

PSCI 3405 A
Comparative Public Policy Analysis
Mondays 18:05 to 20:55
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office Hours: Mondays 17:00 pm to 18:00 pm (or by appointment)

Course Objectives

The 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 course also concentrates on some few relevant theories emerged in the field of Political Science to explain the evolution of public policies in varied national and international settings. In addition, an increasing internationalization of issues and policy responses is studied paying attention to the transnationalization of actors and agencies involved in the policy process. Some of the questions this course attempts to answer are: Why do policies dealing with issues such as fiscal and taxation, pensions, health care, and family support differ across wealthy nations? What role does factors such as political culture; political institutions and organized interests have in explaining these differences? The course is divided in three parts. The first part introduces some of the key perspectives of public policy formation and change, such as organized interests, ideas and the role of political institutions in shaping the path of policies adopted. In the second part we study a set of policy issues compared across nations, emphasizing – in their analysis – the role of political actors and institutions in framing them. Finally, a final session will focus on the study of global public policy, an important new area of specialization in the study of public policy.

Learning Objectives

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.

Required Text: Available at the University Bookstore

Adolino, Jessica and Charles Blake (2001). *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Six Industrialised Countries*. Washington: CQ Press.

Course reading package

A course pack is available in the Carleton Bookstore.

Most readings are also available electronically (as indicated) and available online through the University library system. They will also be posted on the WebCT. Those not available electronically are available through the Library's course reserves.

Sessions will be organized in two parts. In the first half a Lecture will be presented followed by group presentations and discussion on assigned readings. Lectures and readings are complementary and do not directly overlap. Communications between the instructor, teaching assistants, and students will be done via WebCT. Students are responsible for checking WebCT on a regular basis.

Note: The ability to converse across different social, ethnic and other backgrounds is an important component of the university education. Students, instructor and teaching assistants are expected to display tolerance for each other's ideas and beliefs across personal and cultural boundaries.

Assignments: The final grade will be based on written assignments as well as weekly attendance and participation. The distribution is as follows:

Attendance and Participation	10%
Group Presentation	15%
Mid-term Exam (Oct 26)	35%
Comparative Research Essay (Dec 7)	40%

Attendance and Participation: Students must attend classes on a regular basis. Students are expected to come to class having read the material. During the tutorial session (second half of the class= organized groups of 3 students will be prepared to discuss the main themes and ideas as well as the strengths and weaknesses of the various articles. The instructor will assign the readings before each session.

Mid-term: A 2 hours mid-term exam will be held on October 26. The exam will cover material until October 19. It will include several short answers, essay type questions as well as long answer questions. As per early feedback guidelines, grades for the Mid-Term will be available by Nov 6.

Students who miss the mid-term exam MUST present a written medical or counseling certificate to the instructor in order to avoid receiving an F. (No special exceptions will be made in any circumstances outside the specified in this syllabus)

Comparative Research Essay: Students will be required to submit a research paper based on one policy issue and two countries of their preference. The paper should be 12-15 pages in length, including appendixes, notes and bibliographical references. APA, MLA or the style outlined on the Political Science website are the recommended styles.

See <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Policy issues are not limited to the ones studied in this class. You can also choose other topics such as Environmental policy, abortion policy, immigration policy, etc. I suggest to consult with me topic and bibliography in advance.

Further details will be given in class. Due date: December 7

STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ALL COURSE REQUIREMENTS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A FINAL GRADE

Policies on Assignments:

Unless otherwise noted all assignments in this course must be Times New Roman 12 pt font, double-spaced and have standard one inch margins. As much as possible they should be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must include appropriate citations and bibliography. Assignments that do not have citations will be returned to the student un-graded. Students will be

permitted to re-submit the paper, within a specified deadline, but a grade penalty will be imposed. The University takes instructional offences (including plagiarism) very seriously. Please make sure that you are familiar with the regulations regarding instructional offences, which are outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar. It is not acceptable to submit the same assignment in two different courses. New assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified. They should be submitted directly to the Professor in class. If this is not possible use the Political Science Drop Box on the 6th Floor. Please be aware that the drop box is cleared at 4:00 p.m. each day. Late papers without a date stamp will be assessed a penalty based on the date the Professor actually receives the paper. Do not slip assignments under my office door or post it on my office door. Do not submit written assignments by e-mail or fax. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that I receive the papers and it is the student's responsibility to collect the graded paper in a timely fashion. Students should make a copy of all of their assignments before submitting them and are advised to keep all notes and drafts of work until after the final grade has been assigned and awarded.

**** Late Penalties**

Assignments are due on the dates specified in the course outline. Late papers will be penalized 1 grade point per day (e.g. A paper originally awarded a B+ will become a B if it is one day late). Please contact me well in advance if you anticipate a problem in meeting the due date. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks after the due date. No retroactive extensions will be permitted. Do not ask for an extension on the due date of the assignment. Exceptions will be made only in those cases of special circumstances, (e.g. illness, bereavement) and where the student has verifiable documentation.

Class Schedule

1- 14/09 Introduction to the Course:

Presentation of course objectives and requirements.
Students may sign for in-class presentations

2 – 21/09 Theories of the policy process

Why do we study the politics of public policy?
How do we analyze the politics of public policy?
Why do we compare?

Required Readings:

Adolino & Blake, Chapters 1 and 2
Stone, Deborah. 2002. *Policy Paradox. The Art of Political Decision-Making*. New York: WW Norton. Chapter 1: The Market and the Polis (pp. 17-34)

Supplementary Readings:

Lodge, Martin. 2007. Comparative Public Policy. In *Handbook of Public Policy Analysis: Theory, Politics and Methods*. Fisher, Frank, Gerald Miller and Mara Sidney (eds.) (New York: CRC Press.

Part I: What explains policy change?

3 – 28/09 Interests Groups, Pluralism and the Role of Political Institutions

How do political institutions structure decision-making processes?
How do institutionalism contribute to comparative public policy analysis?

Adolino & Blake, Chapter 3 and 4 (Again)

Smith, Martin.1990. Pluralism, Reformed Pluralism and Neo-Pluralism: The Role of Pressure Groups in Policy-making. *Political Studies* 38:2 (302-22). (Available electronically)

Bonoli, Giuliano. 2001. Political Institutions, Veto Points, and the Process of Welfare State Adaptation. In *The New Politics of the Welfare State*. Paul Pierson (ed.). Oxford University Press

4 – 05/10 Ideas, Policy Paradigms and Policy Discourse

What role do ideas play in shaping public policies?

What is the relevance of the historical legacies to understand contemporary policies?

Hall, Peter. 1993. Policy Paradigms, Social Learning and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain. *Comparative Politics* 26 April (275-96). (Available electronically)

Beland, Daniel. 2005. Ideas and Social Policy: An Institutionalist Perspective. *Social Policy & Administration* 39:1 (1-18) (Available electronically)

Cox, Robert. 2001. The Social Construction of an Imperative: Why Welfare Reform Happened in Denmark and the Netherlands but Not in Germany. *World Politics* 53 (463-98) (Available electronically)

5 – 19/10 Advocacy Coalitions in National and Transnational Settings

What is the role of actors in framing public policies?

Are some interests more powerful than others? How this affects public policies?

Sabatier, Paul A. 2007. Theories of the Policy Process. Westview Press. 2nd Edition. Chapter 7.

Stone, Diane. 2004. Transfer Agents and Global Networks in the Transnationalization of policy. *Journal of European Public Policy*. 11-3. (545-566) (Available electronically)

Princen, Sebastiaan. 2007. Advocacy Coalitions and the Internationalization of Public Health Policies. *Journal of Public Policy*. 27-1.(13-33) (Available electronically)

III Politics, Institutions and Public Policies

6 – 26/10 Mid-Term Exam

7 – 02/11 Welfare Regimes, Social Policy and Pension Reform

Adolino & Blake. Chapter 9

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 2006. Three World of Welfare Capitalism. In *The Welfare State Reader*. Christopher Pierson and Francis Castles (eds.) Polity Press.

Beland, Daniel. 2006. The Politics of Social Learning: Finance, Institutions, and Pension Reform in the United States and Canada. *Governance* 19:4 (559-583) (Available electronically)

Bonoli, Giuliani and Toshimitsu Shinkawa. 2005. Ageing and Pension Reform around the World. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar. Chapter 1.

8 – 09/11 Fiscal Policy and Taxation: Institutions and Partisan Politics

Adolino & Blake Chapters 6 and 7

Steinmo, Sven. 1989. Political Institutions and Tax Policy in the United States, Sweden, and Britain. *World Politics* 41 (500-535) (Available electronically)

Cusack, Thomas. 1999. Partisan Politics and Fiscal Policy. *Comparative Political Studies*, 32. (464468) (Available electronically)

9 – 16/11 Health Care Regimes

Adolino & Blake. Chapter 8.

Hacker, Jacob. 1998. The Historical Logic of National Health Insurance: Structure and Sequence in the Development of British, Canadian, and US Medical Policy. *Studies in American Political Development*. 12-1. (57-130)

We will watch the movie SICKO (2007) in Class, followed by debate and analysis of readings.

10 – 23/11 Political Institutions and Health Care

Adolino & Blake. Chapter 8.

Immergut, Ellen. 1992. The Rules of the Game: The Logic of Health Policymaking in France, Switzerland and Sweden. In *Structuring Politics; Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen and F. Longstreth. Cambridge University Press.

Steinmo, Sven and J. Watts. 1995. It's the Institutions, Stupid! Why Comprehensive National Health Insurance always fails in America. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*. 20. (329-372) (Available electronically)

11 – 30/11 Family Policies and the Demographic Challenges to the Welfare State

Adolino & Blake Chapter 9 (Again)

McDonald, Peter. 2006. Gender Equity in Theories of Fertility Transition. In *The Welfare State Reader*. Polity Press.

Mogan, Kimberly. 2003. The Politics of Mothers' Employment: France in Comparative Perspective. *World Politics*. 55 (259-289) (Available electronically)

White, Linda. 2002. Ideas and the Welfare State: Explaining Childcare Policy Development in Canada and United States. *Comparative Political Studies*. 2002. 35. (713-743) (Available electronically)

12 – 07/12 Globalization and Public Policy

Deacon, Bob. 1997. *Global Social Policy: International Organizations and the Future of Welfare*. SAGE. Chapter 3. The Social Policy of Global Agencies.

Mahon, Rianne. 2009. The OECD's Discourse on Reconciliation of Work and Family Life. *Global Social Policy*. 2009. 9 (183-204)

This is a list of books on public policies – not exclusive - that can be of interest (and very useful for your final research essay). Some of them are on reserve at Carleton Library.

Bonoli and Shinkawa (2005) Ageing and pension reform around the world: Evidence from Eleven Countries. Cheltenham, Edward Elgar.

Blank and Burau. 2004. *Comparative Health Policy*. Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Gaultier, Anne Helene. 1996. *The State and the Family: A Comparative Analysis of Family Policies in Industrialized Countries*. Clarendon Press.

O'Connor, Julia, Ann Shola Orloff and Sheila Shaver. 1999. *States, Markets, Families: Gender, Liberalism and Social Policy in Australia, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States*. Cambridge University Press.

Touhy, Carolyn. 1999. *Accidental Logics: The Dynamics of Change in the Health Care Arena in the United States, Britain, and Canada*. Oxford University Press.

Freeman, Richard. 2000. *The Politics of Health in Europe*. Manchester University Press.

Bonoli, Giuliano. 2000. *The Politics of Pension Reform: Institutions and Policy Change in Western Europe*. Cambridge University Press.

This is a list of useful Journals on Public Policy

Social Policy and Administration
Governance
Social Politics
Journal of Social Policy
Journal of European Public Policy
Journal of Public Policy
Comparative Political Studies
Social Policy and Society
Journal of European Social Policy

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 16, 2009 for December examinations and March 12, 2010 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.