

JSGS 859 Innovation Policy

BOTH CAMPUSES	
INSTRUCTOR:	Peter W.B. Phillips
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OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment
OFFICE LOCATION:	146 Dief
TERM:	Term 2, 2021-22
ROOM:	tbc
DATE AND TIME:	Wednesday, 1-4 p.m. CST

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This graduate course is designed as a field course in the practice of innovation policy. Students will investigate the theory, methodology and applications of innovation policy through primary readings, discourse, writing and undertaking a focused team policy project on a contemporary issue.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will examine a variety of topics through readings, discourse, writing and case work, including: the context of economic growth, technological change and innovation; theories and methods of innovation; policy applications; and critiques of innovation policy. The course will involve a few sessions that survey the theory and methods and then students will be formed into teams to undertake policy projects commissioned by public sector and NGO partners.

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE: THIS IS A TENTATIVE SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CLASS SIZE AND CONFIRMATION OF PROJECTS. THE FORMAL SYLLABUS WILL BE POSTED BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION ON JANUARY 12, 2022.

Students are expected to read or at least scan all of the readings (i.e. read abstracts, run your eyes over the material and read the conclusion). Some of the readings you will be responsible for presenting, so you will need to read them more closely. Admittedly there are lots of readings. The goal is to get a survey level understanding of the field, its theoretical base, methodological approaches and the body of evidence used in real-world policy systems.

All readings will either be put on-line in the Canvas course or will be linked through Canvas to the article.

Week 1. Innovation policy in theory and practice (January 12): An introduction to the concepts of innovation policy in theory and practice.

Readings (please read before class):

- Smith, A. 1776. *Wealth of Nations*, Chapters 1 & 2.
- Romer, P. 1994. Beyond Classical and Keynesian Macroeconomic Policy. *Policy Options*, July/Aug.
- 2015. State of the Nation 2016. Read Executive Summary.
- Phillips, P. 2007. Governing transformative technological innovation: Who's in Charge? Edward Elgar, chapters 1, 3, 5

DUE

- Midnight Jan 16: Reflection 1: max 250 word critical assessment of the role of the state in innovation? What are the biggest challenges? Use examples as appropriate.

Week 2. The 4Ps of innovation policy (January 19): Prices, place, processes and people are proposed as the drivers of innovation. This week we will explore the four Ps to understand the underlying assumptions and choices they imply.

Readings: students will be assigned to teams that will prepare and present a focused discussion on one of the four Ps.

- Phillips, P., J. Karwandy, G. Webb and C Ryan. 2013. Innovation in Agri-Food Clusters: Theory and Case Studies. Chapters 1-8.

DUE:

- Midnight Jan 19, group presentation slides.
- Midnight Jan 23: Reflection 2: max 250 words on which approach makes the most sense in a jurisdiction (or jurisdictions) of your choice? Be specific and use details where appropriate.

Week 3. Project initiation meeting (January 26): Meeting with project sponsors to review their needs.

Readings:

- Review on-line project management advice: <https://www.wrike.com/project-management-guide/project-lifecycle/> (Links to an external site.)
- Four phases of project management: <https://hbr.org/2016/11/the-four-phases-of-project-management> (Links to an external site.)

DUE: Midnight Jan 25: Form teams and choose project

Week 4. Project Milestone 1: Present charter and plan to class (February 2)

Readings:

- A guide to project charters: <https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/project-charter> (Links to an external site.)
- More information on project charters vs. statement of work, with examples: <https://thedigitalprojectmanager.com/project-charter/> (Links to an external site.)
- Questions to consider when writing a project proposal: <https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/how-to-create-a-project-proposal> (Links to an external site.)
- Defining project scope: <https://www.greycampus.com/blog/project-management/steps-involved-in-defining-project-scope> (Links to an external site.)

DUE: Charter and plan by midnight, Feb. 6.

Weeks 5-6. Theory into practice (February 9, 16): How has theory been adapted into practice at the national and provincial level in Canada?

Readings: You will be assigned to groups to lead the discussion each week

- Doern, B, P. Phillips., & D. Castle. 2016. Canadian Science, Technology and Innovation Policy: The Innovation Economy and Society Nexus. MQUP, ch. 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11.
- Phillips, P. and D. Castle (eds). Forthcoming. The innovation smorgasbord: Science, Technology & Innovation Policy in the Canadian Provinces and Territories. Toronto: U of T Press. Chapters 5-15.

DUE

- Midnight Feb 9/16: your presentations from the session in the discussion portal.
- Midnight Feb 20: Reflection 3: max 250 word critical assessment of one aspect of innovation policy you think is either well done or failing. Be specific.

FEB 23 IS MIDTERM BREAK -- NO CLASS

Week 7. Project Milestone 2: Present outline for draft report (March 2)

Due: Outline for report due midnight March 6

Week 8. Team meetings (March 9)

No readings or assignments due.

Week 9. Team meetings (March 16)

No readings or assignments due.

Week 10. Team meetings (March 23)

No readings or assignments due.

Week 11. Milestone 3: Submit draft final report (March 30)

Team meetings

DUE: draft report due 4 p.m. March 30; it will then be distributed to another team to peer review

Week 12. Milestone 4: each team will critically review another team's work (April 6).

Bilateral meetings between peer reviewing teams.

DUE: Peer reviews due midnight April 5

Final Presentation to sponsors (tentatively April 27)

Each team will have 30 minutes to present their reports (15 minute presentation and 15 minute Q/A session)

DUE:

- Submit final report April 26, midnight
- Submit final slide deck for presentation April 27 noon

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

- Participation in weeks 2, 5, 6 (10%): Your part of the presentation will be graded.
- Reflections (3 @ 10%): One week after each seminar session students will produce a max 250 word personal reflection on the material covered the previous week.
- Project Charter (5%)
- Written project report (40%): each member of the team will get the same mark. It is your job to ensure full contributions from each team.
- Peer evaluation by group (5%): the peer evaluation of the other team's report.
- Final presentation and discussion with sponsors (10%).

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend all sessions. If you are unable to attend in person, we will have a synchronous Zoom call which will be taped. You must let the instructor and your team members know ahead of any session you intend to join by Zoom.

Active participation in class discussion is expected by all students.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

As with all courses in JSGS, we are “standing on the shoulders of giants.” While the core content and structure of this course is mine, other faculty have engaged with this course in the past and left their mark, including Dan Florizone, Jackie Thomarat, Lana Awada and Stuart Smyth. Furthermore, the students in past years have helped shape and improve the delivery.