

PSCI 2401A
Public Affairs Analysis

Fridays 8:35-10:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Stephen L. Harris
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Office Hours: Thursday 9:30 - 11:30
Friday 10:40 - 12:00
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Course Description and Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the principal elements of public policy analysis and decision-making. The class will be structured as a seminar and focus on the relevant theoretical literature and models of policy analysis and decision-making. In the written assignments students will be required to apply the theory to a substantive policy area.

Upon completing the course students will hopefully:

- Have a broad perspective of the factors that contribute to the development of public policy;
- Understand the role of interests – both public and particularistic – on state decision-makers;
- Develop the skills to analyze the rationale for public policies and policy decisions.

Assessment

There will be four components considered for the final grade: (i) Group participation --15 percent; (ii) two 2 page essays (single-spaced) which apply the literature to a current policy issue. These essays are not intended to be “research papers” but merely to provide students the opportunity to exercise their understanding of the literature – 30 percent; (iii) a policy analysis paper –25 percent; and, one in class exam – 30 percent.

Summary of Evaluation

- Class Participation 15 percent
 - Two Short Essays (2 single spaced pages each) @ 10 percent 30 percent
 - Policy Analysis Paper 25 percent
 - Final Exam (will be scheduled during the formal exam sched) 30 percent
- 100

The Class Participation Component:

Students are required to complete all the readings each week prior to each group meeting and to come to the class **prepared** to discuss them. **This means being able to present your assessment of the readings**, responding to questions, asking questions and **participating fully** in each week's discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Grading will be based on the quality of student interventions not on the quantity of interventions.

Two Page Essay Component

Students will apply the literature to current public policy issues. This will provide students with an opportunity to test their understanding of the reading material. Each essay should reflect the students' filtering of the readings as applied to the policy issue. *That is to say, students should push a current policy issue through a theoretical lens.* It is advised that students read the national /international newspapers on a regular basis – i.e., *G & M, National Post, Financial Times, New York Times, International Herald Tribune, Guardian, The Economist* – so that they can be sure they are on top of current issues. The first essay will be due on **October 3rd**; the second will be due **October 24th**. Each essay will count for 10 percent of the final grade.

Policy Analysis Paper Component

The **policy analysis paper component** will be about 15 pages in length (double-spaced). The paper shall apply theory to deal with a policy issue of your choice – policy development or analysis of a policy.

Suggested Topics for Policy Analysis Paper

- Reforming Health Care in Canada
- Child Care in Canada: Cash Transfers or Subsidized Day Care Spaces
- Kyoto or Made in Canada Policy for Global Warming (Liberal or Conservative agenda?)
- Canadian Foreign Policy and the war on terror
- How has Political Ideology Influenced Public Policy in Canada?
- Canada's Cultural Policy: Is there one? Should there be one?
- Where does power lie when it come to policy making?
- Has NAFTA been positive or negative for the economic destiny of Canadians?
- How has the globalization of economics and commerce influenced Canadian policy (you choose the substantive policy area).
- The regulation of financial markets in the globalized world.
- Why does Canada perform so poorly in global sports competition?
- Compare the economic or social policies of the Conservatives and Liberals in Canada (critique policy or write a manifesto for one of the parties.
- What academic disciplines have been most influential in shaping policy in (you choose the substantive field)?
- State support for post-secondary education. Is it adequate?

There should be clear reflection in the paper of the relevant theoretical material covered in the course. Even though this is a case study all citations should be precise -- including those from the Internet. While you may use the Internet to assist your research, the focus shall be on legitimate scholarly literature. *This paper should be original work for this course alone.* Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be penalized severely.

Evaluation Criteria for Policy Analysis Paper: Understanding of the theoretical literature; Use of primary sources; Originality and/or quality of the analysis; Strength and synthesis of arguments; Structure of the paper; quality of writing; and, **accuracy of citations – in its broadest interpretation]**

The instructor/TA shall approve the topic for Policy Analysis Paper no later than October 3rd. Approval requires a one page outline – in “bullet” form -- not an essay.

The case study paper is due on November 28th .

All deadlines are firm. No extensions. No e-mail submissions except for the case study outline which must be submitted as an e-mail attachment. Late submissions will be penalized by one full grade for each day the assignment is late. Thus an A paper becomes a B paper. So there is not much room to dither. This applies to both the short essay and the case study.

Exams

The **in-class exam** will consist of one essay question that will give the students an opportunity to integrate all of the material of this course. **The in-class exam will be on .**

Course Materials

The following text will be available in the Carleton University Bookstore:

- Michael Howlett and M. Ramesh, *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* (Second Edition)
- The course pack can be purchased at Haven Books on Sunnyside @ Seneca
- Course Pack (Readings with *)
- Instructors Slides will be posted on the course web site (WEB CT) prior to each Friday class so there will be no need to copy slides in class.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Sept 5

Course Introduction and Overview

- Objectives of the course
- What is public policy?
- Systematizing ideas and explanations
- Policy in developed and developing countries

Sept 12

Introduction to Policy Analysis

Howlett and Ramesh, *Studying Public Policy*

- Chapter One, "Policy Science and Policy Cycles" (2 - 19)
- Chapter Two, "Approaches to Public Policy," (20 - 49)

*James G. March, *A Primer on Decision Making: How Decisions Happen*
Chapter One, "Limited Rationality" (1 - 56)

Nov 14 Policy Implementation and Evaluation

Howlett and Ramesh, *Studying Public Policy*

- Chapter Eight, "Policy Implementation: Policy Design and Implementation Styles," (185 - 206)
- Chapter Nine, Policy Evaluation:

Nov 21 Catch-up Class

Nov 28 Review Policy Analysis Paper Due

Case Study Paper Due

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities 9500 University Drive) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, for April examinations."

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.