PSCI 6407A
Public Policy – Theory and Analysis

Seminars: Tuesday, 2:35 pm to 5:25 pm

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Vandna Bhatia</td>
<td>A625 Loeb Building 520-2600, ext. 1360</td>
<td>Wednesdays 2:30 to 4:30 pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:vandna_bhatia@carleton.ca">vandna_bhatia@carleton.ca</a></td>
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Course Description and Learning Outcomes:

PSCI 6407 and PSCI 6408 together constitute the core course for doctoral students in the Public Affairs and Policy Analysis field in the Department of Political Science. The aims of these courses are: first to provide students with a solid grounding in all aspects of theories and concepts relating to public policy and public affairs management; and second to prepare students for their comprehensive examinations at the end of their first year of doctoral studies. PSCI 6407 focuses on theories of public policy whereas PSCI 6408 focuses on public affairs management.

In this course we will undertake an exploration of the field of public policy by surveying a range of theoretical approaches for understanding and analyzing public policy. It is designed to familiarize students with the foundations of public policy theories – their basic concepts, constructs, and contributions to the field. Each seminar in the fall term is organized around seminal works and concepts in the field of public policy, beginning with the study of actors, institutions and ideas, and ending with an examination of some critical approaches. Readings on each subject are selected with the aim of introducing students to the key theoretical concepts and debates that make up the field of public policy.

The objective of the course is to ground students in theories and approaches in public policy, and so the reading load is substantial. Students are encouraged to work intensively in groups and are required come to each class prepared to discuss actively and in depth all assigned readings for that particular class. The course will be structured around weekly discussions of required readings, with one or two students responsible for facilitating discussion each week. All students are expected to come fully prepared to actively participate in discussions, regardless of whether they are presenting.

Over the course of the term, students should develop critical analytic skills in comparing the different approaches, assessing their strengths, weaknesses, and explanatory power, and applying them to specific policy issues or situations. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify the core components and assumptions of different theoretical approaches;
- Synthesize and critically analyze the contributions and limitations of these approaches;
- Apply these concepts to the analysis of practical policy problems.
Evaluation and Grading:

Seminar participation: 20%

Students are expected to do all of the required readings before class and to come to class prepared to discuss them. To facilitate discussion, each student is expected to submit three questions based upon the readings, prior to upcoming the class. Questions should make specific reference to the readings and should not be generic. Questions are to be posted to the CULearn discussion board in advance of class, no later than Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. Students should consult the questions posted by others prior to class and be prepared to discuss them as well as the readings. The seminar participation grade will be determined on the basis of the quality and frequency of participation, and on in-class presentations of short papers (see below).

Short Papers/Reaction Pieces: 4 x 10% = 40%

Each paper should be between 5-7 pages, double-spaced, and take the form of critical discussion of a theme or hypothesis related to the readings for a given week. These papers are meant to be critical reviews of the work – not summaries – and may incorporate supplementary readings but should not include material that is not in the syllabus (except as brief citations as part of the review). Papers are due prior to the beginning of the class for which the readings are assigned, and students should be prepared to present their papers to the class in a brief 15 minute presentation. A minimum of two of these papers must be submitted no later than Tuesday February 25th. All papers are to be submitted via CUlearn. Papers submitted after the class discussion will be penalized by -5/10.

Research Essay: 40%

Students are expected to submit an original analysis of a specific public policy issue, using literature drawn from the course syllabus. Specific paper topics must be discussed with the Instructor, and outlined in a written submission. Failure to submit a written outline of the proposed essay topic will result in an automatic penalty of -5/40 on the final paper. The essay will be 20-25 pages, double-spaced. Additional details about and guidelines for the assignment will be distributed in class. The essay is due no later than Tuesday April 8, 2014 by 11:00 pm. Late papers will not be accepted without official documentation of illness or incapacity.

Most required and supplementary readings are available electronically through MacOdrum Library. Required readings marked with an asterisk (*) are only available in hard copy. A number of the books from which we will be reading extensively are available for purchase online (e.g., Chapters or Amazon) and also on reserve at the library, including:

Topic Schedule and Readings

1. **Introduction to the Course (January 7)**

2. **Major Approaches to Policy Analysis (January 14)**


   **Further Reading:**

4. **Rational Choice: The Motivations of Individuals and Groups (January 21)**

Further Reading:


Further Reading:

6. History and Path Dependence: Historical Institutionalist Approaches (February 4)


Further Reading


7. Ideas, Institutions and Explaining Policy Change (February 11)


Further Reading:


8. **Ideas as Causal Forces: Discourse, Policy Frames and Agenda Setting (February 25)**


**Further Reading**


9. **Mobilizing Ideas: Multiple Streams and Punctuated Equilibriums (March 4)**


Further Reading:


10. **Actors and Ideas: Coalitions, Communities and Networks (March 11)**


Further Reading:


### 11. Gender and Feminist Policy Analysis (March 18)


**Further Reading**

12. **Political Economy and Power in Distributional Policy (March 25)**


**Further Reading**


13. **Convergence, Learning and Diffusion of Public Policies (April 1)**

Further Reading


14. Globalization, Internationalization and Public Policy (April 8)


Further Reading


Accommodations, 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 Instructional Offenses and Offenses of Conduct (sections 14 and 15).

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.

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<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<td>57-59</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.

**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](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.

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Last Revised: 6-Jan-14