PSCI 3405A
Comparative Public Policy Analysis

Monday and Wednesday, 11:35 am to 12:55 pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Vandna Bhatia
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         520-2600, ext. 1360
         vandna_bhatia@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Wednesdays
             1:00 to 4:00 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. 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:
- Familiar with broad theoretical concepts explaining policy development;
- Able to apply these concepts to the analysis of practical policy problems;
- Able to compare and contrast differences and similarities across a range of policy issue areas and across nations;
- Able to identify patterns of policy development across different issue areas and across nations.

EVALUATION

Please note that all written assignments are due by 9:00 AM on the due date and must be submitted electronically via WebCT. Please submit your assignments as PDF files. 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>Three essays @ 25% each</td>
<td>• October 12</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 8 to 10 pages, double spaced</td>
<td>• November 14</td>
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<td>• December 5</td>
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<td>Group presentations – 3 @ 5% each</td>
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<td>15%</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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Late essays will be penalized –2/25 per day, to a maximum of 10/25. Papers will not be accepted after 5 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. 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**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>For assistance with:</th>
<th>Refer to:</th>
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| • understanding academic rules and regulations | Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)  
  www.carleton.ca/sasc |
| • choosing/changing major; academic planning  |                                  |
| • finding a tutor                              |                                  |
| • polishing study skills                       |                                  |
| • a learning disability                        | Paul Menton Centre          
  www.carleton.ca/pmc |
| • developing writing skills                     | Writing Tutorial Service      
  www.carleton.ca/wts |
| • peer assisted tutoring for pre-identified courses | Peer Assisted Study Sessions  
  www2.carleton.ca/sasc |
| • polishing English conversation skills, or proof reading (International students only) | International Student Services Office  
  http://www2.carleton.ca/isson/about-isson/ |
| • political science research assistance        | Subject specialist at MacOdrum Library  
  www.library.carleton.ca/help/askus.html |

**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, for papers and presentations.

The following textbooks are suggested for supplementary reading. They are recommended particularly for students who have no background in public policy. They are available on reserve at MacOdrum Library.


WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGs:

Week 1 (Sept 12): Introduction to Theories of Public Policy

- Questions/topics for discussion:
  - Introductions and orientation to course; discussion of the policy process
  - Why study the politics of public policy? How are the politics of policy making analyzed? Why compare across nations?

- Required Readings:
  - Adolino & Blake, Chapter 1: The policy process (pp 8-30)
• **Supplementary Readings:**
  o *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 2 (19 Sep): Political and Economic Dynamics of Policy Making**

• **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  o **Monday:** How do political features of society, such as culture and institutions influence the policy process?
  o **Wednesday:** According to Wilensky, how do large structural factors – such as political institutions and economic organization – influence the content of policy?

• **Required Readings:**
  o Adolino & Blake, Chapter 2: Theories of Policy Making (pp 31-46), and Chapter 3: Political and Economic Dynamics in Industrialized Countries (pp 47-76)

• **Supplementary Readings:**

**Week 3 (26 Sep): Domestic Context of Policy Making**

• **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  o **Monday:** How do the political and institutional configurations of nations shape the process and content of policy?
  o **Wednesday:** Presentations: What are the institutional and political configurations in each of the six nations under study? How do they affect policy content and creation?

• **Required Readings:**
  o Adolino & Blake, Chapter 4: The Policy Making Context

• **Supplementary Readings:**

European Journal of Political Research, 49(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 and more updated supplement to Adolino and Blake, Chapter 4


Week 4 (3 Oct): Domestic Governance Challenges and Fiscal Policy

- Questions/topics for discussion:
  - Monday: What factors contribute to the capacity of states to effectively manage domestic fiscal policy, particularly as it relates to budgetary deficits?
  - Wednesday: Presentations: How did nations respond to the economic crisis of 2008? How and which domestic factors influenced their responses?

- Required Readings:
  o Adolino & Blake, Chapter 6: Fiscal policy (pp 159-197)

- Supplementary Readings
  o Adolino & Blake, Chapter 7: Tax policy (pp 198-233)
Week 5 (12 Oct): Globalization and Public Policy
Note: there is no class on Monday (Thanksgiving) this week.

- **Questions for discussion:**
  - How and to what extent do international factors, such as recessions and transnational actors, affect policy content and creation?

- **Required Readings:**

- **Supplementary Readings:**

Week 6 (17 Oct): Political Institutions and Pension Reform

- **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  - **Monday:** How do the structure of the welfare state and past policies shape the prospects for reforming social policies?
  - **Wednesday:** Presentations: How have nations attempted to or succeeded in reforming their pension systems in recent years? How have welfare state institutions influenced the capacity of states to reform their pension systems?

- **Required Readings:**
  - Adolino & Blake, Chapter 9: Social Policy

- **Supplementary Readings:**
Week 7 (24 Oct): Policy Regimes and Health Care Systems

Questions/topics for discussion:
- **Monday:** 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?
- **Wednesday:** Presentations: 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 (31 Oct): The Courts in Policy Formation: The Same-Sex Marriage Debate**

- **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  - **Monday:** 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?
  - **Wednesday:** Presentations: How have the courts been used by interest groups to support or inhibit policies to legalize same-sex marriage?

- **Required Readings:**

- **Supplementary Readings:**
Week 9 (7 Nov): State-Society Relations in Health Policy – Managing the Blood Supply

- **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  - **Monday:** How do governments manage crises? What factors influence their ability to effectively manage crises?
  - **Wednesday:** Presentations: 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:**

- **Supplementary Readings:**

Week 10 (14 Nov): Familialism, Feminism and Family Policy

- **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  - **Monday:** What constitutes family policy and what factors influence the development of policies in support of families?
Wednesday: Presentations: How do child care policies compare across nations with respect to the influence of and impact on gender roles and female labour market participation?

- **Required Readings:**

- **Supplementary Readings:**

**Week 11 (21 Nov): Nationality Discourses in Immigration Policy**

- **Questions/topics for discussion:**
  - Monday: 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 are discourses about immigration and immigrants formed?
  - Wednesday: Presentations: What discourses have shaped domestic immigration policies in different nations? How have these discourses been developed over time?
Required Readings:
- Adolino & Blake, Chapter 5: Immigration Policy

Supplementary Readings:

Week 12 (28 Nov): Policy Learning and Transfer: The Case of Labour Market Policies

Questions/topics for discussion:
- Monday: (What) can states learn from each other when it comes to public policy? Under what conditions is policy learning likely to be successful?
- Wednesday: Presentations: Has there been a convergence of ideas and approaches to addressing labour market activation across nations?

Required Readings
• **Supplementary Readings**

**Week 13 (5 Dec): Final papers due**

**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 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term 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.

Academic Regulations

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.

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<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>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
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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.