

PSCI 3402A
Canadian Public Policy
Wednesdays 8:35-11:25 – 413SA

Instructor – Cheryl Collier

Loeb B643

Office Hours – Wednesdays 11:35 – 12:35 or by appointment

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This course explores Canadian public policy through the lens of “policy communities” and “policy networks” and specifically examines the roles that institutions, interests and ideas play in policy formation, implementation and evaluation in the Canadian context. Students will be introduced to the main theories of public policy analysis and will then learn how to apply the policy community/network approach to Canadian public policy at different stages of the policy process. Since it is easiest to understand the policy community/network approach through practical application, the second half of the course will focus entirely on case study analysis in four main Canadian policy fields: economic policy, social/welfare policy, social/family policy and health policy. Students will also produce a Memorandum to Cabinet policy paper to further their practical understanding of Canadian policy in these fields.

Participation in class is **strongly** encouraged. Key course concepts and assignments will be explained in detail during class discussions.

Please come prepared for class by reading the majority of the required readings that are assigned each week before attending lectures. It is expected that each student will have read all of the required readings to be adequately prepared for the final exam. Supplemental readings are listed to provide further background reading and for additional research purposes.

Course Requirements and Evaluation –

1. Critical Reading Assignment – 20% **Due February 15**
2. Memorandum to Cabinet Research Paper - 40% **Due March 22**
****NB****MC paper is worth 35% and 5% is for paper outlines handed to the instructor **no later than March 1**. Students who fail to hand in an outline will lose 5% from their final paper grade.
3. Final Exam – 40% (to be scheduled between April 10 and 29)

******Note that all assignments must be completed and submitted in order to receive a credit for this course and must be handed directly to the instructor on or before the due date indicated.**

Required Text – (available for purchase in the bookstore)

Stephen Brooks and Lydia Miljan (2003) *Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction (4th edition)*, Oxford University Press: Don Mills.

Supplemental Text - (recommended and available for purchase in the bookstore)

Leslie A. Pal (2006) *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times (3rd edition)*, Thomson Nelson: Toronto.

***Note that some required and supplemental readings (articles) will be on reserve in the library and in the Political Science Resource Room (6th floor, C Tower, Loeb Building). Other required and supplemental readings are available online (the web addresses are listed in such cases).

Course Assignment Details -

1. Critical Reading Assignment (20%) - Students will write a critical analysis of three different readings from the list of required or recommended readings below. Each of the three readings must come from a different week. Students will comment on how the readings fit together to help us understand the themes of the course and will link each reading to the particular topic discussed in class during the week that it was assigned. Students can choose readings from weeks Jan.11 – Feb. 8 only. Length - 7-10 pages. Detailed instructions will be distributed in class. **Due in class, February 15.**

2. Memorandum to Cabinet Research Paper (40% - 35% and outline worth 5%) - Students will write a 10-15 page research paper on a specific Canadian public policy (federal or provincial level) from one of the four policy fields we are covering in class (Economic, Social, Social/Family, or Health) in the form of a Memorandum to Cabinet. Templates on how to construct a Memorandum to Cabinet can be found at http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/default.asp?Language=E&Page=Publications&doc=mc/mc_e.htm. Be sure to follow the template for “Memorandum to Cabinet (Ministerial Recommendations)” but ignore the page limit noted in that PCO document. Detailed instructions will be discussed in class on January 18 and a detailed outline of this assignment will be distributed that day. Students are **STRONGLY** urged to attend this class. **Outlines** for this paper are to be approved by the instructor **no later than March 1** and are worth 5% of the final grade. Students who do not hand in outlines will forfeit this 5% from the total grade of the MC research paper. **Final MC Research Papers are due in class, March 22.**

3. Final Exam (40%) - To be held during the scheduled exam period (April 10-29, 2006). 3 hours, essay question format. Students will answer 3 questions drawn from a list of 6 distributed at the last scheduled class.

Submission of Work and Late Policy - All assignments are due **in class** at the **beginning** of lecture and must be handed directly to the instructor. Faxed or emailed

assignments will not be accepted. Overdue assignments will lose one grade point per day (including weekends - for example from B to B-). Extensions are rare and **only** granted upon presentation of a medical certificate. Late assignments should be deposited in the Political Science Drop Box, **not** my personal mailbox. Note that the Political Science Drop Box is emptied every day at 4pm. Assignments deposited after 4pm will receive a date stamp for the following day. **All written work must be handed in by April 7, 2006.**

Return of Work – Assignment 1 and 2a (outline) will be returned in class once they have been graded. Assignment 2b (MC paper) may be returned in class but most likely will be returned at the final exam. Students who wish to have their assignments returned by mail must attach a self-addressed, stamped envelope to their assignments upon submission.

*****All work must be the original work of the student. Plagiarism is an academic offence and will not be tolerated. Also remember that it is unacceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.

Lecture and Reading Schedule -

January 4 **Introduction and overview of the course**
What is Public Policy?

January 11 **Theories of Public Policy**
Readings – Brooks Chapter 1; Pal Chapter 1.

Recommended - Richard Simeon (1976) "Studying Public Policy," *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 9: 548-580 available through <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b1004129> .

Policy Communities and the Roles of Institutions, Ideas and Interests

January 18 **Policy Communities and Policy Networks**

*****MC RESEARCH PAPER INSTRUCTIONS DISCUSSED TODAY*****

Readings – Pal Chapter 6; Michael Howlett (2002) "Do Networks Matter? Linking Policy Network Structure to Policy Outcomes: Evidence from Four Canadian Policy Sectors 1990-2000," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 35:2, 235-267 available through <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b1004129> .

Recommended - William Coleman and Grace Skogstad (1990) *Policy Communities and Public Policy in Canada: A Structural Approach*, Copp Clark Pitman: Mississauga;

Michael Atkinson and William Coleman (1996) "Policy Networks, Policy Communities, and the Problems of Governance," in L. Dobuzinskis et al. *Policy Studies in Canada: The State of the Art*, 193-218.

January 25 The Role of Institutions and Historical Institutionalism

Readings – Paul Pierson (2000) "Increasing Returns, Path Dependence, and the Study of Politics," in *American Political Science Review*, 94, 2, June 2000, 251-267 available through <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b1001034> ; Peter Hall and Rosemary Taylor (1996) "Political Science and the Three New Institutionalisms," in *Political Studies*, XLIV, 936-957 available through <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b1003917> .

Recommended - Janet Hiebert (1999) "Parliament, Courts and Rights: Sharing the responsibility for Interpreting the Charter," in James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon eds. *Canadian Politics (3rd edition)*, Broadview Press: Toronto, 185-208.

February 1 The Roles of Ideas and Interests and the Canadian Context of Policy Definition/Development

******OUTLINES FOR MC RESEARCH PAPER MUST BE HANDED IN BY TODAY******

Readings - Brooks Chapter 3; Pal Chapter 3.

Recommended - Rodney Haddow (1999) "Interest Representation and the Canadian State: From Group Politics to Policy Communities," in James Bickerton and Alain Gagnon eds. *Canadian Politics (3rd edition)*, Broadview Press: Toronto, 501-522.

Inside the Policy Process

February 8 Policy Instruments and Implementation

Readings – Brooks Chapter 4; Pal Chapter 4

Recommended - Pal Chapter 5.

February 15 Evaluating Outcomes

******CRITICAL READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE TODAY******

Readings – Pal Chapter 7.

Recommended - S.N. Soroka and C. Wlezien (2004) Opinion Representation and Policy Feedback: Canada in Comparative Perspective," *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 27:3, 531-559 available through <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b1004129> .

WINTER BREAK FEBRUARY 20-24, NO CLASSES.

Policy Fields and Case Analyses

March 1 Economic Policy

Readings – Brooks Chapter 5; Thomas Courchene (2002) “Half-Way Home: Canada’s Remarkable Fiscal Turnaround and the Paul Martin Legacy,” *Policy Matters*, Institute for Research in Public Policy (IRPP), July 2002, 3:8, 1-44 available through www.irpp.org (publications link).

Recommended - David A. Dodge (1998) “Reflections on the Role of Fiscal Policy: the Doug Purvis Memorial Lecture,” *Canadian Public Policy*, 24:3, September 1998, 275-289 available through <http://economics.ca/cpp/en/archive.php> .

March 8 Social Policy

Readings - Brooks Chapter 6; Sylvia Bashevkin (2002) *Welfare Hot Buttons: Women, Work, and Social Policy Reform*, University of Toronto Press: Toronto, Chapters 2, 4 and 5.

Recommended - Stephen Laurent and Francois Vaillencourt (2004) “Federal-Provincial Transfers for Social Programs in Canada: Their Status in May 2004, IRPP Working Paper Series no. 2004-07, 1-20, available through www.irpp.org (publications link).

March 15 Social/Family Policy

Readings - Brooks Chapter 8; Rebecca Kelley Scherer (2001) “Federal Child Care Policy Development From World War II to 2000,” in Susan Prentice ed. *Changing Child Care: Five Decades of Child Care Advocacy & Policy in Canada*,” Fernwood: Halifax, 187-200.

Recommended - Linda White (2001) “Child Care, Women’s Labour Market Participation and Labour Market Policy Effectiveness in Canada,” in *Policy Options* 27:4, December 2001, 385-405 available through www.irpp.org (publications link).

March 22 Health Care I: The Big Picture

*****MC RESEARCH PAPERS DUE*****

Readings - Brooks Chapter 7; Thomas Courchene (2003) “Medicare as a Moral Enterprise: the Romanow and Kirby Perspectives,” in *Policy Matters*, 4:1, 1-20 available through www.irpp.org (publications link).

Recommended - Dennis Raphael (2003) "Addressing the Social Determinants of Health in Canada: Bridging the Gap Between Research Findings and Public Policy," in *Policy Options*, March 2003, 34-40 available through www.irpp.org (publications link).

March 29 Health Care II: Costs

*****EXAM PREP AND LIST OF POSSIBLE ESSAY QUESTIONS*****

Readings - Janice MacKinnon (2004) "The Arithmetic of Health Care," *Policy Matters*, 5:3, 1-28 available through www.irpp.org (publications link); Boris Kralj (2001) "Physician Distribution and Physician Shortage Intensity in Ontario," *Canadian Public Policy* 27:2, June 2001, 167-178 available through <http://economics.ca/cpp/en/archive.php> .

Recommended - Michael J. Kirby and Wilbert Keon (2004) "Why Competition is Essential in the Delivery of Publicly Funded Health Care Services," in *Policy Matters*, 5:8, September 2004, 1-32 available through www.irpp.org (publications link).

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **November 7th, 2005** for fall and fall/winter term courses, and **March 10, 2006** for winter term courses.

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: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

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.*

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.