Independence Institute, Education Policy Center (various papers)
<http://i2i.org/education.aspx>

Health Care Issues

Lecture Nov. 11

Roundtable Nov. 13

Suggested Essay Topics

- Should SCHIP be reauthorized?
- Should the state privatize Medicaid?
 - “ “ “ use health savings accounts in Medicaid?
 - “ “ “ “ HMOs “ “ ?
- Should the state tighten eligibility for Medicaid?
 - “ “ “ “ auditing of Medicaid bills for fraud and errors?
- Should the state mandate that employers offer health insurance to employees?
- Should the state join other states in purchasing prescription drugs?
 - “ “ “ mandate a list of approved drugs for use in Medicaid?
- Should the state adopt a single payer system?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter's Anti-Poverty FY 2008-09 Budget Request
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Legislative Council Health Care Legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Public Health Legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Health Care Reform Bills 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Rural Health Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Children's health bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff health Care Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Health Insurance legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Public Health Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Colorado Health Care Resource Book 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Issue Brief Prescription Drugs 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

Barry W. Poulson, Privatizing Medicaid in Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/author.php?author_id=90

Linda Gorman, Legislative Briefing

<http://www.i2i.org>

Linda Gorman, Amendment 35, Taxing Tobacco Users to Fund Special Interests

<http://www.i2i.org>

Ari Armstrong, Health Insurance Mandates Inflate Health Costs

<http://www.i2i.org>

Ari Armstrong, What's Right With Colorado Health Care

<http://www.i2i.org>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute Schip Rauthorization

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Bell Policy Center, Colorado Issues Health (various papers)

<http://www.thebell.org/health.html>

Health Care for All Colorado

<http://www.healthcareforallcolorado.org/>

State Policy Network Medicaid

<http://www.spn.org/publications>

Independence Institute, Center for Health Care Policy (various papers)

<http://i2i.org/healthcarecenter.aspx>

National Center for Policy Analysis

<http://NCPA.org>

Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heritage.org>

CATO Foundation

<http://www.cato.org>

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

<http://cohealthinitiative.org>

Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved

<http://www.coloradohealth.org>

Colorado Trust

<http://www.coloradotrust.org>

Welfare Issues

Suggested Questions

Should the state impose stricter work requirements for welfare recipients?

“ “ “ “ “ eligibility requirements for “ “?

“ “ “ “ “ education and training requirements “?

“ “ “ privatize welfare programs?

“ “ impose stricter requirements for food stamps ?

Suggested readings

Government Publications

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter's Anti-Poverty FY 2008-09 Budget Request

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Legislative Council Human Services Bills 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Legislative Staff Family Related Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Department of Human Resources

<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Administration for Children and Families

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/index.html>

Other Publications

Welfare Reform: Next Steps for Colorado

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=874

Bobbi Whitlock, Welfare Benefits: Puerto Rico's Lesson For Colorado

<http://i2i.org>

The Urban Institute, Recent Changes in Colorado Welfare and Work, Child Care, and Child Welfare Systems

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/CO_Update.pdf

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Independence Institute, Welfare Reform papers

<http://i2i.org>

Bell Policy Center, Economic Opportunity

http://thebell.org/eco_op.html

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Criminal Justice and Corrections Issues

Lecture Nov. 18

Roundtable Nov. 20

Suggested Questions

- Should the state expand the privatization of prisons?
- Should sentencing laws be modified?
- Should the parole system be modified?
- Should the state offer alternative education and training programs to prisoners and parolees?
- Should the state privatize “ “ “ “ “ “ and parolees ?
- Should drug sentencing laws be changed?
- Should the state eliminate the death penalty?
- Should sentencing laws be linked to age and sex?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter’s Anti-Poverty FY 2008-09 Budget Request

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter’s FY 2008-09 Crime Prevention and Recidivism Reduction Package

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, A Fact Sheet Recidivism

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Legislative Council Criminal Justice Bills 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Courts Bills 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Corrections Bills 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Corrections Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Criminal Justice Legislation 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Criminal Justice

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Corrections

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Overview of Colorado Adult Criminal Justice System

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Criminal Justice Resource Page (various papers)

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/Scrollpages/CrimIssScroll.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff , Criminal Justice Briefs

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/Scrollpages/CrimPubScroll.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Criminal Justice Research Memoranda

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/Scrollpages/CrimResearchScroll.htm

Other Publications

Getting Smart on Crime: Time to Reform Colorado's Drug Offense Sentencing Policies

<http://www.i2i.org>

Nullifying the Probationary Period

<http://www.i2i.org>

Refining Colorado's Criminal Code

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=610

Extreme Drug Law Tramples Bill of Rights

http://www.i2i.org/main/article.php?article_id=663

Mike Krause, Prison Spending In Colorado
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Breaking Ranks
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Throwing Away Money
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Colorado's Prison spending Meltdown
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Prison Costs Are Running Out of Control
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Take the F Word Out
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, When Policies Go to Pot
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Pot Enforcement a Waste of Resources
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Medical Marijuana is a state's Rights Issue
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, Analyze This: Remodeling Drug Policy
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause and Chelsea Johnson, How Many Laws Did You Break This Weekend
<http://i2i.org>

Mike Krause, New Crimes Mean More Criminals
<http://i2i.org>

Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, (various papers)
<http://www.ccjrc.org/index.html>

David Boyum and Peter Reuter, An Analytical Assessment of U.S. Drug Policy
http://www.aei.org/books/bookID.812.filter.all/book_detail.asp

Independence Institute, (Various papers on reforming the criminal justice and penal system)

<http://www.i2i.org/>

State Policy Network

<http://www.spn.org>

Labor Issues

Lecture Dec. 2

Roundtable Dec. 4

Suggested Questions

Should the state impose a higher minimum wage?
Should workers have the right to a secret ballot to determine union representation?
Should public employees have the right to strike
Should Colorado enact a Right to work Law?
Should Colorado prohibit discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity in awarding government contracts?
Should Colorado determine the admission of students to institutions of higher education based on race and ethnicity?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Governor Ritter's Anti-Poverty FY 2008-09 Budget Request

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/govnr_dir/ospb/index.html

Colorado Legislative Council Employment Related Legislation 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Initiative #123 2007-2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Proposed Initiative Measure 2007-2008 #123

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Initiative #124 2007-2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Proposed Initiative Measure #124 2007-2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Proposed Initiative Measure #82 2007-2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Amendment 46 2007-2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Amendment 47 2007-2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council Amendment 49 2007-2008
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council All-Union Agreement Approval Vote
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Council State Minimum Wage
http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Other Publications

Benjamin DeGrow The Case for Unionizing State Government Unravels
<http://i2i.org>

Benjamin DeGrow A Shaky Foundation, A Potential Threat: Analyzing Colorado State Union “Employee Partnerships”
<http://i2i.org>

Jessica Peck Corry A Color Scheme: Questions Raised by Accounting and Business Practices Within the University of Colorado at Boulder’s Multi-million Dollar Diversity Administration
<http://i2i.org>

Linda Gorman, What If---Amendment 42 Passes
<http://www.i2i.org/articles/2006-I.doc>

Ben DeGrow, HB 1072: Empowering Union Leaders, Not Workers
<http://i2i.org>

Ben DeGrow, A Double Victory for Teacher’s Rights
<http://i2i.org>

Ari Armstrong, Minimum Wage Often Transfers Wealth Away From the Poor
<http://i2i.org>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>

Heritage Foundation
<http://www.heritage.org>

CATO Foundation
<http://www.cato.org>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
<http://www.cclponline.org>

Independence Institute Fiscal Policy Center
<http://i2i.org/fiscalpolicycenter.aspx>

Bighorn Center, Budget Policy
<http://www.coloradobudget.com/>

Bell Policy Center Fiscal Studies
<http://www.thebell.org/index.html>

Immigration Issues

Lecture Dec. 9

Roundtable Dec. 11

Suggested Questions

- Should the state restrict government services to illegal immigrants?
- Should the state enforce immigration laws?
- Should illegal immigrants be able to attend colleges and universities in Colorado?
- Should regulations on hiring illegal immigrants be tightened?
- Should illegal immigrants be incarcerated?
- Should Colorado support a guest worker program?
- Should illegal immigrants be granted amnesty?
- Should illegal immigrants be given a path to citizenship?

Suggested Readings

Government Publications

Colorado Legislative Council Immigration Bills 2008

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff Immigration Bills 2007

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Colorado Legislative Staff, Immigration in Colorado: State Impact and Recent Legislation

http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/leg_dir/lcsstaff/StaffInfo/geninfo.htm

Referendum #55 Restrictions on Government Services to Illegal Immigrants

<http://www.leg.state.co.us/lcs/0506initrefr.nsf/89fb842d0401c52087256cbc00650696/597b2322acb205618725718600795817?OpenDocument>

Other Publications

Illegal Aliens Attending Public Institutions of Higher Education

<http://www.i2i.org>

Center for Immigration Studies

<http://www.cis.org/>

State and Local Authority to Enforce Immigration Law

<http://www.cis.org/>

Illegal Immigration

<http://www.cis.org/topics/illegalimmigraion.html>

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

<http://www.cclponline.org>

Immigration's Costs and Benefits

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB115100948305787940.html>

U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform

<http://www.utexas.edu/lbj/uscir/reports.html>

Heritage Foundation

<http://www.heritage.org>

CATO Foundation

<http://www.cato.org>

State Policy Network
<http://www.spn.org>