

## ▶▶ JSGS 806 – Public Policy Analysis

	University of Regina Campus	University of Regina Campus
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment	By appointment
<b>Office Location:</b>	110 - 2 Research Drive	110 – 2 Research Drive
<b>Term:</b>	Winter 2012	Winter 2012
<b>Room:</b>	RIC 208	RIC 208
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Thursdays 5:45 - 8:30 PM	Thursdays 5:45 - 8:30 PM

### CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Analysis of the processes whereby public policies arise and are enacted in Canada. Compares theories and models of policy-making and decision-making to illustrate the special requirements of the Canadian environment; examines the roles of various participants in the policy process: legislators, political parties, interest groups, administrators and administrative structures, citizens and the judiciary.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

Public policy is "an intentional course of action undertaken by a government official or institution for resolving an issue of public concern." Policy analysis examines how policies are proposed, adopted, implemented, and evaluated. This course also describes central features of the policy-making process and overviews several major Canadian domestic public policies.

This course seeks to balance the theoretical (so your knowledge can grow and prepare you for future discussions) and the immediately practical (so you can better understand the difficulties in making sound public policy). As a core course in the MPA program of the JSGS this course will provide an overview of the general field of public policy analysis and policy management. The general objective of the course is to increase your capacity to undertake some of the key functions of a policy analyst or manager. These functions were conveniently listed by a Deputy Minister Task Force in Ottawa, (George Anderson, 1995: 473-74) in a mid-1990s analysis that remains valid:

1. Theoretical research
2. Applied research and statistics
3. Quantitative modelling
4. Environmental scanning, trend analysis, and forecasting
5. Policy analysis and advice
6. Managing consultations and relationships
7. Communications
8. Program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

Of course, no one course can hope to introduce all of these topics, much less to cover them in depth. Thus, all professional policy or public administration programs offer specialized, detailed courses on many of these functions.

Perhaps the best way to think of the course objectives here is to consider the role of policy analysts and the competencies that they are expected to have. According to the *Generic Policy Analyst Draft Competency Profile* issued by the Learning Resource Network of the Government of Canada, policy analysts are public servants who:

help Ministers to align policy change with the evolving roles of government at all levels, and to use governance tools to achieve policy goals....operate with enormous sensitivity to the political process....serve the government objectively, professionally, and neutrally....create intellectual frameworks that enable discussion of issues by a wide range of constituencies, and...advise and often assist Ministers in interacting with these constituencies. They draw together knowledge from within and outside of government in a sensitive, collaborative fashion, and are acutely aware of the broadest context within which policy develops.

## EXPECTATIONS

This will be a challenging and highly rigorous graduate course. You will be expected to read the assigned material prior to class meetings, participate in classroom discussions prepare oral presentations and submit written material (see discussion of individual and group projects below).

(See participation guidelines at

[http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/\\_documents/\\_resource\\_documents/Participation%20Guidelines.pdf](http://www.schoolofpublicpolicy.sk.ca/_documents/_resource_documents/Participation%20Guidelines.pdf) )

## REQUIRED READINGS

Howlett, Michael, M. Ramesh and Anthony Perl. 2009. *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems* 3rd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Bardach, E. 2000. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving*. New York: Chatham House Publishers.

Other Required Readings available on UofR Courses and through the University of Regina Library

## SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

Dobuzinkis, L., M. Howlett and D. Laycock eds. 2007. *Policy Analysis in Canada: The State of the Art*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Patton, C. and D. Sawicki. 1993. *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Radin, Beryl A. 2000. *Beyond Machiavelli: Policy Analysis Comes of Age*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press.

Spicker, P. 2006. *Policy Analysis for Practice*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

## EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENT	GRADE	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE
<b>Individual Work</b>			
Policy Analysis Paper	30%	8 -10 pages (2,500 words)	March 29 <sup>th</sup>
Pop Quiz	20%	2 x Quiz	Surprise
Participation	10%	In class participation	
Op Ed	10%	700 words	February 16th
<b>Group Work</b>			
Team Project	30%	PowerPoint – 15min	April 5 <sup>th</sup>

## LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late penalties will be in operation except for documented medical reasons. There are no exceptions. Please note that late proposals will be similarly penalized with the marks coming off the paper grade.

Penalties:	1 day	5 per cent
	2-4 days	15 per cent
	5-7 days	25 per cent

Assignments are not accepted after 7 days except for documented medical reasons

## STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students in the course who, because of a disability, may have a need for accommodations are encouraged to come and discuss accommodations with the instructor, and to contact the Coordinator of Special Needs Services at 585-4631.

## 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](http://www.usask.ca/university_council/reports/archives/guide_conduct.shtml)), and at the University of Regina (available at [http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/policy\\_univ.shtml#conduct](http://www.uregina.ca/gradstudies/calendar/policy_univ.shtml#conduct)). 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.

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

### Week 1 – January 5 – Introduction to Public Policy

- Course Introduction
  - o Key Concepts
  - o Class Assignments

### Week 2 – January 12 – Policy Cycles and Policy Analysis

#### **Required Readings**

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Introduction: Why Study Public Policy *Studying Public Policy*.

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Understanding Public Policy: Theoretical Approaches *Studying Public Policy*.

### Week 3 – January 19 – Policy and Politics

#### **Required Readings**

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. The Policy Context *Studying Public Policy*.

A. Meltsner. 1972. Political Feasibility and Policy Analysis. *Public Administration Review*. 32(6).

### Week 4 – January 26 – The Policy Cycle I: Agenda Setting, Formulation, and Decision Making

#### **Required Readings**

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Agenda-Setting *Studying Public Policy*.

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Policy Formulation *Studying Public Policy*

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Public Policy Decision-Making *Studying Public Policy*

### Week 5 – February 2 - The Policy Cycle II: Implementation and Evaluation

#### **Required Readings**

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Policy Implementation *Studying Public Policy*

Howlett, Ramesh and Perl. Policy Evaluation *Studying Public Policy*

### **Week 6 – February 9 – Applied Policy Analysis**

#### **Required Readings**

Bardach, E. 2000. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. Introduction and Part 1

### **Week 7 – February 16 – Evidence Based Policy Analysis**

Howlett, Michael. 2009. Policy Analytical Capacity and Evidence-based Policy-Making: Lessons from Canada. *Canadian Public Administration*. 52(2): 153–175.

Mintrom, Michael. 2007 The Policy Analysis Movement In L. Dobuzinskis, M. Howlett, and D. Laycock, eds. *Policy Analysis in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. Pp 145-162.

Sanderson, Ian. 2002. Evaluation, Policy Learning and Evidence-Based Policy Making. *Public Administration*. 80(1): 1-22.

### **Week 8 – March 1 – Program Evaluation**

#### **Required Readings**

Birckmayer, J. and C. Weiss. 2000. Theory-Based Evaluation in Practice: What Do We Learn? *Evaluation Review*. 24: 407-431.

Geva-May, Iris and Leslie A. Pal. 1999. Good Fences Make Good Neighbours: Policy Evaluation and Policy Analysis - Exploring the Differences. *Evaluation*. 5(3): 259-277.

Goldenberg, E. 1983. The Three Faces of Evaluation. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 2(4): 515-525

### **Week 9 – March 8 – Comparative Policy Analysis**

#### **Required Readings**

Charles W. Anderson. 1971. Comparative Policy Analysis: The Design of Measures. *Comparative Politics*. 4(1): 117-131.

Arthur Cyr and Peter deLeon. 1975. Comparative Policy Analysis. *Policy Sciences*. 6(4): 375-384.

Bardach, E. 2000. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. Part 3.

### **Week 10 – March 15 – Gender Based Analysis**

#### **Required Readings**

Olena Hankivsky. 2008. Gender Mainstreaming in Canada and Australia: A Comparative Analysis *Policy and Society* 27(1): 69-81.

Kathleen McNutt. 2010. *An Integrated Approach to Gender Equality: From Gender-Based Analysis to Gender Mainstreaming*. Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy Working Paper Series #2.

New Brunswick Women's Issues Branch, Executive Council Office. 2003. *Gender Based Analysis Guide*. Government of New Brunswick.

### **Week 11 – March 22 – Tools of Analysis**

#### **Required Readings**

Bardach, E. 2000. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. Part 2.

### **Week 12 – March 29 - Impact Assessment and Network Analysis**

#### **\*\* Policy Analysis Paper Due**

#### **Required Readings**

Cramer, J., T. Dietz and R. Johnston. 1980. Social Impact Assessment of Regional Plans: A Review of Methods and Issues and a Recommended Process. *Policy Sciences*. 12(1).

P. Ratner. et al. 1997. Setting the Stage for Health Impact Assessment. *Journal of Public Health Policy*. 18(1): 67-79.

**Week 13 – April 5 – Team Project**