**COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY**

**POLS\*3670**

**Fall 2021**

University of Guelph

Department of Political Science

Professor Carmen Jacqueline Ho

Time: Thursdays, 2:30pm-5:20pm
Location: Zoom (the zoom link will be posted on Courselink)

TA: Clare McKendry

\*The course description and course requirements may change\*

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course explores the politics of policymaking. We take a comparative perspective and examine the factors influencing public policies. Why do countries have different policies? How do domestic factors shape these policies? And how do international factors influence these policies? We investigate these questions by looking at the role of institutions, interests, and ideas in policymaking. The course will focus on social policies to illustrate different concepts, but students are free to explore different issue areas in their public policy analysis.

* 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.
* Part 2. Domestic Factors that Shape Public Policies – The second part of the course explores how domestic institutions, interests, and ideas shape the policymaking process. (eg. how do democratic political institutions affect public policies? How can issues be framed to become political priorities?)
* Part 3. International Factors that Shape Public Policies – The third part of the course focuses on the influence of *international* factors which shape public policies. (eg. what are international organizations? Do they affect government policy? How do transnational advocacy networks influence policy change?)

**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 institutions, interests, and ideas shape public policies at various stages of the cycle
* Analyze how domestic and international factors influence public policies
* Conduct basic policy analysis and explain what factors shaped a public policy and how

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Weight** | **Submission** | **Due Date** |
| Policy Brief | 20% | Courselink Dropbox | TBD |
| Presentation | 25% | Courselink Dropbox +Discussion Board | TBD |
| Participation | 5% | Discussion Board | TBD |
| Research Paper Proposal | 15% | Courselink Dropbox  | TBD |
| Research Paper  | 35% | Courselink Dropbox | TBD |