

PSCI 3402 A

Canadian Public Policy

Wednesdays - 18:05 pm – 20:55 pm
Please confirm on Carleton Central

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Course description: It has been argued that with the end of the Cold War and the onset of globalization that the world has become an increasingly integrated place. For example, the 2008 economic recession, global warming, and the rapid spread of disease (ex. H1N1, SARS) all seem to show that global problems are now domestic concerns. This class examines these types of issues in the context of Canadian public policy.

With the primary aim of introducing students to contemporary challenges in Canadian public policy, this course sets out two learning objectives:

1. to introduce students to the core theories, concepts and processes that inform Canadian public policy;
2. to examine contemporary issues confronting Canadian public policy;

To advance these objectives, the course has been divided into three sections. The first section will introduce student to the core concepts of the course; the second section will connect these concepts to the 'policy process;' and, the third section will have students apply their technical knowledge from sections one and two, to three policy fields: 1) health; 2) environment; and 3) macroeconomics.

TEXTS

Required:

Pal, L. A. (2010). *Beyond policy analysis: Public issue management in turbulent times*. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd.

Highly Recommended:

Miljan, L. (2012). *Public policy in Canada: An introduction* (6th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Note: Both texts have been placed on reserve at Carleton's MacOdrum library; however, the library's latest copy of the Miljan text is the 5th edition (2008), not the 6th (2012).

EVALUATION

Attendance/Participation (Weeks 2-11)	10% (see details below)
Quiz (Wednesday, 3 October)	10% (see details below)
Research paper (Wednesday, 31 October)	30% (see details below)
Group Presentation/Policy brief (Weeks 9-11)	20% (see details below)
Exam (TBA)	30% (see details below)

In this course, students are expected to demonstrate their technical knowledge of course materials by critically engaging with its content. To achieve this, students must complete all assignments in order to pass the course. In keeping with university policy, students also must abide by Carleton University's Senate statement on plagiarism (see below). For details on each assignment, please also see below:

1) Participation (10%)

Participation forms an important part of this course. Students will be expected to demonstrate their comprehension of the material through weekly one hour discussion groups, held at the end of each class; the groups will run from weeks 2-11 (a total of 10 weeks). In order to participate in these groups, students must attend; therefore, the participation grade will be weighed on the quality and quantity of class involvement (5%), as well as attendance (5%).

Grades will be available on WebCT by 2 December.

2) Quiz (10%)

To be written on 3 October this 20 question multiple choice quiz, will evaluate students on key terms, concepts and definitions from the first three weeks of the course. Students will be provided one hour to complete the quiz.

Grades will be posted on WebCT by 17 October.

3) Research Paper (30%)

Due at the beginning of class on 31 October, the purpose of this 12-15 page research paper is for students to individually analyze a policy issue. Students are encouraged to use a policy issue covered during Weeks 9-11 (a list of specific policy issues will be made available on WebCT on 19 September); however, if a student would like to cover an alternative policy issue, he/she must seek the approval of the professor.

In this paper, students are asked to complete four objectives:

- 1) Define the policy problem;
- 2) Identify the policy instruments used to tackle the problem;
- 3) Identify how the policy instruments were implemented;
- 4) Evaluate the policy process.

Because this paper is intended to have students demonstrate their analytical skills, the bulk of the grade will rest on a student's ability to evaluate the policy process; for this reason, it is highly recommended that students focus about half their paper (6-8 pages) on objective four, noted above.

In terms of style, students must use MLA style; an excellent resource for this can be found at: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>. In addition, all papers must use a 12 point Cambria font, and have 1 inch margins (both vertically and horizontally).

Important Note: Late papers - any paper submitted after the first hour of class - must be submitted to the Department of Political Science drop box, outside the Department's main office (Loeb Building B640) before 4pm. For every day late, papers will be assigned a penalty of 3%.

Papers will be returned in-class on 2 December.

4) Group Work (20%):

In this course, all students must participate in a group project with two components, a presentation and a written policy brief. Each are described below:

- PRESENTATION (10%): In groups, students will present a 15-20 minute lecture on one policy issue covered in weeks 9-11 of the course. The purpose of the presentation is to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the selected issue by detailing its relationship to each stage of the policy process. Following this 'lecture,' group members will facilitate a class discussion and should prepare a number of 'reflective' questions to guide this process.
- POLICY BRIEF (10%): Prior to the presentation, groups must submit a policy brief of 2-3 pages on the selected issue. Details on how to write a policy brief will be provided in the weeks leading to the presentations.

Students in the group will all receive the same grade on the presentation and the policy brief. These grades will be made available on WebCT within a week of the presentation.

Important Note: Groups will be made on 26 September; sizes of the group will vary based on final enrollment. A list of policy issues will be made available on WebCT on 19 September.

5) Exam (30%):

To be scheduled during Carleton's fall examination period - running from 6 to 19 December - the exam will require students to respond to 20 multiple choice questions and to two essay questions. Students will be provided three hours to complete the exam.

SCHEDULE

Important note: Chapters and page numbers presented below are based on the 4th edition of the Pal text and the 5th edition of the Miljan text. Chapters and page numbers are thus liable to change, based on the edition of the text that the student has purchased. Both the 4th edition of the Pal text and the 5th edition of the Miljan text are on reserve at MacOdrum library.

Section I: Understanding the terrain

- Week 1: Sept 12
 - **Introduction: Defining public policy and analysis**
 - Miljan, Ch. 1: *Basic concepts in the study of public policy* (p. 2-22)
 - Pal, Ch. 1: *Policy analysis: Concepts and practice* (p. 1-44)
- Week 2: Sept 19 (Note: Sept 19 is the last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses)
 - **A new policy environment: Theory, globalization and public policy**
 - Miljan, Ch. 2: *Theories of public policy* (p. 23-50)
 - Pal, Ch 2: *Modern Governance: The challenges for policy analysis* (p. 45-106)
- Week 3: Sept 26 (Group formation; Quiz)
 - **Context, communities and policy networks**
 - Miljan, Ch. 3: *The context of policy-making in Canada* (p. 51-86)
 - Pal, Ch. 6: *Policy communities and networks* (p. 255-304)

Section II: The policy (analysis) process

- Week 4: Oct. 3
 - **There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza: Problem definition in policy analysis**
 - Pal, Ch. 3: *Problem Definition in policy analysis* (p. 107-142)
- Week 5: Oct. 10
 - **With what shall I fix it, dear Liza, dear Liza: Policy instruments and design**
 - Pal, Ch, 4: *Policy instruments and design* (p. 143-203)
- Week 6: Oct. 17
 - **The straw is too long ... The axe is too dull ... The stone is too dry, dear Liza, dear Liza: Policy implementation**
 - Pal, Ch. 5: *Policy implementation* (p. 205-254).
- Week 7: Oct. 24
 - **There's a hole in the bucket, dear Liza, dear Liza: Evaluating public policies**
 - Pal, Ch. 7: *Evaluation* (p. 305-350).
- Week 8: Oct. 31 – (Research Papers due for all students)
 - **Crises!: Policymaking under pressure**
 - Pal, Ch. 8: *Policymaking under pressure* (p. 351-400).

Section III: Issues in Canadian public policy

- Week 9: Nov. 7 (Presentation and policy brief due for presenting groups)
 - **Health policy**
 - Miljan, Ch. 8: *Health Policy* (185-209)
- Week 10: Nov. 14 (Presentation and policy brief due for presenting groups)
 - **Environmental policy**
 - Miljan, Ch. 11: *Environmental Policy* (p. 279-313)
- Week 11: Nov. 21 (Presentation and policy brief due for presenting groups)
 - **Macroeconomic policy**
 - Miljan, Ch. 6: *Macroeconomic Policy* (p. 124-161)
- Week 12: Nov. 28
 - **Course/Exam Review**

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (November 9th, 2012 for December examinations and March 8th, 2013 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 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.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Letter grade	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+		67-69	C+	
85-89	A		63-66	C	
80-84	A-		60-62	C-	
77-79	B+		57-59	D+	
73-76	B		53-56	D	
70-72	B-		50-52	D-	

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.

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