

Policy Discussions

Throughout the semester, we will look at applications of the theories discussed in class to current policy issues. To enhance the discussion of these topics, students will be divided into groups to lead discussions on some of these topics. Each student will participate in one such group during the semester. The topics and group assignments are listed below.

These policy discussions are intended to give you experience using the theories that we discuss in class in an applied setting. Each group will give a short 15-20 minute presentation on their topic. The presentation should begin by introducing the topic and key issues. I've listed a few key questions for each topic below. Each presentation should conclude with suggestions for how policy should be changed (if at all). The class will then continue with a general discussion of the proposals presented. Members of each of the groups assigned to the topic will be expected to take a lead role in the discussion. I would encourage each group to meet with me about one week prior to their assigned date to discuss their goals for the class.

Group assignments

February 16: Patent policy reform

Nicholas Mercorelli
Jason Smith

key questions:

- What are the concerns with current patent law?
- What options for reform are currently being considered?
- What would you recommend?

March 17: The role of universities in research

Kelly Stevens
Yang Ye

key questions

- How has the role of university research changed over time?
- How has public policy influenced this change?
- What is the appropriate role for universities in a national innovation system?

April 21: Technology and globalization

Cong Feng
Carli Flynn
Yannek Smith

key questions

- In what ways has globalization changed the science and technology workforce?
- How are different groups of workers affected by these changes?
- Should public policy be used to address this issue? If so, how?