Poli-3711 WA- Public Administration

Instructor: Ms. Erika Halverson
Room: RB 3026
Office: to be provided
Office Hours: to be provided
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Winter 2018
Mondays and Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm

Course Description
This course will provide a critical introduction and understanding of the field of public policy. The course has been designed as a reading course and will guide students on how to read and decipher substantial amounts of information, which is a primary and critical skill within the field of policy production. The course will focus on engaging students with an overview of the concepts and theories within the scope of public policy. The course will also explore the role of ideas, actors, institutions and structures within policy development. It will analyze modern theories of public policy as well as comparative policy processes. Students will also learn to develop Policy Briefs and Proposals on a wide range of issues within municipal, provincial, federal and international contexts.

Students will focus on using critical analytical skills in understanding the dynamic range of public policy. The course will pay special attention to policy analysis and the relationship of settler colonialism, gender, immigration, neoliberalism and globalization in public policy. This is pursued in order to state a critical intervention into the institutionalizations of multiple relations and scales of power inherent within policy making and the accompanying ideologies.

Course Format
The course will alternate between lectures, presentations and seminars. Weekly lectures for this course will focus on the assigned readings from the required textbook as well as any other readings listed. Students are to attend class regularly, do the assigned readings and prepare a presentation based on the weekly readings. Students should note that lectures are not meant to be a summary of the course reading material, but merely a guide. Students should ensure to read all outlined material prior to class, as the class will focus on engaging students and encourage participation based on the weekly readings. Students are responsible for all required reading material.
Students will be asked to prepare 2 questions and submit them by 4:00 pm Tuesdays via email. Questions will be picked at random during seminar classes.

Course Material
Required Text(s)


2. Excerpts from other works and authors. **

**Readings are available via Scholars Portal. Students should have access by logging on via Lakehead University Library and log in using their Lakehead University email and password. **

Course Evaluation
1. Attendance & Participation: 20%
   Students will be marked based on attendance, and engagement in weekly class discussions and submission of weekly questions.

2. Presentation: 10%
   Students will lead the class in a discussion that reflects on the weekly readings. Presentations are to be no more than 10 min and provide a critical analysis of the weekly readings. A sign up sheet will be available on a first come/first serve basis.

3. Critical Reflection Paper 30% -Due February 28th by 4:30pm
   Students will complete a 10-page critical reflection paper based on the readings from Weeks 2-6. Students will focus on engaging with the theoretical and conceptual issues covered in the first half of the course.

4. Policy Proposal: 40% -Due April 16th by 12:00pm.
   Students will complete a 10-15 page policy brief. The Policy Brief/Proposal will focus on any area of public policy and should pertain to relevant issues within Canada.

Late Policy
Late Papers will be deducted a 5% penalty per day (including weekends) up to 10 days after the due-date.
**Exception for late assignments with no penalty will be made only in special cases (i.e. severe illness, bereavement). Students may be required to provide documentation.**

Email
Emails will be answered within two business days. DO NOT submit assignments via email, unless discussed with me prior to submission or instructed to do so. Email should be used to send quick inquiries about course material, or setting up appointments out of regularly scheduled office hours. Students are required to use their Lakehead University student email, as other commercial emails will not be answered.
Tentative Outline
Weekly schedule subject to change

Week 1: Introduction to the Course: Understanding Public Policy

Required Reading
- Miljan, Chapter 1: *Basic Concepts in the Study of Public Policy*, pp. 1-23
- Miljan, Chapter 2: *Theories of Public Policy*, pp. 23-51

Week 2 (January 15th and 17th)- Settler Colonialism and a History of Public Policy

Required Reading
- Miljan, Chapter 10: *Aboriginal Policy*, pp. 243-278

Suggested Reading(s)

Week 3 (January 22nd and 24th)- Policy Making

Required Readings


**Week 4 (January 29th and 31st)- Policy Process: Developing, Implementing and Evaluating Policy**

**Required Reading**

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

**Week 5 (February 5th and 7th)- Immigration: Refugees and Canadian Immigration Policy**

**Required Reading**


**Suggested Reading(s)**


**Week 6 (February 12th and 14th)- Gender, Sexuality and Public Policy**

**Required Readings**


**Week 7 (February 19th and 21st)- NO CLASSES**

No classes –Reading week

**Week 8 (February 26th and 28th) Keynesian Welfare State, Neoliberalism and Macroeconomic Policy**

Critical Reflection Paper Due February 28th by 4:30pm.
Required Readings

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

Suggested Reading(s)

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

Week 9 (March 5th and 7th)- Globalization and Public Policy

Required Readings

- Miljan, Chapter 7 “Social Policy,” pp. 162-184

Week 10 (March 12th and 14th)- Social Policies: Health, Employment, and Education

Required Readings
- Miljan, Chapter 8: “Health Policy,” pp. 185-209.


Suggested Reading(s)


Week 11 (March 19th and 21st)- Municipal and Provincial Policy

Required Reading


- Education Policy Proposal : http://publications.gc.ca/Collection-R/LoPBdP/BP/bp386-e.htm


  http://www.communitybasedresearch.ca/resources/700/Policy%20Brief%20June%202017.pdf

**Week 12 (March 26th and 28th)- Federal Public Policy**

**Required Reading**


**Week 13 (April 2nd and 4th)- International Public Policy**

**No Class April 2nd –Easter Monday**

**Policy Proposals due April 16th at noon.**

**Required Reading**


**Critical Reflection Paper**

Students are required to complete a critical reflection paper. The focus of the paper is to provide critically engage in the topics discussed in the first half of the course. Students will focus on providing a clear research question, and focus on providing a rationalized argument and using academic sources to support their argument throughout their paper. Students should ensure they are critically engaging with the issues covered in lectures and class discussions.

Students are to use academic sources (Please DO NOT use sources such as Wikipedia, Canadian Encyclopedia, etc.). Students are also to cite any and all sources used throughout the paper. Students should ensure they are citing facts that are not common knowledge, but also citing all ideas borrowed from authors. Please note that plagiarism will NOT be tolerated.

The format of the essays will be in Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced. Students will ensure that standard margins are being used. Essays should be free of any grammatical and spelling errors. Students will also include a complete bibliography and appropriate citations throughout the paper.

Students will include a title page with their name, date, course number and my name. Title pages and bibliography will NOT count towards page count.

Students should refer to proper formatting (MLA, APA, Chicago). It is recommended students use MLA format. Students are also encouraged to utilize reference books and articles on proper citation styles.

**Presentations**

Each student is required to present a brief critical analysis of the weekly readings. Student presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes. This is to ensure all students who have signed up for that day will be able to present. Students will focus on a critical analysis of the weekly readings and are not to give summaries of the readings.
Presentations will take up 30-40 minutes of the class and the remainder of the class will allow students to discuss their thoughts on the weekly readings.

A sign up sheet will be available on a first come first served basis.

**Policy Briefs.**
To be discussed in class.

**Accessibility**
Students with diverse learning needs and styles are welcome to participate in this course. Any student requiring specific accommodations please feel free to approach me in person or via email or contact Lakehead University’s Accessibility Services.

**Lakehead University Policy on Academic Dishonesty**
Students are expected to uphold academic honesty at all time. Students are also advised to familiarise themselves with the university policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. Violation of this policy can lead to serious consequences and will be strictly enforced.