

PUBP 806.3 Public Policy Analysis

University of Saskatchewan Campus		
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Term:	Winter 2010 (Term 2)	
Room:	Diefenbaker Theatre	
Time:	Mondays 5:30-8:20	

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)

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

As assigned below.

EVALUATION

In-class participation	15%
Strategy note	10%
BN	10%
CII	10%
CDI	10%
Policy Case Study	25%
Final Exam	20%

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

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.

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 4: 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.
- Phillips, P. 2007. *Governing Transformative Technological Innovation*, Chapters 4 & 6 (P).

Week 2, January 11: 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
- R. Gilpin. 1975. "Three models of the future." *International Organization*, 29(1), 37-60.

Assigned readings:

- Atkinson, M. and W. Coleman (1992), 'Policy networks, policy communities and the problems of governance', *Governance*, 5(2), 154-180.
- Jordan, G. 1981. 'Iron Triangles, Woolly Corporatism and Elastic Nets: Images of the Policy Process.' *Journal of Public Policy*. 1(1).
- Smith, G. and D. May. 1980 'The Artificial Debate between Rationalist and Incrementalist Models of Decision-Making.' *Policy and Politics*. 8(2): 147-161.
- Teisman, G. 2000. 'Models for Research into Decision-Making Processes: On Phases, Streams and Decision-Making Rounds.' *Public Administration*. 78(4): 937-956.

- Ukeles, J. 1977. Policy Analysis: Myth or Reality? *Public Administration Review*, 37(3), 223-228.

Week 3, January 18: Institutions, actors and tools

- Topics: the array of institutions, actors and tools in policy systems

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 3-4
- Phillips, P. 2007. *Governing Transformative Technological Innovation*, Chapter 5.
- Treasury Board of Canada. 2007. *Assessing, Selecting, and Implementing Instruments for Government Action*. <http://www.regulation.gc.ca/documents/gl-ld/asses-eval/asses-eval-eng.pdf>

Assigned readings:

- Hird, J. 2005. "Policy Analysis for What? The Effectiveness of Nonpartisan Policy Research Organizations." *Policy Studies Journal*. 33(1): 83-105.
- 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.
- 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.
- Robert Tollison. Rent seeking: A survey. *Kyklos* (1982) vol. 35 (4) pp. 575-602

Due: 1 page Briefing Notes

Week 4, January 25: Stage 1: Agenda Setting

- Topics: methods of identifying policy issues for analysis/action

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 5
- Lindquist, E. 1992. 'Public Managers and Policy Communities: Learning to Meet New Challenges.' *Canadian Public Administration*. 35(2).

Assigned readings:

- Fahey, Liam, et al. 1981. Environmental scanning and forecasting in strategic planning—The state of the art. *Long Range Planning* 14(1), 32-39
- Kenney, S. Where is gender in agenda setting? *Women and Politics* 21(10) 179-204.
- Popper, R. 2008. How are foresight methods selected. *Foresight* 10(6), 62-89.
- Stone, D. 1989. 'Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas.' *Political Science Quarterly*. 104 (2).
- Phillips, P. 2009. Democracy, governance and public engagement: a critical assessment. Conference on "publics and emerging technologies: hindsight and foresight", Banff, October.

Week 5, February 1: Stage 2: Design

- Topics: constraints and processes of designing policy options

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 6

Assigned readings:

- Coase, R.H. "The Problem of Social Cost" *The Journal of Law and Economics* 3(1960):1-44.
- PRI. 2005. Social Capital as a Public Policy Tool: *Project Report*
http://www.policyresearch.gc.ca/doclib/SC_Synthesis_E.pdf
- Rochefort, David A. and Roger W. Cobb, "Problem Definition, agenda access, and policy choice" *Policy Studies Journal*, 21 (1993)
- Status of Women Canada. 1998. *Gender-based Analysis: A Guide for Policy-Making*. revised edition.
http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/gbaguide/gbaguide_e.pdf
- Vining, A and D. Weimer. 1998. 'Informing Institutional Design: Strategies for Comparative Cumulation.'
Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis. 1(1): 39-60.

Due: 1 page Strategy Notes

Week 6, February 8: Stage 3: Decision Making

- Topic: decision criteria in policy systems: ethical; political; economic; social

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 5
- 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

Assigned readings:

- Lindbloom, C. 1957. The science of 'muddling through.' *Public Admin Review*. 79-88.
- 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).
- Meltsner, A. 1972. Political feasibility and policy analysis. *Public Administration Review* 32(6).
- Phillips, P., S. Smyth and W. Kerr (eds). 2007. *Governing Risk in the 21st Century: Lessons from the World of Biotechnology* (PDF), Chapters 1 and 2.
- Shrader-Frechette, K. (No date), 'Scientific method, anti-foundationalism and public decision making', in RISK: Health, Safety & Environment, accessed on September 15, 2005 at <http://www.piercelaw.edu/risk/vol1/winter/Shrader.htm>

Week 7, February 22: Stage 4: Implementation

- Topics: approaches to implementing policy decisions

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 8

Assigned readings:

- Barrett, S. M. 2004. 'Implementation Studies: Time for a Revival? Personal Reflections on 20 Years of Implementation Studies.' *Public Administration*. 82(2): 249-62.
- O'Toole, L. 2000. 'Research on Policy Implementation: Assessment and Prospects.' *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. 10(2): 263-288.

- Salamon, L. (2002b), 'The tools approach and the new governance: conclusions and implications'. in L. Salamon and O. Elliot (eds), The tools of government: a guide to new governance, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-43.
- 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

Due: 1 pp. CII

Week 8, March 1: Stage 5: Evaluation

- Topics: approaches to policy evaluation (formal and informal)

Required readings:

- Howlett, Ramesh and Pearl, ch 9
- Treasury Board of Canada. 2004. Policy Evaluation system for the Government of Canada. http://www.evaluationcanada.ca/~cesns/cutenews/data/upimages/Policy_Evaluation_System_09012004.pdf

Assigned readings:

- Dobell, R. and D Zussman. 1981. 'An Evaluation System for Government: If Politics is Theatre, then Evaluation is (mostly) Art.' *Canadian Public Administration*. 24(3): 404-427.
- deLeon, P. 1983. 'Policy Evaluation and Program Termination.' *Policy Studies Review*. 2(4): 631-647.
- 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.
- Mohr, B. 1999. "The Qualitative Method of Impact Analysis." *American Journal of Evaluation*. 20: 69-84.
- Pawson, R. 2002. 'Evidence-Based Policy: In Search of a Method.' *Evaluation*. 8(2): 157-181.
- Rossi, P. and S. Wright. 1977. 'Evaluation Research as Assessment of Theory, Practice and Politics.' *Evaluation Review*. 1(1): 5-52.

Week 9-10, March 8 and 15: Selected Policy Topics

- Topics: to be decided by the class

Due: 3 pp. CDI

Week 11, March 22: Policy in the 21st Century

Required readings:

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

Assigned readings:

- Hajer, M. 2003. 'Policy without Polity? Policy Analysis and the Institutional Void.' *Policy Sciences*. 36(2): 175-195.
- 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.

- Salamon, L. (2002), "The new governance and the tools of public action: an introduction", in L. Salamon and O. Elliot (eds), The tools of government: a guide to new governance, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-43.(L-e)
- 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.
- Weimer, D. 1998. "Policy Analysis and Evidence: A Craft Perspective." *Policy Studies Journal*. 26(1): 114-128.

Weeks 12 and 13: March 29 and April 5:

- Policy process case studies, presentations

Due: 10 page Policy Process Case Studies

DETAILS 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. **Strategy Note:** one page note advocating a strategy for managing a contemporary policy issue or your choice (single spaced; TMS 12 point; no specified format)
2. **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)
3. **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)
4. **Cabinet Decision Item:** maximum three page recommendation to cabinet on course of action related to a contemporary issue of your choice (single spaced; TMS 12 point; use specified format; max three pages)

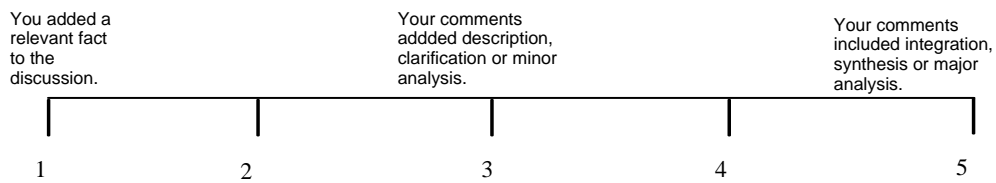
2. Group assignment

Groups of 3 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:

During the seminar, each student will be assigned specific readings to read, prepare a one-page summary to share with your classmates and present a brief synopsis in the seminar. The synopsis and the presentation will be evaluated. You will each do up to 4 in the course. In addition, we will evaluate your general participation in the resulting discussion about papers you and others present. Your participation in the discussions will be graded

according to the quality of your contribution to the discussion. Each of you will participate in the marking of others. The following scale will be used to assess this, with 5 being the highest:



We will annotate the contributions in a table similar to the one below.

Contribution	Value	Point
Fact only	1	
Fact and description /clarification	2	
Minor analysis	3	
Some synthesis	4	
Integration, synthesis and major analysis	5	

4. **Final Exam:** A take home final exam will pose a question designed to allow you to reflect on your understanding of the policy system.