

GSPP 822 Comparative Public Policy

University of Regina Campus	
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Office Hours:	By appointment
Office Location:	110 – 2 Research Drive
Term:	Winter 2010
Room:	CL 187
Time:	Mondays 7:00 -9:45 p.m.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Why do policies on issues such as the welfare state, economic policy, education, and immigration vary from country to country? Do the answers lie in societal organizations, state institutions, contrasting cultures, or some mix of these various explanations? This course will provide you with an opportunity to discover more about how policies in other countries differ while simultaneously challenging you to think about why this is the case. The course focuses on policies in the areas listed above with examples coming primarily from advanced industrial countries.

COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH

There are four central objectives that frame this course. By its conclusion we should be better able to: (1) explain the different policy mixes that emerge across countries; (2) understand the impact of alternative causal factors, mechanisms, and process; (3) explain how policies change – or don't change – over time; and (4) consider how policy outputs transform into particular policy outcomes.

REQUIRED READINGS

Required Texts:

Gosta Esping-Andersen, *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 1990.

Irene Bloemraad, *Becoming a Citizen: Incorporating Immigrants and Refugees in the United States and Canada*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

NOTE: Other readings will be made available.

Recommended Texts:

Students who have not previously completed a course in public policy are strongly advised to read an introductory text, such as:

- Thomas A. Birkland. *An Introduction to the Policy Process: Theories, Concepts, and Models of Public Policy Making*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2001.
- Michael Howlett and M. Ramesh. *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Policy Subsystems*. 1st or 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1995; 2003.
- Leslie A. Pal. *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times*. 3rd ed. Scarborough: Nelson, 2006.

If you are unfamiliar with political science or wish to reacquaint yourself with debates in this field, I recommend:

- Colin Hay. *Political Analysis: A Critical Introduction*. Houndmills: Palgrave, 2002

EVALUATION

Grades for this course will be based on four requirements:

Seminar Participation:	Cumulative	20 %
Seminar Presentation:	TBA	20 %
Response Papers:	Two per student	20 %
Book Review:	One per student	40 %

The first half of the alphabet must do the Esping-Andersen book; the second half of the alphabet must do the

Attendance and Participation:

This is an advanced, reading-intensive seminar. You are expected to complete each week's required readings and actively contribute to class discussions. Unexcused absences will be taken into account in calculating the class participation grade. Other factors to be taken into consideration in evaluating the quality of your participation include preparation for class, being attentive to class discussions, and raising thoughtful comments and questions. Please see the guidelines for seminar participation on for more information.

Seminar Presentation:

In a small group – and with the assistance of the course instructor - you will lead one of the seminar sessions. This will entail providing a concise summary and analysis of the week's required readings aimed at raising questions and encouraging debate, discussion, and the clarification of key concepts and arguments. A short outline of your presentation provided to the instructor is required. This must be emailed by the Sunday immediately before the class by 3 pm at the absolute latest.

Response Papers:

You will be responsible for writing two 4-page (double-spaced) responses to the weekly readings. The papers must be emailed to the instructor at least **one hour before** the relevant class. Your papers should (briefly) summarize the central points of the week's required readings and provide a response to them, by pointing to a major issue or theme addressed, comparing what the different authors have to say about it, and evaluating differing perspectives. Dates will be assigned on the first day of class. ***Late papers will not be accepted and you will not be admitted to class without it.***

Book Review:

You are required to complete one 8-10 (double-spaced) page book review. The book review is a critical examination of the text, and requires you to identify, summarize, and evaluate the ideas and information the author has presented. You should assess the book's strengths, weaknesses, and validity through explanation, interpretation, and analysis. Note that you are expected to provide a critique of the internal logic of the book and not "joust from the bushes" or "poke and run". We will discuss this in class. ***You will not be allowed into the class on the day the book report is due, without emailing it in advance (up to 6:45 pm).***

- Bloemraad book. All students should purchase both books.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late penalties will be in operation except for documented medical reasons. There are no exceptions. Penalties:

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

Assignments are not accepted after **7 late 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

Ensuring that you understand and follow the principles of academic integrity and conduct as laid out in the University of Regina's Graduate Calendar and the University of Saskatchewan's Guidelines for Academic Conduct is vital to your success in graduate school. 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 your course instructor and to discuss your questions.

Guidelines for Seminar Participation

It might be helpful to keep the following questions in mind in preparing for seminars:

1. What are the central points or arguments being made in the readings?
2. How have the authors organized their arguments?
3. What evidence and methods have they used to support their arguments?
4. How does the week's reading relate to other material examined in the course?
5. What is your evaluation of the authors' positions?

You are expected to be an active participant in seminar discussions. Active participation entails:

- initiating a topic or question
- providing information and examples to clarify a point
- trying to synthesize or summarize a part of the discussion

- seeking clarification where one is unsure
- adding to and amending what others have said
- respectfully offering positive and negative reactions to others' points

Seminar Topics and Readings

Week 1 (January 11): The Ins and Outs of Comparative Public Policy

- Jean Blondel, "Then and Now: Comparative Politics," *Political Studies*. 47, 1 (1999): 152-160.
- Barbara Geddes, "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," in *Political Analysis*, VOL. II, ed. James A. Stimson (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1990): pp. 131-150.
- Charles Tilly, "Comparing," in *Big Structures, Large Processes, Huge Comparisons* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1984): pp. 60-86.

Week 2 (January 18): The Answer Lies in Social Coalitions

- Walter Korpi, "The Power Resources Model" in *The Welfare State Reader 2nd Edition*. Christopher Pierson and Francis G. Castles, eds. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006. (76-88)
- Evelyn Huber, Charles Ragin and John D. Stephens. "Social Democracy, Christian Democracy, Constitutional Structure, and the Welfare State." *The American Journal of Sociology*. 99, 3 (Nov. 1993): 711-749.
- Gregg M. Olsen and Julia S. O'Connor, "Introduction: Understanding the Welfare State: Power Resources and Its Critics," in *Power Resources Theory and the Welfare State: A Critical Approach*, Walter Korpi et. al. Eds. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998. (3-33).

Week 3 (January 25): Forget Coalitions, It's the Institutions!

- Sven Steinmo and Jon Watts, "It's the Institutions, Stupid! Why Comprehensive National Health Insurance Always Fails in America" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 20, 2 (1995): 329-372
- John Campbell, *Institutional Change and Globalization* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004. Chapter 1.
- Vivien A. Schmidt, "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse" *Annual Review of Political Science* 11 (June 2008): 303-326.

Week 4 (February 1): No Sir, It's the Ideas.

- Anthony King, "Ideas, Institutions and the Policies of Governments: A Comparative Analysis," *British Journal of Political Science* 3: 3-4(July – October 1973): 409-423.

- Mark Blyth, “Any More Bright Ideas?: The Ideational Turn of Comparative Political Economy.” *Comparative Politics* 29, 2 (January 1997): 229-250.
- Mark Blyth, “Structures do not come with an instruction sheet: Interests, ideas, and progress in political science.” *Perspectives on Politics* 1:4 (2003): 695-706.

Week 5 (February 8): The Welfare State

- T. H Marshall. “Citizenship and Social Class.” In *Class, Citizenship, and Social Development*, edited by T.H. Marshall. Garden City, NY: Anchor Books. pp. 71-134.
- Julia S. O’Connor. “Understanding the welfare state and welfare states: Theoretical perspectives.” In Douglas Bear, ed. *Political Sociology: Canadian Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002. (110-128).
- Daniel Béland – READING TITLE TBA

READING WEEK

Week 6 (February 22): Delving Deeply into Esping-Andersen

Book Review Due – first half of the alphabet

- Esping-Andersen. *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*

Week 7 (March 1): Health Care

- Jacob Hacker, “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 (1998): 57-130.
- Gerald Boychuck, *National Health Insurance in the United States and Canada: Race, Territory and the Roots of Difference*. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2008. Chapter 1.

Week 8 (March 8): Environmental Policy

- Barry Rabe, “Beyond Kyoto: Climate Change Policy in Multilevel Governance Systems” *Governance* 20, 3 (July 2007): 423-444.
- Kathryn Harrison, “The Road Not Taken: Climate Change Policy in Canada and the United States,” *Global Environment Politics* 7, no. 4 (2007): 92-117.

- John Pucher and Ralph Buehler, “Why Canadian cycle more than Americans: A comparative analysis of bicycling trends and policies.” *Transport Policy* 13 (2006): 265-279.

Week 9 (March 15): Economic Policy and Pension Reform

- Peter Hall, “Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State: The Case of Economic Policymaking in Britain.” *Comparative Politics*. 25, 3 (April 1993): 275-296
- Kurt Weyland, “Theories of Policy Diffusion: Lessons from Latin American Pension Reform.” *World Politics* 57 (January 2005): 262-295.
- John Myles and Paul Pierson, “The Comparative Political Economy of Pension Reform.” In *The New Politics of the Welfare State*. Paul Pierson, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. (305-333)

Week 10 (March 22): Citizenship and Immigration

- Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 1991. Chapters 1-3. (1-47).
- Christian Joppke. “Beyond National Models: Civic Integration Policies for Immigrants in Western Europe” *West European Politics*. 30, 1 (2007): 1-22.
- Rogers Brubaker. “The Return of Assimilation? Changing Perspectives on Immigration and its Sequels in France, Germany, and the United States” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24, 4 (2001): 531-548.

Week 11 (March 29): Delving Deeply into Bloemraad

Book Review Due – second half of the alphabet

- Bloemraad. *Becoming Citizens*

Week 12 (April 5): Continuity and Change in Public Policy

- Wolfgang Streeck and Kathleen Thelen, “Introduction” in *Beyond Continuity: Institutional Change in Advanced Political Economies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005. (1-39)
- Duane Swank, “Political Institutions and Welfare State Restructuring: The Impact of Institutions on Social Policy Change in Developed Democracies” In *The New Politics of the Welfare State*. Paul Pierson, ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001. (197-237)

Week 13 (April 12): Wrap-Up and Review