Overview: This course introduces students to a range of concepts, debates, and issues in public affairs and policy analysis. It begins with theories of the state and government decision making, and moves on to survey economic and social issues from a policy analysis perspective. The focus will be on domestic policy debates that are of contemporary relevance to Canada and the United States. The instructor will present the course content through lectures, guest speakers, and the occasional video.

Readings:

Lydia Miljan, Public Policy in Canada: an Introduction (Don Mills: Oxford, 2012). * Available at the bookstore

Additional course readings posted on culearn. Most weeks cover 1-2 longer academic quality readings and several of much shorter (1-2 page) sources such as blogs, newspaper articles, podcasts and other journalistic content.

Evaluation

• Midterm: 25%
• Writing Assignment: 25%
• Final Exam: 25%
• TA Group Participation: 25%

Quiz: In class quiz on course material from Sept 11-Nov 6, consisting of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay-length questions. Date: November 6, in class. NOTE: There will be no make-up quizzes. Quizzes missed for legitimate reasons will be pro-rated.

Writing assignments: Students submit 3 response papers to articles from the syllabus, as follows:

1. 1000 word paper on James Buchanan’s “Politics without Romance” due October 2
2. 500 word paper on a newspaper article or blog post from the syllabus (see entries marked with an asterisk (*)), due November 13.
3. 500 word paper on a newspaper article or a blog post from the syllabus due December 5.

The responses papers should (1) summarize the article/reading; and (2) advance an argument about whether the article/reading is convincing. Students will review the “response paper guidelines” posted on culearn for more detailed instructions and guidelines. Submission: Response papers will be submitted to TAs in the seminar that falls on or immediately after the due date on the syllabus. Special submissions arrangements may be discussed with TAs directly.

**Final Take Home Exam:** On December 8 a take home exam consisting of short essay questions will be distributed in class. Further instructions and guidelines will be posted on culearn. Due Date: December 22, 2017. Submission method: email instructor. Students must attach exam as a single document, named 2401_firstname_last name.doc.

**Participation and Attendance:** Students should attend the lectures and discussion groups and make regular contributions when required. Students also should prepare for class and groups by completing the required reading/viewing material. Teaching assistants will grade participation and attendance in discussion groups.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a grade point per day (ie. B+ - B).

**Make up assignments:** Not permitted.

### Class Schedule

**Sept 11: Introduction to the course**

- Miljan: Chapters 1
- Michael Munger, “the thing itself” (Library of Economics and Liberty)
- If you’re paying I’ll have the top sirloin by Russ Roberts (Wall Street Journal)

**Sept 18: Approaches to Public Affairs**

- Miljan: Chapter 2(23-38)
- Read chapter 3, 6 of Robert Frank, the Darwin Economy: Liberty, Cooperation, and the Common Good. Princeton University Press (and this short news article: Should Norway be paying Liberia to stop cutting down forests?)

**Optional Background Reading**


**Sept 25: Political Analysis, Ideology and Bias**

- Chapter 4, 7, 12 Jonathan Haidt, The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion
• *Ezra Klein, Brain dead: How politics makes us stupid,* and Krugman, *Asymmetric Stupidity*

**October 2: Bureaucrats are people, too: Public choice analysis**

**Guest Speaker: Matt Bufton, Executive Director of the Institute for Liberal Studies**

• Miljan: Chapter 2(38-48)
• James Buchanan: “Politics without Romance”
• George Will, *When Bootleggers and Baptists Converge* and Radly Balko, *The Watch Opinion: Public choice theory is crucial to understanding the criminal justice system,* in *The Washington Post*

**October 9: Thanksgiving**

**October 16: Voting and Elections**

• *Ilya somin, Political ignorance, partisan bias, and belief in conspiracy theories, democracy vs. epistocracy,* Jason Brennan, *Trump Won Because Voters Are Ignorant, Literally*

**October 23: Fall break**

**October 30: Growth and Inequality**

• Milan Chapter 6
• Chapter 1,2 of Tyler Cowen, *The Great Stagnation*
• Scott Sumner and Kevin Erdmann, 2016, *Here’s what’s driving income inequality,* in *the National Review*”

**November 6: Quiz day**

• Quiz in class. No lectures.

**November 13: healthcare and policy**

• Miljan: Chapter 8
• Ezra Klein: *the GOP’s massive healthcare failure, explained,* Sarah Kliff *The 4 draft Senate bills floating around right now, explained,* Vox*
November 20: illicit drugs and public affairs

- Health Canada, Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations: regulatory impact analysis and overview.
- Beer industry opposes marijuana legalization in California, Huffington Post
- Vox explainer: the opioid epidemic explained

November 27: immigration and trade

- Michael Cairns, There’s no evidence that immigrants hurt any American workers: The debate over the Mariel boatlift, a crucial immigration case study, explained Vox.
- Coming and going: truth and myth about the effects of open trade, the Economist.
- Gillian White, What Economists Get Wrong About Trade, in the Atlantic (2016)

December 4: Environment policy debates

- Miljan: Chapter 11
- Chapter 11 of Robert Frank, the Darwin Economy: Liberty, Cooperation, and the Common Good. Princeton University Press

December 8: public affairs and technological and cultural trends

- Tyler Cowen, The Complacent Class
- Charles Murray, Coming Apart
- Ezra Klein, A conversation with J.D. Vance, the reluctant interpreter of Trumpism, Ezra Klein Show (2016)

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).
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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

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.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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 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, visit http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.