

# JSGS 806 – Public Policy Analysis

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN CAMPUS	
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Vince Hopkins
PHONE:	
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OFFICE HOURS:	Available via appointment. Please send a short email letting me know when you're free and what you're hoping to discuss. If you have general questions about the class, <u>please</u> use the Canvas Q&A discussion.
OFFICE LOCATION:	Room 156, Diefenbaker Centre
TERM:	Fall 2022
ROOM:	Online via Zoom
DATE AND TIME:	Thursdays, 9am-12pm

The syllabus for this course is comprised of this document and the document titled "JSGS Common Syllabus 2022-23 (available on Canvas).

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This 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.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

JSGS has developed a set of competencies that all graduates will be able to demonstrate. The specific readings, assignments and activities in JSGS 806 will help you both acquire and demonstrate the ability to:

- Communication and Social Skills
- Systems Thinking and Creative Analysis
- Public Policy and Community Engagement
- Continuous Evaluation and Improvement
- Policy Knowledge

In terms of objectives, by the end of this course you should be able to:

- Critically analyze policy case studies through the policy cycle framework
- Apply common tools for public policy analysis
- Apply evaluation strategies to given case studies

- Communicate key elements of policy concisely and succinctly through both written and oral presentations
- Examine the changing role of public policy analysts

## **COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH**

For this **in-person** version of the JSGS 806 class, students will have the opportunity to view content including readings and videos, engage in interactive online activities, and complete independent and group based applied projects. The underlying philosophy of the class is to bring in a diverse range of expert knowledge into the convenience of an online format. The primary content of the class consists of a series of interviews with a variety of experts. As well, the class brings together both academic and practice-oriented understandings of public policy analysis. The written content, assignments, textbooks, and videos were all developed with this mix in mind.

We will occasionally welcome guest speakers via livestream.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

JSGS students have told us they prefer in-person instruction. That is why we are pleased to offer this class in person and on-site according to the latest protocols for health and safety at the [University of Saskatchewan](#). Please refer to this information so that you are prepared for a great experience on campus. Health and safety guidelines may be adjusted as the pandemic situation changes into the fall.

This class is designed for synchronous instruction that complements learning material that you will access through PAWS. Your regular attendance at synchronous sessions offers the best opportunity to ask questions, make connections, and participate in learning based on the learning material.

Students are encouraged to bring a laptop or other WIFI-enabled mobile device to class. This will enhance your experience by giving you access to online tools that allow classroom polls, surveys, and other collaboration tools that we may use this term.

Students who cannot attend in person can access the class remotely through a live Zoom link.

## **REQUIRED READINGS**

- Pal, Leslie A. (2020). *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times*. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd. There is normally an e-version for C\$80 with immediate delivery (available here: <https://retail.tophat.com/products/9780176886912>) but the publisher is having some difficulties. You can order a physical copy through Amazon here, with fast delivery here: [https://www.amazon.ca/Beyond-Policy-Analysis-Management-Turbulent/dp/0176886915/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?keywords=beyond+policy+analysis+public+issue+management+in+turbulent+times&qid=1661793741&sprefix=beyond+public+po%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.ca/Beyond-Policy-Analysis-Management-Turbulent/dp/0176886915/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=beyond+policy+analysis+public+issue+management+in+turbulent+times&qid=1661793741&sprefix=beyond+public+po%2Caps%2C92&sr=8-1)
- Phillips, P., C. Rosaasen and A. Phillips. 2021. *Public Policy Analysis Workbook: A companion to JSGS 806.3* (143 pp). Via the canvas course.

## COURSE OUTLINE

	Module	Readings & Videos	Evaluation Due Dates
Sept. 1	Module 1: What is Public Policy Analysis?	<p><b>Readings</b> Pal (2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 1: Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b> Dr. Jeremy Rayner, Dr. Peter Phillips, Doug Moen, and Dr. Leslie Pal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>
Sept. 8	Module 2: The Modern Context for Public Policy Analysis	<p><b>Readings</b> Pal (2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 2: Modern Governance: The Challenges for Policy Analysis</li> </ul> <p>Laurent Dobuzinskis, Michael Howlett eds. (2007) Policy Analysis in Canada: The State of the Art. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 2: The Policy Analysis Profession in Canada (only pages 21-26 and 38-45 are required)</i></li> </ul> <p>(optional) Fischer, F., Torgerson, D., Durnová, A., &amp; Orsini, M. (2015). "Introduction to critical policy studies." In Handbook of critical policy studies. Edward Elgar Publishing. JUST READ PGS 1-12.</p> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Phoenix Pay System</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Michael Atkinson, Dr. Ken Coates, Dr. Elizabeth Schwartz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> <li>• Confirm policy problem for exploration using policy analysis tools, <b><u>DUE</u></b> Sept. 9</li> </ul>
Sept. 15	Module 3: Evidence and Applied Public Policy Analysis	<p><b>Readings</b> Bardach &amp; Patashnik (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Excerpt &amp; resources on Canvas module</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Phoenix Pay System</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Peter Phillips, Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Dr. Garrett Richards, Video on Writing Briefing Notes by Heather McWhinney</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft #1 of Briefing Note <b><u>DUE</u></b> Sept. 18</li> </ul>
Sept. 22	Module 4: The Policy Cycle	<p><b>Readings</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>

		<p>Fischer, F., Miller, G.J., &amp; Sidney, M. S. (2007). Handbook on Public Policy Analysis, Boca Raton: CRC Press</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 4: Theories of the Policy Cycle by Werner Jann and Kai Wegrich</i></li> </ul> <p>Howlett, M., McConnell, A., &amp; Perl, A. (2017). "Moving Policy Theory Forward: Connecting Multiple Stream and Advocacy Coalition Frameworks to Policy Cycle Models of Analysis." Australian Journal of Public Administration, 76(1), 65–79.</p> <p>(optional) Sabatier, P. and C. Weible. (2007). Theories of the Policy Process. 2nd. Ed. Boulder CO: Westview.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 7: The Advocacy-Coalition Framework Innovations and Clarification</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Dr. Peter Phillips, Dr. Leslie Pal</li> </ul>	
Sept. 29	Module 5: Agenda Setting and Problem Definition	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Pal (2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 3: Agenda Setting and Problem (Re)Solving in Policy Analysis.</i></li> </ul> <p>Kingdon, J.W. (1995). Agendas, alternatives, and public policies (2nd ed.). New York, NY: HaperCollins.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 8: The Policy Window, and Joining the Streams.</i></li> </ul> <p>Stone, Deborah. (1989). Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas. Political Science Quarterly. 104(2), 281-300.</p> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious Rights</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Daniel Beland, Dr. Peter Phillips, Doug Moen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft #2 of Briefing Note <b><u>DUE</u></b> Sept. 29</li> </ul>
Oct. 6	Module 6: Policy Design/Formation	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Pal (2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 4: Policy Instruments and Policy Design.</i></li> </ul> <p>Bardach &amp; Patashnik (2019)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft #3 of Briefing Note <b><u>DUE</u></b> Oct. 9</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Appendix A (available in Canvas module)</i></li> </ul> <p>Hood, C. C., &amp; Margetts, H. Z. (2007). <i>The tools of government in the digital age</i>. Macmillan International Higher Education. Chapter 1 “Exploring Government’s Toolshed” (<i>available on Canvas</i>)</p> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carbon Emissions and Electricity in Saskatchewan</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Peter Phillips, John Wright, Dr. Rose Olfert, and Dr. Brett Dolter</li> </ul>	
Oct. 13	Module 7: Policy Implementation	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Pal (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 5: Policy Implementation</i></li> </ul> <p>(<i>optional</i>) Sabatier, P. a. (1986). Top-Down and Bottom-Up Approaches to Implementation Research: a Critical Analysis and Suggested Synthesis. <i>Journal of Public Policy</i>, 6(1), 21.</p> <p>(<i>optional</i>) Camillo, C. (2017). “Street-Level Bureaucracy.” In Farazmand, A. (Ed.). <i>Global encyclopedia of public administration, public policy, and governance</i>. New York, NY: Springer. Pgs 1-5.</p> <p>(<i>optional</i>) Behavioural Insights Team. (2015). EAST: Four Simple Ways to Apply Behavioural Insights (OPTIONAL – JUST READ pgs. 3-8). Available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phoenix Pay System</li> <li>• Indigenous Issues and the City of</li> <li>• Saskatoon Police Service</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheryl Camillo, Dr. Ken Rasmussen, and Chief Clive Weighill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> <li>• Policy Options/ NATO Analysis <b>DUE</b> Oct. 16</li> <li>• BEST discussion post (weeks 1-6) <b>DUE</b> Oct. 18</li> </ul>
Oct. 20	Module 8: Policy Networks and Communities	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Pal (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 6: Policy Communities and Networks</i></li> </ul> <p>Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. 2015. <i>Calls to Action</i>. Available online at: <a href="http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf">http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> </ul>

		<p><i>(optional)</i> Martens, Lindsay, Kathleen McNutt, and Jeremy Rayner. 2015. "Power to the People? The Impacts and Outcomes of Energy Consultations in Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia." <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i>, 48(1): 1-27.</p> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idle No More</li> <li>• Canadian Medical Association</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jeremy Rayner, Dr. Peter Phillips, Danette Starblanket, Dr. Owen Adams</li> </ul>	
Oct. 27	Module 9: Policy Evaluation	<p><b>Readings</b> Pal (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 7: Policy Evaluation</i></li> </ul> <p><i>(optional)</i> McConnell, A. (2010). Policy Success, Policy Failure and Grey Areas In-Between. <i>Journal of Public Policy</i>, 30(3), 345–362.</p> <p>Status of Women Canada. "Take the GBA+ Course." Available online (approx. 2 hours) at: GBA+ Course <a href="https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-acsc/course-cours-en.html">https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/gba-acsc/course-cours-en.html</a></p> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Phoenix Pay System</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ken Coates, John Wright, Dr. Alana Cattapan, and Dr. Murray Fulton</li> </ul>	
Nov. 3	Module 10: Policy Communication	<p><b>Readings</b> Pal (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Chapter 8: Policy Communication</i></li> </ul> <p><i>(optional)</i> Soroka, S., Lawlor, A., Farnsworth, S., Young, L., Ramesh, M. H., Fritzen, S., &amp; Araral, E. (2012). Mass media and policymaking. <i>Routledge handbook of public policy</i>, 1-15.</p> <p><i>(optional)</i> Lerman, A. E., Sadin, M. L., &amp; Trachtman, S. (2017). Policy uptake as political behavior: Evidence from the Affordable Care Act. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 111(4), 755-770.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion board</li> <li>• Implementation considerations <b><u>DUE</u></b> Nov. 6</li> </ul>

		<p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk Perceptions in the Food Industry</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <p>Dale Eisler, Dr. Toddi Steelman, and Dr. Lisa Clark</p>	
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**\*\*READING WEEK\*\***

Nov. 17	Module 11: Decision-making	<p><b>Readings</b></p> <p>Good, David A. (2011). Still Budgeting by Muddling through: Why Disjointed Incrementalism Lasts. <i>Policy and Society</i>, 30 (1), 41–51.</p> <p><i>(optional)</i> Jo, S., &amp; Nabatchi, T. (2021). Different Processes, Different Outcomes? Assessing the Individual-Level Impacts of Public Participation. <i>Public Administration Review</i>, 81(1), 137-151.</p> <p><i>(optional)</i> Sui, Bobby. (2020). <i>Developing Public Policy: A Practical Guide</i>, 2nd ed. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press. Available on Canvas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Chapter 9: Determining Public Policies for Implementation</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Case Study in Focus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom Policy</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doug Moen, Dr. Peter Phillips, Dr. Toddi Steelman, Roy Romanow</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BEST discussion post (weeks 7-11) <b>DUE</b> Nov. 21</li> </ul>
Nov. 24	Module 12: Public Policy Moving Forward	<p><b>Optional Readings</b></p> <p>Pal (2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Chapter 9: Going Forward: Doing Policy Analysis</i></li> </ul> <p><i>(optional)</i> Laurent Dobuzinskis, Michael Howlett eds. (2018) <i>Policy Analysis in Canada: The State of the Art</i>. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Chapter 21: Trends and Directions in Canadian policy analysis and policy advice, by Michael J Prince</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Optional Video Interviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Jeremy Rayner, Dr. Peter Phillips, Doug Moen, Dr. Leslie Pal, Dr. Michael Atkinson, Dr. Ken Coates, Dr. Elizabeth Schwartz, Dale Eisler, Dr.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations <b>DUE</b> Nov. 24</li> <li>Feedback on student presentations <b>DUE</b> Dec. 2</li> <li>Cabinet Decision Note <b>DUE</b> Dec. 6</li> </ul>

		Toddi Steelman, and Dr. Lisa Clark, Roy Romanow, John Wright, Dr. Murray Fulton, Cheryl Camillo, Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Chief Clive Weighill, Dr. Rose Olfert, Dr. Brett Dolter, Dr. Ken Rasmussen, Dr. Garrett Richards, and Dr. Owen Adams	
Dec. 1	Module 13: Building Your Career	<b>Optional</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an electronic copy of your CV and/or cover letter ready</li> </ul>	

## ASSIGNMENTS

### Participation:

- A variety of topics will be discussed in the Canvas board throughout the class. Students are responsible for providing thoughtful comments on the discussion board every week. This is due the Sunday following each class.
- At the midpoint and near the end of term, each student should select their best engagement and submit it for review and marking.
- You will also be assessed on your participation during class.

**The assignments in this course follow the policy cycle. This will require you to apply your learnings to a specific policy issue. The goal of each task is to think about what you have learned in the modules and then apply it. Read the relevant section of the Handbook before attempting each step. Each assignment must be submitted via Canvas.**

1. **Policy Problem:** You will each write a series of briefing products based on a common policy challenge (to be announced on the first day of class). The product of STEP 1 should be a declarative statement of the problem that defines what, when and where. This should take no more than 10-20 words. Please select policies that are specific. For example, “global peace” and “food security” are too broad/ambiguous.
2. **Briefing Note:** Using the assigned briefing note format, write an expository note on your chosen topic. You should define the policy issue you pick in terms of who, what, where, when, why and how it is a problem (remember, you will be writing as if you are on the team building the evidence in support of action). NO other assignments will be permitted to be revised/resubmitted for grading. This will be submitted in three drafts as this is one of the most important tools in the policy toolkit.
3. **Policy options/NATO analysis:** Using Hood’s NATO model, you will build a table that briefly identifies the full range of strategies and mechanism to be considered for addressing your policy concern. You will then write a one-page strategy note identifying the top three options for addressing the issue you have identified and the recommended measure.
4. **Implementation considerations:** Using the insights and tools from the module, you will draft a one-page strategy note on considerations in implementing the recommended measure you



identified in STEP 3. This should include some sense of the scale of the measure (cost, targets, duration) and how it will be rolled out (when, by whom, how, where...).

5. **Cabinet Decision Item:** Using the 3-page template, draft a decision item memo supporting your recommendation. You should be able to address most of the requirements with the results of STEPS 1-5.
6. **Presentation:** Imagine you have been invited to brief the Deputy Minister on your decision memo. Prepare a 3-5 minute (max. 3 slides) presentation. Presentations are to be prerecorded and shared on the class discussion board.

## EVALUATION

- Discussion Forums (best 2) 10%
- Class participation 10%
- Briefing Note (draft #1) 5%
- Briefing Note (draft #2) 10%
- Briefing Note (draft #3) 10%
- Policy Options/NATO Analysis 10%
- Implementation considerations 10%
- Presentation 10%
- Feedback on other students' presentations 5%
- Cabinet Decision Item 20%

## ENROLLMENT

Class enrollment will be normally limited to 30 students.

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This course follows a long tradition of excellence in Canadian public policy education. The structure and content expands on work by several JSGS faculty and students, including Peter Phillips, Martin Boucher, Bruno Dupeyron, Peggy Schmeiser, Jim Engel, Cody Sharpe, and many others.