PSCI 3405A:  
Comparative Public Policy

Instructor:  
Dr. Vandna Bhatia

Contact:  
C678 Loeb Building  
520-2600, ext. 2286  
vbhatia@connect.carleton.ca

Office Hours:  
Mondays, 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays, 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

SEMINARS

Thursdays, 11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.  
Southam Hall 413

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why do policies dealing with issues such as health care, immigration and the environment differ across wealthy nations?  What role do factors such as political culture, political institutions and organized interests have in explaining these differences?  The objective of this course is to introduce students to the cross-national study of public policies in the industrialized democracies of North America, Europe and East Asia. The first third of the course will provide an overview of theoretical frameworks for understanding public policy and its development. The remainder of the course will examine specific policy issues across several nations.

At the end of the course, students should be:

- familiar with broad theoretical concepts explaining policy development;
- able to apply these concepts to the analysis of practical policy problems;
- able to compare and contrast differences and similarities across a range of policy issue areas and across nations;
- able to identify patterns of policy development across different issue areas and across nations.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC REGULATIONS

Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by academic and conduct regulations of Carleton University. Undergraduate students should consult the Academic Regulations listed in the Undergraduate Calendar, in particular those dealing with Instructional Offenses and Offenses of Conduct (sections 14 and 15). Additional information regarding academic conduct and accommodations is attached to this syllabus.

EVALUATION

Please note that all assignments are due at the beginning of class, and must be submitted directly to the instructor, unless alternative arrangements have been made in advance. Faxed or electronic copies will not be accepted. All papers should conform to the Essay Style Guide of the Department of Political Science, or an alternative standardized format (e.g., APA or MLA).
Grading will be based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three short papers @ 25% each</td>
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<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 4 to 5 pages, double spaced; 1000 - 1250 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly group presentations</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<td>In-class participation, attendance</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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Late papers will be penalized at 2/25 per day, to a maximum of 10/25. Papers will not be accepted after 5 days (including weekends) past the due date. Additional details and guidelines will be distributed in class. Every effort will be made to return papers one week after the due date.

**ACADEMIC RESOURCES**

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<tr>
<th>If A Student Needs Assistance With...</th>
<th>Refer To...</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>• understanding academic rules and regulations</td>
<td>Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)</td>
<td>302 Tory Building 520-7850 <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>• choosing/changing major</td>
<td>Paul Menton Centre</td>
<td>500 University Centre 520-6608; <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a></td>
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<td>• finding a tutor</td>
<td>Writing Tutorial Service</td>
<td>229 Paterson Hall 520-6632; <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>• academic planning guided by an Academic Advisor</td>
<td>Math Tutorial</td>
<td><a href="http://www.math.carleton.ca/student">www.math.carleton.ca/student</a></td>
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<td>• polishing study skills</td>
<td>Peer Assisted Study Sessions</td>
<td>Centre for Initiatives in Education 520-2600 Ext. 1523; <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/cie">www.carleton.ca/cie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• a learning disability</td>
<td>International Student Advisory</td>
<td>501 University Centre 520-6600; <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/isa">www.carleton.ca/isa</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>• developing writing skills</td>
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<td>• assistance with math</td>
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<td>• peer assisted tutoring for pre-identified, notoriously difficult courses</td>
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<td>• polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• research assistance</td>
<td>Staff at MacOdrum Library reference desk</td>
<td>520-2735; <a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca">www.library.carleton.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

2) Course reading package
   - Most readings are also available electronically (as indicated) and available online through the University library system. Those not available electronically are available through the Library’s course reserves.
Supplementary Readings:

The following textbooks are suggested for supplementary reading. They are recommended particularly for students who have no familiarity with public policy. They are available on reserve at MacOdrum. Additional supplementary readings, as noted in the weekly readings, are available on reserve at MacOdrum or through the instructor.


WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS:

[1/12] January 4: Theories of Public Policy

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 1: The Policy Process (pp. 9-30), and Chapter 2: Theories of Policy Making (pp. 31-45).

Supplementary Readings:
- Howlett & Ramesh, Chapters 1: Policy Science and Policy Cycles (pp. 2-19); Chapter 2: Approaches to Public Policy (pp. 20-48); Chapter 3: Policy Actors and Institutions (pp. 52-85).


Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 3: Political and Economic Dynamics in Industrialized Countries (pp. 46-75);

Supplementary Readings:

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 4: The Policy Making Context (pp. 76-91)

Supplementary Readings:
- European Journal of Political Research, 43(7-8): articles about Canada, France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and United States. [available electronically]


Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 6 (pp. 144-177)

Supplementary Readings:

[5/12] February 1: Political Institutions and Pension Reform

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 9: Social Policy (pp. 243-276)

Supplementary Readings:


**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


[7/12] February 15: Policy Regimes and Health Care Systems

**Required Readings:**

• Adolino & Blake, Chapter 8: Health Care Policy (pp. 208-242)


**Supplementary Readings:**


Required Readings:
• Freeman R. (2001). HIV and the blood supply in the United Kingdom: professionalization and pragmatism. In M. Bovens et al., Chapter 30, pp. 567-590

Supplementary Readings:

[9/12] March 8: Familialism, Feminism and Family Policy

Required Readings:

Supplementary Readings:
March 15: Nationality Discourses in Immigration Policy

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 5: Immigration Policy (pp. 99-143)

Supplementary Readings:

March 22: Discourse, Science and Stem Cell Policy

Required Readings:

Supplementary Readings:

**Required Readings:**
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 11 (pp. 317-359)

**Supplementary Readings:**

Updated: 21.11.06