

POLS 2230 Public Policy: Challenges and Prospects Fall 2026

Credit Weighting: 0.5**Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 2.00 credits**Restrictions:****INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION****Name:** Nanita Mohan**Email:** nmohan@uoguelph.ca**Office Location:** Mackinnon 507**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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

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

Test 1 (online) 20%
Test 2 (online) 20%
Final Paper 30%
Final Exam (online) 30%

REQUIRED READING

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