

Carleton University
Fall 2012
Department of Political Science

PSCI 2401A
Public Affairs Analysis
Mondays 2:35-5:25 p.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Conrad Winn
Office: B676 Loeb
Office Telephone: 520-2600 ext. 1195
Office hours: Mon 6-10 p.m. and Tues 12:00-1 p.m. by appointment.
Other times also available by appointment.
Normal communication: All normal communication should be by email to cwinn@connect.carleton.ca. Response within one business day.
Urgent communication: cjwinn@telus.blackberry.net – to book a meeting to be held over the phone or in person for urgent medical/personal matters or to change an appointment. In urgent situations, the phone should be used as a supplement with messages to be left only on the cell phone: cell 613-293-6297.
Email-requirements: Student email must be from a Carleton email account and must have the following subject heading: “PSCI [course number], [your name as it appears on university records], [purpose, e.g. to discuss a paper or submit a paper].”

Information Other Than Weekly Topics

Course Objectives

This course is about the analysis of politics, especially public policy. Special emphasis is placed on how government policies are affected by the real world of politics and by the dynamics of markets. The real world of politics includes a lot of conflict over terms. In elections and in battles over policy, the winning side is often the side that does best at defining the issue, for example,

- what is good and what is bad or
- who is top dog and who is underdog, or
- using terminological ambiguity for advantage.

The title of this course, Public Affairs Analysis, is highly political in the sense that it could mean quite different things. To lay observers, the concept of public affairs implies matters that concern the public, for example, national economic policy. To some keen observers of public life, the concept of public affairs is a polite word for manipulation, including political persuasion and communication. Political persuasion and

communications are skillsets used by organizations to support their lobbying or advocacy efforts to get their way with government or mold public opinion. Technically, “public affairs” skills support but do not include lobbying. In the real world of Canadian lobbying, “public affairs” is sometimes a euphemism for what lobbyists do. It is a word chosen to soften or obscure the self-interested purpose of lobbying.

Texts—Available in Carleton Bookstore

Lydia Miljan, *Public Policy in Canada: an Introduction* (Don Mills: Oxford, 2008) ISBN 978-0-19-542682-3.

Brian Lee Crowley, *Fearful Symmetry: The Fall and Rise of Canada's Founding Values* (Toronto: Key Porter, 2009) ISBN 1554701880.

Other Source Material

Students will benefit from access to orthodox traditional media such as CBC, CNN, *Globe and Mail*, and *Ottawa Citizen*, unorthodox traditional media such as Fox News Channel, TV5, *Le Devoir*, *Weekly Standard*, and the Zerbisias column in the *Star*, new media such as salon.com, honestreporting.com/ca, littlegreenfootballs.com, mediaresearch.org, instapundit.com, and dailykos.com, new media aggregators such as townhall.com and pajamasmedia.com, and new micro-media such as danielpipes.org, memri.org and sundry government (e.g. Bank of Canada) and think tank websites (C.D. Howe, Frontier).

Each Week

Each week will tend to have a similar format—a review of assigned reading, an assessment of media and information sources, a discussion of left and right paradoxes, and a review of a policy issue cameo.

Evaluation at a Glance

- Multiple choice test in class October 1st: 5%.
- Multiple choice test in class October 22nd: 15%) *We will use the higher*
- Multiple choice test in class November 19th: 15%) *of these two test scores.*¹
- Term paper submitted in class and electronically Nov. 14th, as detailed under “Term Paper Submission,” below: 30%.
- Multiple choice test in December exam period: 35%.
- The fulfillment of each of the above requirements is normally necessary for passing the course.
- Any grade for class or TA group participation, calculated at the instructor’s option, may be used to raise but not lower the overall course grade as calculated on the basis of the preceding considerations.

¹ If a student earns 65% on one test and 75% on the other, 75% will be imputed for both.

- All test/examination grades will be posted on the course site. Overall course grades will not be deemed official until formally approved by the University.

Evaluation Details

Class Discussion. Though more of a focus of TA groups, discussion is welcome in lectures.

Tutorials. Tutorial grades may be factored in at the instructor's discretion only if they are higher than would be the student's overall course grade otherwise.

Term Paper Content. The MSWord typed paper shall consist of no more than 12 pages, including footnotes (not endnotes, and not citations in parentheses), plus bibliography. In fall 2009, the following is an exclusive list of acceptable topics. Please choose one:

- Disabilities—evaluate the effectiveness or impacts of a disability oriented program such as the RDSP or AODA, using empirical or observational data.
- The politics of professors—write an essay on the ideologies of academics based on a combination of published surveys of their views.
- Human rights abusers running human rights—describe and explain the roles of human rights abusive regimes dominating U.N. human rights agendas.
- First Nations property rights—an empirical history of the evolution of property rights on reserves, placing an emphasis on legal issues and the actual experience of ownership.
- Challenges to the welfare state—using financial data on debt, taxes, and demography to the extent possible, compare the different viewpoints about the ability or inability of western governments to continue funding programs. You may focus on one jurisdiction, for example, Ontario.
- Reporting of tyranny—compare media treatment using quantitative content analysis with source material on abuses in one of the situations listed below. Good global source materials are Stephane Courtois *et al*, *The Black Book on Communism* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1999 and the various books of R. J. Rummel). The four essay options are:
 - North Korea (e.g. *Escape from Slavery: The True Story of My Ten Years in Captivity and My Journey to Freedom in America* by Francis Bok with Edward Tivnan)
 - Cuba (e.g. the work of Humberto Fontova but not limited to his work)
 - Syria (e.g. various sources)
 - Iraq under Saddam (e.g. Kanan Makiya, *The Republic of Fear*).

Papers should be written in an analytic style, avoiding to the extent possible partisanship on an issue.

Term Paper Writing Style. Any conventional Anglo-American spelling or essay style is acceptable except that all references should be complete, including page numbers,

and appear in footnotes and in no other form (e.g. no endnotes). All papers should be strongly evidentiary, *using citations and documented verbatims liberally*. University-level grammar and spelling standards are a requirement for passing

Term Paper Submission. Term papers must be submitted in class as specified under “Evaluation at a Glance,” above. As confirmation of submission, the same paper must also be submitted electronically to cwinn@connect.carleton.ca during the 24 hour period preceding the class during which the paper version is to be submitted. For such electronic submissions, the email subject heading must be: “PSCI [course number], [your name as it appears on university records], [term paper topic, i.e. one of “program evaluation” or “disabilities” or “advocacy” or “think tanks” or “leadership” or “university”].

Late Term Papers. Term papers submitted through the Departmental box will have a basic deduction of 3 grade points (e.g. reduced from B to C) plus 2 extra grade points for each day past due. The Department date stamps submissions to the box at 4 p.m. A term paper submitted at 4:15 p.m. would be deducted 4 grade points in addition to the basic deduction.

Return of Graded Term Papers. Graded term papers will be returned in class. Students who do not wish to pick up their paper in class have the option of submitting their paper in a self-addressed, stamped envelope following the normal submission practice, as outlined in “Term Paper Submission,” above.

Term Paper Grade Disputes. The procedure for seeking redress involves first speaking with the TA involved in the grading of the paper in question, and then seeing the instructor. All requests to the instructor for redress must be preceded by an email outlining the rationale of the student’s request.

Academic Infractions. A student who, without written authorization, submits or has submitted the same paper to another course will automatically receive a failing grade. Plagiarism will also result in a failing grade for the course.

Plagiarism and Proper Use and Citation of Sources. An excellent set of sources and source of counsel may be found at www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/plagiarism/.

Tests/Exams. Multiple choice-style questions (e.g. “Which of the following five options is true?”). For evaluation purposes only, they will not be returned to the student. See “Evaluation at a Glance,” above, for scheduling details.

Early Performance Feedback. See “Evaluation at a Glance,” above, for details.

Other Evaluation Requirements and Exemptions. Subject to exemptions as outlined immediately below, students must take all tests and submit a term paper to qualify for a passing grade for the course, and must have a passing grade for all pre-final tests as a whole to qualify for a final examination deferral. Subject to university regulations, in the event of significant family circumstances such as bereavement the instructor may at his discretion extend a term paper submission deadline or exempt a mid-term test, in which case the putative test result would be calculated as the average of the scores on the other two tests.

Reaching Professor Winn

Consulting times are by appointment and normally in consulting hours. Students are encouraged to use email (cwinn@connect.carleton.ca) to discuss brief topics, send writing for comment, seek feedback, book an appointment, or request a telephone conversation. Emails requesting a conversation by phone should list the student's full name, phone number, and time periods when the instructor's return phone call might work. Barring technical difficulties, email messages are normally returned within a business day.

Students arriving to discuss a term paper are requested to bring a typed outline of their thoughts, however preliminary or tentative their thoughts might be.

To minimize the risk of accidental deletion in an era of junk mail, emails must have the following in the subject heading: "PSCI [course number], [your name],[purpose of email]." Students are obliged to check the email addresses they have given to the university for possible email from the instructor at least weekly on the evening before or the morning of class.

Comment Codes When Term Papers Are Returned:

VG = very good substantive point

VG evid = very good use of evidence, sourcing, or citation material

S = style cumbersome or poor

M = meaning unclear

Gr = grammatical problem

Sp = misspelling

Wd = inadequate choice of word(s)

NS = non sequitur

Evid = inadequate or inappropriate evidence

Inf = style too informal for an academic paper

Weekly Topics and Readings

1. Sept. 10: Introduction and the Informational Context. Course Term Paper

What students can do or think about to prepare:

- Read Miljan, chapters 1 on basic concepts and 2 on theories of public policy;
- Government—what is quality and why it matters
- Public Policy—what is quality and why it matters
- Left and Right—why might these concepts be important, why almost useless.

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Course content—texts, requirements, purpose

- Course philosophy—the ideal university and debate
- Political science terms—for example, political studies, political science, public policy, policy instrument, public affairs, policy studies, policy analysis.
- Scientific terms—for example, objectivity vs. historicism; fact, taxonomy, and theory/explanation; politics as arguments over deliverables vs. politics as the ultimate form of retail sales;
- Miljan, chapters 1-2
- A policy cameo—what are the left and right positions on illicit drugs and porn

2. Sept. 17: Theories of Human Nature and Hence of Public Policy. Surprise Guest Lecturer.

What students can do to prepare:

- Review Miljan chapters 3 on Context and 4 on Implementation.
- For this week, please read and bring to class the preceding Saturday's *Globe and Mail*. Assess the stories on page 1, page 3, and the op-ed. In each class, we will assess a different media product on the basis of the following criteria: choice of content (why are they there); validity (how true, accurate, comprehensive, and fair are they); and what they reveal about the economics of news production, the organization's sales/marketing, the actions of newsmakers, the private interests of the organization's owners, and the private interests of the organization's staff;
- Left and Right—why might they be the most important and valid concepts in political science and why they might be profoundly misleading, perhaps useless.

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Term paper
- Miljan, chapters 3-4 on policy-making and implementation
- Left and right—origins, scientific merit, empirical challenges;
- Divisions within the democratic left and democratic right;
- Ideology—as theory and scientific guide, cheat sheet, rationalization, source of comfort or crutch, symbolic and dictatorial manipulation, and business opportunity;
- Where do liberals, who like big government but worry about “capture”, have common ground with Friedmanites, who talk about the “hidden hand” of self-interest driving policy
- A policy cameo—what are the left and right positions on the funding and organization of schools and universities.

3. Sept. 24: Macro-Economic Policy and Size of Government—(a) Overview of Miljan; (b) The Impact of Nature of Government on Democide, Corruption, Freedom, and Racism

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Miljan, chapter 5 on macro-economic policy
- Bring to class the preceding Friday's *National Post*. Assess the stories on page 1, page 3, and the op-ed.
- Think about which kinds of countries murder people in the millions, and where do capitalism and democracy fit in

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Miljan, chapter 5
- Given the preceding questions about news validity, what is the intelligent citizen? What do intelligent investors and corporate executives do?
- Left and Right—why might they be the most important and valid concepts in political science and why they might be profoundly misleading, perhaps useless;
- A policy cameo—what are the left and right positions on invading Iraq or Libya.

4. Oct. 1: Macro-Economic Policy and...What Caused the Depression, How Do Taxes Affect Growth, and Are Keynes and Friedman Opposites (also test)

What students can do to prepare:

- Think about who caused the Depression
- Think about which taxes are good for growth and which bad
- For this week, please read and bring to class the preceding Friday's *Financial Post* and *ROB*.
- View <http://www.fcpc.org/media.php/1749>, <http://www.freetheworld.com/release.html>, <http://www.heritage.org/Index/> and <http://www.freetheworld.com/papers.html>. Padovano, Fabio and Galli, Emma, Tax Rates and Economic Growth in the OECD Countries. *Economic Inquiry*, Vol. 39, No. 1, January 2001. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=253086>
- John H. Cochrane, "Fiscal Stimulus RIP" at http://faculty.chicagobooth.edu/john.cochrane/research/papers/stimulus_rip.html
- <http://fee.org/articles/great-myths-of-the-great-depression/>

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Democracy and life vs. dictatorship and murder

- Democracy and economic freedom as contributors to standard of living, life expectancy, gender fairness, and other benefits
- Keynes vs. Friedman—false or real conflict
- How do taxes affect growth
- Obama's Stimulus, the Fed and the Recession in light of the Depression
- A policy cameo—what are the left and right positions on inflation. Who benefits, who loses.

5. Oct. 8: Thanksgiving

6. Oct. 15: Social Policy and the Family 1 (Miljan, Williams, and Sowell)

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Miljan, chapters 6 and 8
- Read the introduction to or about Walter Williams, *Race and Economics* and Thomas Sowell's book of the same title; read <http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/265634/race-and-economics-thomas-sowell#>

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Miljan, chapters 6 and 8
- Who is better on race—left or right—and is this a values question or an empirical one?
- Who is intrinsically socially conservative on family and sex issues—left or right
- Disability issues and policies
- A policy cameo—who wins, who loses from minimum wages
- A policy cameo—who's for, who's against Sharia and why.

7: Oct. 22: Social Policy and the Family 2 (Crowley)

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Crowley, chapters 6 and 12
- For this week, please listen to this morning's Steve Madely show on CFRA with a focus on marketing savvy;
- Think about what are or might be the constraints on news organizations (e.g. Reuters), broadcasters and individual papers (e.g. *Star*), and individual journalists of reporting on and from dictatorships
- Left and Right—what were and are left-right differences on social policy. Who favours sexual liberalism or sexual conservatism and why

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Crowley
- Left vs. right on social policy

- Left vs right on disabilities
- A policy cameo—how the Left and right divide on homosexuality and sexual liberalism

8. Oct. 29: Work, Rent-Seeking from Government, and Quebec 1

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Crowley, chapters 1-4
- For this week, spend an hour on the websites of the Macdonald-Laurier Institute, the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, Fraser Institute, Atlas Economic Research Institute, AEI, Cato, and Adam Smith Institute. Which other institutes could fit in with this list? Whose interests do they serve? Who funds them? How is their funding different from funding, for example, of feminist, disability or leftwing thinktanks?

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Crowley
- Overview of thinktanks
- A policy cameo—how the left and right divide on Quebec

9. Nov. 5: Work, Rent-Seeking from Government, and Quebec 2 (also test)

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Crowley, chapters 5, 7
- For this week, read any issue of the *Wall Street Journal* and think about this newspaper

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Crowley
- Overview of the *WSJ*
- A policy cameo—how the left and right divide on welfare

10. Nov. 12: Work, Rent-Seeking from Government, and Quebec 3

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Crowley, chapters 8-10
- Think about Rupert Murdoch and the U.K. tapping scandal. What do we know about scandals involving the *Independent*, *Guardian*, *BBC* and the British press as a whole

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Crowley
- Overview of British Press

11. Nov 19: Work, Rent-Seeking from Government, and Quebec 4

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Crowley, chapters 11, 13-14

- Read the *New York Times* and think about what we know about the *New York Times*

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Crowley

12. Nov. 26: Aboriginal Policy (Miljan and Helin)

What students can do to prepare:

- Read Miljan Chapter 9 on Aboriginal Policy
- Skim Calvin Helin, *The Economic Dependency Trap: Breaking Free to Self-Reliance* (on reserve)

Lecture content thumbnail:

- Overview of Miljan and Helin
- How the left and right divided on Aboriginal rights
- Policy cameo—what should be done to increase PSE rates
- Policy cameo—what should be done about

12. Dec. 3: Overview

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.

PSCI 2401, Public Affairs Analysis, 2012, Professor Winn

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.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect 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.

PSCI 2401, Public Affairs Analysis, 2012, Professor Winn

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