

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
Fall 2015

PSCI 2401: Analysis of Public Affairs
6:05-7:55 Tuesday
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Alex McDougall
Office: B642 Loeb
Office Hours: Monday, 5:15-5:55 pm
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Overview: This course introduces students to a range of concepts, debates, and issues in public affairs and policy analysis. It begins with theories of the state and government decision making, and moves on to survey economic and social issues from a policy analysis perspective. The focus will be on domestic policy debates that are of contemporary relevance to Canada and the United States. The instructor will present the course content through lectures, guest speakers, and the occasional video.

Readings: Textbook: Lydia Miljan, *Public Policy in Canada: an Introduction* (Don Mills: Oxford, 2012).

All other course readings are available through the electronic journal databases at the Carleton library, through the library's reserve system, or accessible online. Blog posts, podcasts, and videos are also part of the required material; all are freely available online.

Evaluation

- Quizzes: 25%
- Critical Response paper: 25%
- Final Take Home Exam: 35%
- TA Group Participation: 15%

Quizzes: Students will write two, in-class quizzes on course material. Quizzes will consist of multiple choice or short answer questions. Dates: Oct 6, Nov 24. There will be no make-up quizzes. Students who miss quizzes for legitimate reasons will have the mark pro-rated. Missing a quiz without a valid documentation will result in mark of 0.

Critical writing assignment: Students will write a 5 page (1000 word) essay that reflects on the one or more of the topics presented in the class. The structure of the essay is fairly open: students may critically analyze an article, take a position on a topic, compare readings or topics, or apply an approach/theory to an issue. However, it is imperative that the essay make an argument, demonstrate understanding of applicable readings, have a clear, coherent structure, and be presented in a professional manner. Finally, the assignment must make reference to at least 3 required or recommended/supplementary readings or podcasts (including the Miljan textbook). Additional guidelines will be posted on the course webpage.

Submission method: in class, hardcopy; Due date: **November 10**

Final take home exam: On the last day of class, the instructor will distribute a final, take home exam. The exam consists of short essay questions. Students must answer the questions in a regular essay format, complete with citations. The exams will require students to draw on all of the required reading material and the lecture material. Therefore, students should do the readings every week, and take careful notes during class. Although not required, students may draw upon material from outside the course if they so choose, providing that they include full citations and a bibliography. Due Date for take home exam:

December 21, 2015. Submission method: email instructor. Students must attach exam as a single document, named 2401_firstname_lastname.doc.

Participation and attendance: Students should attend the lectures and discussion groups and make regular contributions when required. Students also should prepare for class and groups by completing the required reading/viewing material. Teaching assistants will grade participation and attendance in discussion groups.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a grade point per day (ie. B+ - B).

Make up assignments: Not permitted.

Class Schedule

Note: readings and schedule subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Week 1 (Sept 8): introduction to the course

- Miljan: Chapters 1
- [If you're paying I'll have the top sirloin](#) by Russ Roberts (Wall Street Journal)
- Munger, Mike. "[The thing in itself](#)" in *Essays on Academics and the State* (2015).

Week 2 (Sept 15): approaches to public affairs I

- Miljan: Chapter 2(23-38)
- Russ Roberts, "a marvel of cooperation" in *econlib* (2007). (short)
- Robert Frank, "Coase" in *The Darwin Economy*

Week 3 (Sept 22): approaches to public affairs II

Guest Speaker: Matt Bufton, Executive Director of the Institute for Liberal Studies

- Miljan: Chapter 2(38-48)
- James Buchanan, Politics without Romance, <http://news.heartland.org/sites/default/files/v7n3-3.pdf> (45-55)
- Bruce Yandle, Baptists and Bootleggers, <https://www.cis.org.au/images/stories/policy-magazine/2003-spring/2003-19-3-james-m-buchanan.pdf> (4 pages)

Week 4 (Sept 29): voters and interest groups

- Caplan, Bryan (2011). "Chapter 6: Rational Irrationality", in *The myth of the rational voter: Why democracies choose bad policies*. Princeton University Press, 2011.
- Eamon Buttler: Public Choice, a Primer.
- Podcast: [Mike Munger on Rent Seeking](#)

Week 5 (Oct 6): administration and policy making in practice

****IMPORTANT**** Quiz 1: in class

- Miljan Chapter 4 (87-100)
- Read: sample briefing note.
- Carnis, Laurent. "The Economic Theory of Bureaucracy." *Quarterly Journal of Austrian Economics* 12(2009): 57–78

Week 6 (Oct 13): economic policy

- Milan: Chapter 6 (focus on 125-150)
- Gene Callahan, Ch 13, "Times are hard" in *Economics for real people* (5 pages)
- Hazlett, "the broken window" and "the business cycle" in *Economics in one lesson*. (10 pages)

Week 7: (Oct 20) inequality and crisis

- Tomas Piketty (2013): "Chapter 1: *Capital in the 21st Century*."
- Tyler Cowan (2011). "Chapter 1, 2" of *the great stagnation: How America ate all the low-hanging fruit of modern history, got sick, and will (eventually) feel better*: Penguin. (recommended: Skim the whole thing).
- Podcast: Planet Money, Episode 486: [Crisis Revisited](#).

October 27: Fall break, no class.

Week 8 (Nov 3): trade and immigration

- Miljan Chapter 6 (142-161)
- Hazlett, "who is protected by tariffs" and "the drive for exports" in *Economics in one lesson*. (10 pages)
- Bryan Caplan, "[why should we restrict immigration](#)", in CATO Journal (5-20).

Week 9 (Nov 10): health policy dilemmas

IMPORTANT: CRITICAL REVIEW ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

Guest Speaker: Jordan Miller (policy evaluation and management consultant)

- Miljan: Chapter 8 (185-206)
- John Cochrane, 2013, "[After the Affordable Care Act: Freeing the Market for Healthcare](#)"
- Blog Post: Jim Manzi, "[The Oregon Medicaid Study](#)", the *Daily Beast*.

Week 10 (Nov 17): drug policy dilemmas

- Health Canada, Marijuana for Medical Purposes Regulations: regulatory impact analysis and overview.
- Glenn Greenwald (2012): "[Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Lessons for Policy](#)".

Week 11 (Nov 24): emergent order, information, and public affairs

IMPORTANT Quiz 2: in class

Guest Speaker: Caleb Chaplin (Graduate Student, Carleton)

Readings: TBA

Week 12 (Dec 1): environmental policy dilemmas

- Miljan: Chapter 11
- Robert N. Stavins, "[Cap-and-Trade or a Carbon Tax?](#)" *The Environmental Forum*, page 16 (January/February 2008)
- Alex Epstein, Chapter 1, *The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels*.

IMPORTANT Take home exam distributed

Supplementary reading and listening for course topics (completely optional)

On the state and government: Milton Friedman (1964) "The role of government in a free society", in *Capitalism and Freedom*; Max Weber (1970), "Politics as Vocation"; Charles Tilly, "War making and state making as organized crime" in *Bringing the State Back in* (Cambridge: 1985); Robert Higgs, *Leviathan*;

On the economic way of thinking: Callahan, [Economics for Everyday People](#) ; Hazlitt, *Economics in one Lesson*

On liberalism and markets in public policy: Hayek, F. A. 1945. "The Use of Knowledge in Society". Reprinted in *Individualism and Economic Order*, 77–91. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1948. Horowitz, "From Smith to Menger to Hayek: Liberalism in the spontaneous-order tradition" in *the Independent Review*: 1 (2001). Kukathas, Chandran. 1990. *Hayek and Modern Liberalism*. Oxford: Clarendon;

On collective action problems: Mancur Olson (1971), *The Logic Of Collective Action*.

On economic policy: Video, [Keynes v. Hayek: Fear the Boom](#)

On inequality: Greg Mankew (2013) "Defending the One percent", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*;

On trade: Frédéric Bastiat, "[a Petition](#)".

On drug policy in Canada: Court Case: [R. v. Parker, 2000 CanLII 5762 \(ON CA\) — 2000-07-31](#),

On drug policy and crime: Blog Post: John Cochrane, "[Work and Jail](#)"; Podcast: [Brent Okrent on Prohibition and His Book, Last Call](#)

On environmental policy: Podcast: [David Owen on the Environment, Unintended Consequences, and The Conundrum](#)

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.

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.

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> 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.