PSCI 3405A
Comparative Public Policy

Thursday 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Vandna Bhatia
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520-2600, ext. 1360
vandna_bhatia@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Thursdays 12:00 to 2:30 pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary governments in developed democracies around the world are faced with many similar policy problems: environmental protection, economic growth and employment, sustainable health care services, quality education and reliable income support programs, to name just a few. Nevertheless, despite generally similar issues and resources, national governments often respond very differently to these problems. This course will examine how and why policies dealing with issues such as health care, immigration, taxation and fiscal policy and the environment differ across nations. By comparing nations, we will examine and contrast the influence of factors such as political ideas and ideologies, institutions and organized interests in shaping the process and substance of public policy.

The primary 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, including the impact of global public policy.

At the end of the course, students should be:
  o Familiar with broad theoretical concepts explaining policy development;
  o Able to apply these concepts to the analysis of practical policy problems;
  o Able to compare and contrast differences and similarities across a range of policy issue areas and across nations;
  o Able to identify patterns of policy development across different issue areas and across nations.
EVALUATION

Please note that all written assignments are due at 9:00 AM on the due date and must be submitted electronically via WebCT. Please submit your assignments as PDF files only. All papers should conform to APA citation format. Further instructions and details about papers and presentations will be discussed in class and made available on WebCT. Grading will be based on the following:

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Two essays @ 30% each</td>
<td>• October 21</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 8 to 10 pages, double spaced</td>
<td>• December 6</td>
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<td>Group presentations</td>
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<td>In-class participation</td>
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Late essays will be penalized at -2/30 per day, to a maximum of 14/30. Papers will not be accepted after 7 days (including weekends) past the due date without official (medical) documentation of illness or incapacity. Every effort will be made to return papers within two weeks of the due date. In order to maintain good standing in the course, students must at a minimum submit both essays. (In other words, if you don’t submit both papers, you cannot pass the course). Group presentation marks are awarded to each member of the entire group. If students have concerns about the contributions of individual group members, the group should consult the instructor.

ACADEMIC RESOURCES

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<th>For assistance with:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• understanding academic rules and regulations</td>
<td>Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)</td>
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<td>• choosing/changing major; academic planning</td>
<td><a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a></td>
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<td>• finding a tutor</td>
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<td>• polishing study skills</td>
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<td>• a learning disability</td>
<td>Paul Menton Centre</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a></td>
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<td>• developing writing skills</td>
<td>Writing Tutorial Service</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a></td>
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<td>• peer assisted tutoring for pre-identified courses</td>
<td>Peer Assisted Study Sessions</td>
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<td><a href="http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc">www2.carleton.ca/sasc</a></td>
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<td>• polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only)</td>
<td>International Student Services Office</td>
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<td>[<a href="http://www2.carleton.ca/issos/about-">http://www2.carleton.ca/issos/about-</a> isso/](<a href="http://www2.carleton.ca/issos/about-">http://www2.carleton.ca/issos/about-</a> isso/)</td>
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<td>• political science research assistance</td>
<td>Subject specialist at MacOdrum Library</td>
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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 Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct (sections 14 and 15). Additional information regarding academic conduct and accommodations is appended to this syllabus.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

2. Journal articles and selected book chapters: Most required readings are available electronically (unless otherwise indicated) online through the University library system. Those not available electronically are marked with an asterix (*) and are available through the Library’s course reserves.

Supplementary Readings
Supplementary readings, as noted in the list of weekly readings, are available electronically or are kept on reserve at MacOdrum. These readings are provided as a reference point for students to begin in preparing their country profiles on specific issues, either for papers or weekly presentations.

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.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS:

Week 1 (9 Sep): Introductions

Introductions and discussion of course objectives; sign-up for class presentations.

Week 2 (16 Sep): Theories of Public Policy

Introduction to theories of the policy process, including: Why study the politics of public policy? How are the politics of policy making analyzed? Why compare across nations?

Required Readings:

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).

Week 3 (23 Sep): Political and Economic Dynamics of Policy Making

How do large structural features of society – such as political institutions and economic organization – influence public policy processes and the contents of policy?

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 3: Political and Economic Dynamics in Industrialized Countries

Supplementary Readings:
Week 4 (30 Sep): Domestic and International Contexts of Policy Making
What are the particular contexts, both domestic and international, influencing public policy? How do the political and institutional configurations of nations shape the process and content of policy? How and to what extent do international factors, such as recessions and transnational actors, affect policy content and creation?

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 4: The Policy Making Context

Supplementary Readings:
- European Journal of Political Research, 48(7-8): articles about Canada, France, Germany, Japan, United Kingdom and United States.
  - These articles provide a snapshot of political developments in the country during the previous calendar year. Earlier issues of the EJPR provide similar updates from previous years. They are a useful supplement to Adolino and Blake, Chapter 4

Week 5 (7 Oct): Domestic Governance Challenges and Fiscal Policy
What factors contribute to the capacity of states to effectively manage domestic fiscal policy, particularly as it relates to budgetary deficits? What are their prospects for recovery after the 2008 recession?

Required Readings
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 6

Supplementary Readings


**Week 6 (14 Oct): Political Institutions and Pension Reform**

*How does the structure of the welfare state and past policies shape the prospects for reforming social policies? What are the experiences and prospects for reforming pension systems in particular?*

**Required Readings:**

- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 9: Social Policy

**Supplementary Readings:**

Week 7 (21 Oct): Policy Regimes and Health Care Systems
Policy regimes are frameworks of rules and norms that govern particular policy issues. How and why do nations facing similar policy problems, such as providing affordable, high quality and equitable health care for their citizens, develop different policy responses or regimes? How do these regimes affect the prospects for adapting and/or reforming health systems in the face of new developments and demands?

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 8: Health Care Policy

Supplementary Readings:

Week 8 (28 Oct): The Courts in Policy Formation: The Same-Sex Marriage Debate
What role do the courts play in shaping public policy development? How do interest groups use the courts to mobilize their constituents and legitimize their perspectives? This week, we will examine the role of the courts in the evolution of policies for same-sex marriage.

Required Readings:
Supplementary Readings:

Week 9 (4 Nov): State-Society Relations in Health Policy – Managing the Blood Supply
How do governments manage crises? What factors influenced the ways in which different nations responded to the demands of civil society – victims, the public, the medical profession and others – in the wake of the contaminated blood crisis in the early 1980s?

Required Readings:
o *Steffen M. (2001). Crisis governance in France: the end of sectoral corporatism? In M. Bovens et al., Chapter 25, pp. 470-488
o *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:


**Week 10 (11 Nov): Familialism, Feminism and Family Policy**

*How do social policies related to families compare across nations with respect to their impact on gender roles and female labour market participation? What factors influence the differences in family policy?*

**Required Readings:**


**Supplementary Readings:**


Week 11 (18 Nov): Nationality Discourses in Immigration Policy

Political discourses – the way in which issues are framed and debated in the public sphere – can profoundly influence the shape and content of public policy. How do discourses about immigration and immigrants inform domestic immigration policies in different nations? How do these discourses themselves develop?

**Required Readings:**
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 5: Immigration Policy

**Supplementary Readings:**
Week 12 (25 Nov): Policy Learning and Transfer: The Case of Labour Market Policies

(What) can states learn from each other when it comes to policy? Has there been a convergence of ideas and approaches to addressing labour market activation across nations? Under what conditions is policy learning likely to be successful?

Required Readings
- Dwyer, P. & N. Ellison (2009). ‘We nicked stuff from all over the place’: policy transfer or muddling through? Policy & Politics 37(3): 389-407

Supplementary Readings
Week 13 (2 Dec): International Agreements and Domestic Policy Choice: Climate Change

How do international politics, in the form of international norms and agreements, influence domestic policy processes and content, and vice versa?

Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 11

Supplementary Readings:

Updated 09/07/10
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 15, 2010 for December examinations and March 11, 2011 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.

**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:** 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:** 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.