



POLI-4555 WA: Politics of Public Policy (Winter 2013)
Wednesdays: 2:30–5:30 pm; RB 2026

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide an advanced and critical introduction to the field of public policy (both as an academic field of study and an arena of government action, hence a site of power and politics). It seeks to acquaint students with an overview of the scope, concepts and nature of public policy; focusing on the politics, contexts, processes and practices which influence and determine agenda-setting and policy formulation; the institutional, social and power political contexts of policy formulation and implementation; the roles of ideas, institutions, cultures, actors (who are differentially situated) and political systems in the politics of public policy. Understanding the policy process demands understanding the contexts within which policy is made as well as the institutions, actors, and instruments involved with the policy process. This course does not only aim to help students develop critical analytical skills in understanding the mechanics and dynamics of public policy analysis; but also the critical skills in engaging with the issues of power and politics and implications for the processes and practices of public policy formulation and implementation.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on conceptual, theoretical and analytical issues, while the second part focuses on the Canadian public policy experience in comparative historical and global perspectives. Part one will examine the institutions, actors, processes and instruments involved in policy making; the policy cycles and the ways in which agendas are set, formulated, implemented and evaluated. Part two will examine the three major national policy eras in Canada: (a) the first national policy era; (b) the welfare state era, and (c) the current era of neoliberalism – in order to understand the nature of policy changes and the politics which surrounded the inauguration and transformation of policy agendas. The course will focus on four major policy areas: macroeconomic policy; aboriginal policy; immigration and settlement; Social policy which includes health, family, social welfare and employment.

Requirements and Evaluation

As this is a seminar, attendance and class participation are very important to the success of the course. Students registered on this course are required to regularly attend classes, do the assigned readings before coming to class, do at least one class presentation from the weekly assigned readings and take part in class discussions. As well, they should complete a short critical reflection paper, and submit a final research essay. Barring any extenuating circumstance, all written work must be submitted on time.

The final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance & Participation:	20%
Presentation:	20%
Critical Review Paper:	25%
Final Paper:	35%

Note:

- (a) The presentations should be 30 minutes long or less.
- (b) The critical review essay is intended to test your knowledge on some of the conceptual and theoretical issues covered in the first half of the course. The essay should critically engage these issues, competently demonstrating familiarity with the concepts and ideas that you choose to address and their relevance for public policy. The critical review essay should be 5 (double-spaced) pages long.
- (c) The final assignment is a 10 to 12 page essay (excluding the title page and bibliography of works cited). It can be on any topic or issue in public policy.
- (d) All essays should have a title page indicating the title of your essay, your name, student and course numbers, the name of the instructor, the department and the university.
- (e) All essays must be doubled-spaced; Times New Roman 12 point fonts, 1 inch margin; and should be handed in on the due date in class. Citation style should be APA or Chicago manual style.

Required Texts

- 1. Michael Howlett, M. Ramesh, and Anthony Perl, *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, [4th edition], (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2009)
- 2. Lydia Miljan, *Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction* [6th Edition] (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2008)
- 3. Additional readings in course Kit

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs can request accommodations in accordance with the Senate Policy on Students with Disabilities. Please endeavour, at the earliest opportunity, to advise the Student Accessibility Services (formerly the Learning Assistance Centre) and the course instructor of your special needs so that appropriate arrangements can be made to accommodate such needs. Those who encounter extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course should, as soon as possible, discuss these circumstances with the course instructor and the Student Accessibility Services.

Lakehead Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Students are expected to uphold the academic honour code at all times and are advised to familiarise themselves with the university policy on academic dishonesty, especially in

relation, but not limited, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. Violation of this policy can lead to serious consequences.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 9): Introduction & Overview

PART I: – UNDERSTANDING THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC POLICY: CONCEPTS, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES AND AGENDAS

Week 2 (Jan 16): Understanding Public Policy

Required Readings:

Howlett, Ramesh, & Perl, Chapter 1: “Introduction: Why Study Public Policy?”; pp. 2–16; & Chapter 2: “Understanding Public Policy: Theoretical Approaches,” pp. 17-49;

Miljan, Chapter 1: “Basic Concepts in the Study of Public Policy;” pp. 2-22; and Chapter 2: “Theories of Public Policy,” pp. 23-50;

Week 3 (Jan 23): The Policy Contexts: Actors, Ideas & Environment

Required Readings:

Hawlett, Ramesh & Perl, Chapter 3: “The Policy Context”; pp. 50 – 89;

Milijan, Chapter 3: “The Context of Policy-Making in Canada,” pp. 51-86

Pierre Lascombes and Patrick Le Gales, “Introduction: Understanding Public Policy through Its Instruments—From the Nature of Instruments to the Sociology of Public Policy Instrumentation”, *Governance: An International Journal of Policy, Administration, and Institutions*, Vol. 20, No. 1, (2007), pp. 1–21.

Week 4 (Jan 30): The Policy Process I: Agenda Setting, Policy Formulation & Design

Required Readings:

Hawlett, Ramesh & Perl, Chapter 4: “Agenda-Setting”; pp. 92-109; Chapter 5: “Policy Formulation: Policy Instruments and Policy Design”; pp. 110-138; & Chapter 6: “Public Policy Decision-Making”; pp. 139-159

Sarah B Pralle, “Timing and sequence in agenda-setting and policy change: a comparative study of lawn care pesticide politics in Canada and the US,” *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 13 No. 7, (2006), pp. 987-1005

Christoffer Green-Pedersen, & John Wilkerson “How agenda-setting attributes shape politics: Basic dilemmas, problem attention and health politics developments in Denmark and the US,” *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 13, No. 7, (2006) pp. 1039-1052

Week 5 (Feb 6): The Policy Process II: Policy Implementation and Evaluation

Required Readings:

Hawlett, Ramesh & Perl, Chapter 7: “Policy Implementation”; pp. 160 – 177; & Chapter 8: “Policy Evaluation: Policy-Making as Learning”; pp. 178-196;

Milijan, Chapter 4: “Policy Implementation”; pp. 87-105; & Chapter 5: “Policy Evaluation”; pp. 106 -122;

Evert Lindquist, "Organizing for Policy Implementation: The Emergence and Role of Implementation Units in Policy Design and Oversight," *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice*, Vol. 8, No. 4, (2006), pp. 311-324

Michael Howlett, & Evert Lindquist, "Policy Analysis and Governance: Analytical and Policy Styles in Canada," *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, Vol. 6, No. 3, (2004), pp. 225 – 249

PART II – CANADIAN PUBLIC POLICY IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Week 6 (Feb 13): The First National Policy Era

Required Reading:

Janine Brodie, "The Rise and Fall of the First National Policy" Chapter 5 in her *The Political Economy of Canadian Regionalism*, (Toronto: Harcourt Brace, 1990); pp. 85 – 134

Stephen McBride, "Canada: Between Nationalism, Continentalism and Globalism" Chapter 2 in his *Paradigm Shift: Globalisation and the Canadian State* 2e (Halifax: Fernwood, 2005), pp. 27–42;

Ninette Kelly & Michael Trebilcock, "Immigration and the Consolidation of the Dominion, 1867 – 1896: Fulfilling the Destiny" Chapter 3 in their *The Making of the Mosaic: A History of Canadian Immigration Policy* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000), pp. 61–110

Week 7 (Feb 20): [No Class: Study Break – February 21 – 25]

Week 8 (Feb 27): The Keynesian Welfare State Era

Required Readings:

Stephen McBride & John Shields, "The Post-War Canadian State" Chapter 2 in their *Dismantling a Nation: the Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada*, (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997); pp. 35–51;

Ann Porter, Chapter 2: "Gender and the Construction of the Post-war Welfare State" in her *Gendered States: Women, Unemployment Insurance, and the Political Economy of the Welfare State in Canada, 1945 – 1947* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003), pp. 37 – 61

Janine Brodie, "The Second National Policy and the Drift to Continentalism" Chapter 6 in her *The Political Economy of Canadian Regionalism*, (Toronto: Harcourt Brace, 1990); pp. 135-180

Week 9 (March 6): The Neoliberal Era

Required Readings:

Stephen McBride & John Shields, "The Canadian State and the Neo-Liberal Revolution" Chapter 1 in their *Dismantling a Nation: the Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada*, (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997); pp. 17 – 34

Stephen McBride, "Neoliberalism and Canadian Policy" Chapter 5 in his *Paradigm Shift: Globalisation and the Canadian State*, (Halifax: Fernwood, 2005); pp. 95–122

Ann Porter, “Consolidating Neoliberal Reforms” Chapter 8 in her *Gendered States: Women, Unemployment Insurance, and the Political Economy of the Welfare State in Canada, 1945 – 1947* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2003), pp. 211–230

Week 10 (March 13): Macroeconomic Policy

Milijan, Chapter 6: “Macroeconomic Policy” pp. 124-161

Stephen McBride & John Shields, “Dismantling the Post-War Economic Order” Chapter 3 in their *Dismantling a Nation: the Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada*, (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997); pp. 53 – 76;

Lars Osberg, “Why Did Unemployment Disappear from Official Macro-Economic Policy Discourse in Canada?” *New Directions for Intelligent Government in Canada Papers in Honour of Ian Stewart* Edited by Fred Gorbet and Andrew Sharpe, (Ottawa: Centre for the Study of Living Standards, 2011), pp. 127 – 162

Week 11 (March 20): Immigration and Settlement

Required Readings:

Ninette Kelly & Michael Trebilcock, “Immigration and the Consolidation of the Dominion, 1867 – 1896: Fulfilling the Destiny” Chapter 3 and Introduction in their *The Making of the Mosaic: A History of Canadian Immigration Policy* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2000), pp. 61–110

Sunera Thobani, “Closing Ranks: Racism and Sexism in Canada’s Immigration Policy,” *Race & Class*, Vol. 42, No. 1 (2000), pp. 35–55

Alan G. Green & David Green, “The Goals of Canada’s Immigration Policy: A Historical Perspective” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, Volume 13, Issue 1 (2004), pp. 102-139

Jeffrey G. Reitz, “Canadian Immigration Policy” in *Immigration and Asylum: From 1900 to the Present*, edited by M. J. Gibney and Randall Hansen (Santa Barbara and Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2005)

Week 12 (March 27): Aboriginal Policy

Required Readings:

The Indian Act of 1876

Milijan, Chapter 10: “Aboriginal Policy” pp. 243-278

Hugh Shewell, “Dreaming in Liberal White: Canadian Indian Policy, 1913-1983” in *Aboriginal History: A Reader* edited by Kristin Burnett and Geoff Read, 170 - 178. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2012.

John L. Tobais, “Protection, Civilisation, Assimilation: An Outline History of Canada’s Indian Policy,” in *As Long as the Sun Shines and Water Flows: A Reader in Canadian Native Studies*, 39-55. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983.

Week 13 (April 3): Social Policy: Health, Social Welfare and Employment

Required Readings:

Milijan, Chapter 7: “Social Policy”; pp. 162–184 & Chapter 8: “Health Policy”; pp. 185 - 209

Stephen McBride & John Shields, “Dismantling the Post-War Social Order” Chapter 4 in their *Dismantling a Nation: the Transition to Corporate Rule in Canada*, (Halifax: Fernwood, 1997); pp. 77-100

Mike Burke and John Shields, “Tracking Inequality in the New Canadian Labour Market” Chapter 4 in *Restructuring and Resistance: Canadian Labour in the Age of Global Capitalism* edited by Mike Burke and John Shields, 98-123. (Halifax: Fernwood, 2000)

Grace-Edward Galabuzi, Introduction and Chapter 4: “The Economic Exclusion of Racialised Communities – A Statistical Profile” in his *Canada’s Economic Apartheid: The Social Exclusion of Racialised Groups in the New Century* (Toronto: Canadian Scholars’ Press 2006), pp. 1 – 27 & 90 – 123