

COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY

POLS*3670

Fall 2022

University of Guelph

Professor Carmen Jacqueline Ho

Time: Thursdays, 2:30pm-5:20pm

Location: MCKN 224

The course requirements may change

The official syllabus will be distributed on the first day of class

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Public policies shape our lives in countless ways. They affect our economic opportunities, the quality of healthcare we receive, the education we have access to, our transportation system, the environment in which we live, amongst other things. This course explores the *political factors* that influence these public policies. Political factors – grouped broadly under the heading of interests, institutions, and ideas – can help us understand the nature and characteristics of the different public policies that impact our lives. For the everyday person, understanding the politics of policymaking will help in making sense of the world in which we live. For policy professionals, this course will provide the analytical tools needed to navigate the complicated set of politics that can facilitate, or frustrate, their policy agenda.

- Part 1. Theoretical Foundations – The first part of the course covers the theoretical building blocks. It begins with an introduction to the policymaking process. We discuss what public policies are and why they matter. We then examine how issues emerge, agendas get set, and policies developed, implemented, and evaluated in the “stages” of the policymaking process. We then transition into a discussion of the politics of policymaking.
- Part 2. Domestic Factors that Shape Public Policies – The second part of the course explores how domestic factors shape the policymaking process and public policies.
- Part 3. International Factors that Shape Public Policies – The third part of the course focuses on the influence of international factors on the domestic policymaking process and public policies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Describe the policymaking process (agenda setting, policy formulation, decision-making, policy implementation)
- Explain how political factors (institutions, interests, and ideas) shape public policies
- Explain how international factors influence public policies
- Conduct basic policy analysis and explain what factors shaped a public policy and how

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Weight	Submission	Due Date
Test	15%	In class	Thurs, Sept 29, 2:30pm-3:30pm
Essay	25%	Courselink Dropbox	Fri, Oct 21, 11:59pm
Poster	25%	Courselink Dropbox and Discussion Board	Wed, Nov 9, 11:59pm
Research Paper	35%	Courselink Dropbox	Fri, Dec 2, 11:59pm