

▶▶ JSGS 806 – PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS

University of Saskatchewan Campus		
Instructor:	Peter W.B. Phillips	Sharon-Lee Smith
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Office Hours:	By appointment	By appointment
Office Location:	Diefenbaker Building, Room 146	
Term:	Winter 2011 (Term 2)	
Room:	Room 137, Prairie Room	
Time:	Common Lecture: Mondays 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Common Lecture: Mondays 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
	Seminar: Either Mondays, 6:30 – 8:20 p.m. or Mondays, 3:30 – 5:20 p.m.	

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This graduate course focuses on the analysis of the processes whereby public policies arise and are enacted in Canada. The course compares theories and models of policy-making and decision-making to illustrate the special requirements of the Canadian environment and examines the roles of various participants in the policy process: legislators, political parties, interest groups, administrators and administrative structures, citizens and the judiciary.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Howlett, Michael, M. Ramesh and A. Pearl. 2009. *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*, 3rd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press (you may use the first or second editions of Howlett and Ramesh, but the page numbers and a few of concepts may be dated)
- Bardach, E. 2000. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. New York: Chatham House Publishers.

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS: AS ASSIGNED BELOW

EVALUATION

In-class participation	20%
1 page BN	10%
1 page CII	10%
3 page CDI	15%
10 page group policy case study	25%
Cost benefit analysis for final exam (presented as poster)	20%

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

Availability: P (Phillips has a copy); W (on web as indicated); L (in USask Library); L e-book (can be read online via USask Library); JSTOR (available via USask Library)

Week 1, January 9: Introduction to policy analysis

Topics:

- Overview of course objectives and requirements
- Overview of the study of Canadian public policy and the key policy issues
- Introduction to policy analysis
- What are the assumptions?
- What are the issues?

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch. 1 (OLD EDITION: 1)
- Phillips, P. 2007. *Governing Transformative Technological Innovation*, Chapters 4 & 6 (P; posted to Blackboard).
- Strange, S. 1988. *States and Markets: An Introduction to International Political Economy*. Pinter Press: London, esp ch. 1-2. (L: HF1411 .S788 1994)(P)

Week 2, January 16: Policy cycles and approaches

Topics:

- Frameworks for policy analysis and policy development
- Easton's black box;
- The policy cycle
- Systems theory

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 2 (2)
- R. Gilpin. 1975. "Three models of the future." *International Organization*, 29(1), 37-60. JSTOR

Assigned readings:

- Atkinson, M. and W. Coleman (1992), 'Policy networks, policy communities and the problems of governance', *Governance*, 5(2), 154-180. JSTOR
- Jordan, G. 1981. 'Iron Triangles, Woolly Corporatism and Elastic Nets: Images of the Policy Process.' *Journal of Public Policy*. 1(1). JSTOR
- Teisman, G. 2000. 'Models for Research into Decision-Making Processes: On Phases, Streams and Decision-Making Rounds.' *Public Administration*. 78(4): 937-956. JSTOR

Week 3, January 23: Institutions, actors and tools

Topics

- The array of institutions, actors and tools in policy systems

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 3 (3-4)

- Treasury Board of Canada. 2007. Assessing, Selecting, and Implementing Instruments for Government Action. P

Assigned readings:

- Lindquist, E. 2006. Think Tanks, Foundations and Policy Discourse: Ebbs and Flows, Investments and Responsibilities http://www.cprn.org/documents/45986_en.pdf
- Schneider, Anne and Helen Ingram. "Behavioral Assumptions of Policy Tools." JOURNAL OF POLITICS 52, 2 (1990), 510-529. JSTOR
- Radin, B. and J. Boase. 2000. Federalism, Political Structure and Public Policy in the US and Canada. Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice 2: 65-89. JSTOR

Due: 1 page Briefing Notes

Week 4, January 30: Stage 1: Agenda Setting

Topics:

- Methods of identifying policy issues for analysis/action

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 4 (5)
- Popper, R. 2008. How are foresight methods selected? Foresight 10(6), 62-89. JSTOR

Assigned readings:

- Kenney, S. Where is gender in agenda setting? Women and Politics 21(10) 179-204. JSTOR
- Stone, D. 1989. 'Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas.' *Political Science Quarterly*. 104 (2). JSTOR
- Phillips, P. 2009. Democracy, governance and public engagement: a critical assessment. Conference on "publics and emerging technologies: hindsight and foresight", Banff, October. P

Week 5, February 6: Stage 2: Design

Topics:

- Constraints and processes of designing policy options

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 5 (6)

Assigned readings:

- Williamson, O.E. 1973. Markets and Hierarchies: Some Elementary Considerations. The American Economic Review 63(2), Papers and Proceedings of the Eighty-fifth Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association (May), pp. 316-325
- PRI. 2005. Social Capital as a Public Policy Tool: *Project Report* http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca/doclib/SC_Synthesis_E.pdf
- Status of Women Canada. 1998. Gender-based Analysis: A Guide for Policy-Making. revised edition. http://www.pacificwater.org/userfiles/file/IWRM/Toolboxes/gender/gender_based_analysis.pdf

Due: 1 page CII

Week 6, February 13: Stage 3: Decision Making

Topic:

- Decision criteria in policy systems: ethical; political; economic; social

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 6 (7)
- Pal, L and J. Maxwell (2003), 'Assessing the Public Interest in the 21st century: A Framework', paper prepared for the External Advisory Group on Smart Regulation (Canada), chaired by Gaetan Lussier, December. http://www.cprn.org/documents/25967_en.pdf.
- 13 Days (Movie)

Assigned readings:

- Lindbloom, C. 1957. The science of 'muddling through.' Public Admin Review. 79-88. JSTOR
- McKittrick, R. 2007. Bringing Balance, Disclosure and Due Diligence into Science-based Policymaking in J. Porter and P. Phillips (eds) Public Science in Liberal Democracy (PDF). P
- Mercer, J. 2005. Prospect theory and political science. Annu.Rev.Polit.Sci. 8: 1-21.

FEB 20: Reading Week—NO CLASS

Week 7, February 27: Stage 4: Implementation

Topics:

- Approaches to implementing policy decisions

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 7 (8)

Assigned readings:

- Ostrom, E. 2011. Background on the Institutional Analysis and Development Framework." Policy Studies Journal 39(1) (February): 7–27. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1541-0072.2010.00394.x/pdf>
- Sabatier, P. 1986. 'Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches to Implementation Research: A Critical Analysis and Suggested Synthesis.' *Journal of Public Policy*. 6: 21-48. JSTOR
- Sanderson, I. 2002. Evaluation, Policy Learning and Evidence-Based Policy Making. Public Administration 80(1), 1-22. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-9299.00292/pdf>

Due: 3 pp. CDI

Week 8, March 5: Stage 5: Evaluation and Policy learning

Topics:

- Approaches to policy evaluation (formal and informal)

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 8 (9)
- Treasury Board of Canada. 2004. Supporting effective evaluations: a guide to developing performance measurement strategies. <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/cee/dpms-esmr/dpms-esmr00-eng.asp>

Assigned readings:

- Birckmayer, J. and C. Weiss. 2000. Theory-Based Evaluation in Practice: What Do We Learn? Evaluation Review. 24: 407-431.
- Goldenberg, E. 1983. The Three Faces of Evaluation. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management. 2(4): 515-525

- Mohr, B. 1999. "The Qualitative Method of Impact Analysis." *American Journal of Evaluation*. 20: 69-84. JSTOR

Week 9, March 12: Applied Policy Analysis

Topics:

- Approaches to policy analysis
- Cost benefit analysis

Required readings:

- Bardach, E. 2000. A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis. Introduction and Part 1
- Howlett, M. and J. Newman. 2010. Policy analysis and policy work in federal systems: policy advice and its contribution to evidence based policy-making in multi-level governance systems. *Policy and Society* 29: 123-136. JSTOR
- TBS. 2007. Canadian Cost-Benefit Analysis Guide: Regulatory Proposals. <http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/ri-qr/documents/gli-d/analys/analys00-eng.asp>
- In class cost-benefit analysis discussion

Week 10, March 19: Policy in the 21st Century

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 9 (10-11)
- OECD (2001), Governance in the 21st century, Paris: OECD, <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/15/0/17394484.pdf>.

Assigned readings:

- Hodge, G. and K. Coghill. 2007. Accountability in the privatized state. *Governance* 20(4), 675-702.
- Lynn, L. 1999. 'A Place at the Table: Policy Analysis, Its Postpositive Critics, and the Future of Practice.' *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 18(3): 411-424. JSTOR
- Shulock, N. 1999. "The Paradox of Policy Analysis: If It Is Not Used, Why Do We Produce So Much of It?" *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 18(2): 226-244. JSTOR

Weeks 11 and 12: March 26 and April 2:

- Policy process case studies, presentations

Due: 10 page Policy Process Case Studies

DETAILS AND INFORMATION ON ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

1. Individual writing assignments:

The policy process is highly stylized. The assignments are designed to help you understand the strengths and constraints of the formal methods of communicating policy advice. You will be asked to do four individual assignments:

1. **Briefing Note:** One page note providing a technical briefing to a minister or senior official on a contemporary issue of your choice (single spaced; TMS 12 point; use specified format)
2. **Cabinet Information Item:** One page briefing from a cabinet minister to his colleagues providing a situational briefing on a contemporary issue of your choice (single spaced; TMS 12 point; use specified format)
3. **Cabinet Decision Item:** Maximum three page executive summary of a recommendation to cabinet on a course of action related to a contemporary issue of your choice (single spaced; TMS 12 point; use specified format; max three pages)

4. **Cost-benefit analysis and poster:** Students will be required to develop an academic poster that offers a reflection on the cost-benefit of a specific policy option.

2. **Group assignment**

Groups of up to 5 students will self-identify and develop a maximum 10 page case study of a contemporary policy process. The format will be discussed in class. The students will then present their cases in the last class of the course.

3. **Group participation and grading:** Please consult the JSGS policy related to class and group participation

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will be assigned a penalty of one grade (10%); special circumstances will be considered upon application by the student.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

All students with disabilities are encouraged to register with DSS. Access to most services and programs provided by DSS is restricted to students who have registered with the office. Once you have registered, please contact the professor to discuss accommodations.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

Understanding and following the principles of academic integrity and conduct as laid out in the University of Saskatchewan's Guidelines for Academic Conduct is vital to your success in graduate school (as attached; and available at http://www.usask.ca/university_council/reports/archives/guide_conduct.shtml). Ensuring that your work is your own and reflects both your own ideas and those of others incorporated in your work is important: ensuring that you acknowledge the ideas, words, and phrases of others that you use is a vital part of the scholarly endeavour. If you have any questions at all about academic integrity in general or about specific issues, contact any faculty member and we can discuss your questions.