PSCI 6407A
Public Policy: Theory and Analysis

Instructor: Vandna Bhatia
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Office Hours: Thursdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
             or by appointment

Seminars:
Time: Thursdays, 0835 to 1125
Location: Loeb C665

Course Description and Learning Outcomes:
In this course we will a range of theoretical approaches for understanding and analyzing public policy. The objectives of the course are twofold. The first is to prepare students in the foundations of public policy theories – their basic concepts, constructs, and contributions to the field. The second is to develop critical analytic skills in comparing the different approaches, assessing their strengths, weaknesses, and explanatory power, and applying them to specific policy issues or situations. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify the core components and assumptions of different theoretical approaches;
- Synthesize, analyze and compare these approaches;
- Apply these concepts to the analysis of practical policy problems.

The course will be structured around weekly discussions of required readings. Each week, a different student will facilitate the discussion, beginning with a brief synthesis of the assigned readings. Guidelines for facilitating discussions will be provided in class. All students are expected to come prepared to actively participate in discussions.

Evaluation and Grading:
1) Seminar participation and discussion: 10%
   Students will be evaluated on their participation in discussions and presentations of the relevant readings each week. Evaluation parameters for participation are included at the end of this syllabus. To facilitate discussion, each student is expected to submit two questions for discussion based upon the readings, prior to upcoming the class. Questions should make specific reference to the readings and should not be generic. Questions are to be posted in advance of the seminar, to the WebCT discussion list, and no later than Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m.

2) Presentations: 15%
   Seminar presentations are to be based on two readings from a given week. Weeks for presentations will be allocated at the beginning of the term. Students are expected to do a minimum of three presentations. Presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes, they should focus on key concepts, claims, issues etc, raised by the readings, and raise/pose questions for seminar discussions.

3) Short Papers: 3 x 25% = 75%
Each paper should take the form of critical discussion of a theme or hypothesis related to the readings from one week (excluding case studies). Papers should be handed in within two weeks of the class discussion of the topic. These essays are meant to be critical reviews of the work and must incorporate supplementary material.
Course Schedule and Readings:

Most required and supplementary readings are available electronically through MacOdrum Library. Required readings that are not available electronically will be placed on reserve in the Political Science Resource Room, C666 Loeb. Please note that the Resource Room is open from 8:30 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Monday to Friday.

1. **Introduction (September 6)**

2. **Major Approaches To Policy Analysis (September 13)**

   **Supplementary Reading:**

3. **Rational Choice Approaches (September 20)**

   **Supplementary Reading:**


### 4. **Rational Institutionalism: Rules and Rationality in the Policy Process (September 27)**


*Supplementary Reading:*

### 5. **History and Path Dependence: Historical Institutionalist Approaches (October 4)**


*Supplementary Reading*


6. Case Study 1: Reforming Health Care Systems (October 11)


Supplementary Reading:


7. Ideas, Political Institutions and Policy Change (October 18)


Supplementary Reading

8. Ideas As Causal Forces: Discourse, Policy Frames and Agenda Setting (October 25)


Supplementary Reading


9. Actors and Ideas: Epistemic Communities and Policy Networks (November 1)

Supplementary Reading:


10. Case Study 2: Tobacco Control Policy (November 8)


11. Feminist Policy Analysis (November 15)


Supplementary Reading


12. Power Resources Models of Distributional Policy (November 22)


**Supplementary Reading**


**Supplementary Reading**


**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 9th, 2007 for December examinations, and March 14th, 2008 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](http://connect.carleton.ca) for instructions on how to set up your account.