POLS*2230: Public Policy

Credit Weighting: 0.5   **Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 2.0 Credits   **Restrictions:**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

The course introduces students to public policy, including the differences between applied and explanatory policy analyses, within the larger context of politics and government. Case studies of different policy areas are used to illustrate the challenges of developing, implementing, and explaining policy in various (and often interrelated) contexts from the local to the global.

Each week will be divided in two. The first half will focus on theoretical material, with the assigned textbook guiding lectures and discussion. The second half will apply the theoretical material to a specific policy issue, and will draw from non-academic readings such as news articles, blog posts, and government documents.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe how public policy fits within the discipline of political science.
2. Describe how public policy is influenced by the Canadian system of government, institutions, and political culture.
3. Select and apply theoretical approaches to policy problems and selected case studies.
4. Locate and analyze policy information from primary documents and secondary literature.
5. Distinguish between the goals, instruments, and settings of public policies.
6. Identify how Canadian public policy is influenced by federalism, and how policy issues pose different challenges to local, provincial, national and international actors.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Short Assignment: 20%
Midterm: 20%
Final Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 30%

REQUIRED READING

Miljan, Lydia. 2021. Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction. 8th Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

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