

POLITICAL SCIENCE 4449.1
(WMST 4449.1)
Current Public Policy Challenges: Gender, Race and Class
Fall 2011

Time: Tuesday 4:00-6:30 pm

Location: MN 519

Office: MN 405

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Office Hours: Tues. 2-4 pm; Wed. 12:30-1:30pm;
Thurs. 11:30-2:30pm

*or by appointment

This course examines a number of contemporary public policy debates and dilemmas, both national and global, in light of gender, race, ethnicity and class. The aim is to gain a better appreciation of the complexity of women's approaches to, and experiences with, various policy areas and issues, while also recognizing women's diversity. We begin by reviewing the broader parameters of policy and what constitutes "feminist" policy, as well as women's institutional and non institutional political strategies and struggles. Moving from the general to the more specific, we explore a series of economic and social policy areas in light of grounded policy concerns that range from employment and equality matters, to the environment, health care and violence against women. The primary focus will be on Canada, although experiences here will be compared and contrasted to global trends. One of the course texts (*Dobrowolsky ed.*) focuses on current public policy changes and challenges in Canada, while the other, (*Henderson and Jeydel*) provides a snapshot of women, politics and policy in a changing, global world.

Three basic queries will provide recurring themes:

- 1) How do interpretations of the state influence: a) what women expect from the state; b) the ways in which, or whether, women engage with the state; c) the shaping of policy and the assessment of policy outcomes?
- 2) Should issues raised in the course be framed differently and do they have different repercussions given differences between women?
- 3) How do tensions between structure and agency play out in the selected areas of study?
- 4) How do institutions, ideas and identities change over space and time, why, and with what policy implications?

The course will be conducted as a seminar (i.e., **not** a lecture course). Therefore, the success of the class rests on students' participation (coming to every class, doing the readings, and being prepared to discuss them).

All (written and oral) assignments must be completed to pass this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

****Alexandra Dobrowolsky, ed., Women and Public Policy in Canada. Neo-liberalism and After? (Oxford University Press, 2009)***

****Sarah L. Henderson and Alana S. Jeydel, Women and Politics in a Global World (Oxford University Press. 2010)***

FORMAT AND EVALUATION

Class Participation/Presentation	30%
<i>{=participation/attendance 10%; weekly log submission 5%; class presentation 15%}</i>	
Test: Oct. 11	15%
Journal / Reading Logs	30%
<i>{2 instalments: Oct. 4 & Nov.29=15% for each set}</i>	
Essay Outline/ Annotated Bibliography <i>{2-3 pages due: Oct. 25}</i>	5%

Research Essay { 12 pages; due Nov.22 }

20%

PLEASE NOTE: there will be NO extensions in this course. Only in the case of illness (upon verification of a doctor's note), will exceptions be made.

***Students with disabilities: please meet with the professor at the start of the term to discuss alternative accommodations / arrangements, if necessary.*

Class Participation

Students are required to attend **all** classes and to participate extensively in class discussions (10%). Since this course is organized as a seminar, it is important that you read the required readings and write up your journal entries/reading logs **before** the appropriate class; then, bring your journals/logs to class (5%), and be prepared to discuss the readings in detail, at length.

Presentation

You will be required to lead one seminar (15%). This will entail preparing one group presentation and facilitating class discussion. Depending on class size, but most likely working in pairs, you will choose an innovative presentation style that imparts information and stimulates a structured class discussion/learning experience. If you require special equipment, please inform the professor one week in advance.

Journal / Reading Logs

The journal or reading log is a way for students to record their thoughts and responses to the course materials (2 x 15%). Most importantly, students develop and build on their analyses with their entries. Thus, the purpose of this exercise is not only to ensure that students are reading and following the required materials (in lieu of a final examination), but also to provide an opportunity for students to hone their critical commentaries through the course of the term. The journals will be reviewed weekly, but marked on two occasions: after the first month of term; and at the end of the course.

Essay Outline/ Annotated Bibliography and Research Essay

You are required to hand in a 2-3 page essay outline as well as an annotated bibliography (worth 5%) a few weeks before your research essay is due. Suggested research essay topics will be provided, although you are encouraged to formulate an essay question of your own. Your 12 page essay (worth 20%) must reflect more than a general understanding of the topic chosen. It should also contain an assessment. In other words, this assignment requires that you pursue an argument, and develop an informed analysis. Moreover, this is a research essay. Your paper must be properly referenced or it will not be graded. The style of referencing is of your own choosing, but be consistent, and consult a style guide for proper form.

Plagiarism: constitutes a serious academic offence. Taking someone else's work or quoting another person's research/writing without reference; taking unattributed materials from the internet; submitting the same piece of work for credit in more than one course, are all examples of academic fraud (see the Academic Calendar pp.21-22 re: "Academic Integrity and Student Responsibility." Students found committing these or other academic offences will receive a grade of zero for the work(s) in question and will be reported.

SCHEDULE: TOPICS and READINGS

Required= essential reading for the course *Further reading=* supplementary readings

I) Sept. 13: Introductions and Course Overview

- a) greetings; course overview and discussion of course requirements
- b) purchase two course texts
- c) begin reading and writing in your journals for next week's class
- d) **NOTE:** scanned items = SI found "P" Drive under "Arts, Political Science" & author's name

****REMINDER:** All the required readings must be read **before** the appropriate class and journal entries/reading logs must be completed and brought to the corresponding class for review.

II) Sept. 20: Gender, Race, Class and Public Policy: Overview and Issues

- a) gender, race, class and public policy: what does it encompass / entail ?
- b) feminist contributions to the study and formulation of public policy

Required:

(Note:SI items on "P" Drive: see "ARTS Political Science" and look for the author's name)

*Rauna Kuokkanen, "From Indigenous Economies to Market-Based Self-Governance: A Feminist Political Economy Analysis," Canadian Journal of Political Science (2011) {SI}

*Susan Phillips, "Chapter 13: Discourse: Identity and Voice: Feminist Contributions to Policy Studies," in Howlett and Laycock eds., Policy Studies in Canada (1996), {SI}

*Jill Vickers, "Chapter 6: What Do Women Want?: Women-Centred Approaches to Public Policy," in Vickers, Reinventing Political Science (1995), {SI}

Further Reading:

*Sandra Burt, "The Several Worlds of Policy Analysis: Traditional Approaches and Feminist Critiques," in S. Burt & L. Code eds., Changing Methods: Feminists Transforming Practice (1995)

*Brigid C. Harrison, "Women and American Public Policy," in Brigid Harrison, Women in American Politics (2003)

*Lydia Miljan, Public Policy in Canada: An Introduction, Chapters 1-4 (Oxford 2008)

III) Sept. 27: Impacting Politics and Policy

- a) institutional politics
- b) non institutional politics
- c) a shifting context for institutional and non-institutional politics

Required:

*Henderson & Jeydel, Part 1 pp. 1-4 and Chapters 1 & 2 _

*Dobrowolsky, "Introduction: Neo-liberalism and After?"

Further Reading:

Amy G. Mazur, "Political Representation Policy," in Theorizing Feminist Policy (Oxford, 2002)

A. Dobrowolsky, "Women and Politics in Canada: More Image than Substance." In J. Gelb and M. L. Palley eds., Women and Politics Around the World (ABC CLIO 2009).

REMINDERS

Oct. 4: First set of journal / reading log submissions due up to **and including** Oct. 4 readings

Oct. 11: Test

Oct. 18: Class Presentations begin

IV) Oct. 4: Shifting States, Movement and Strategies

States: a) the state: tool, terror or both?

Strategic choices: a) liberal, radical, socialist feminist, postmodern, pragmatic

b) state feminism, femocrats, inside/outside strategies

c) revolutionary movements

Required:

*Lee Ann Banaszak, Karen Beckwith and Dieter Rucht, "When Power Relocates: Interactive Changes in Women's Movements and States," in Lee Ann Banaszak, Karen Beckwith and Dieter Rucht eds., Women's Movements Facing the Reconfigured State (2003) {SI}

*Henderson & Jeydel, Chapter 3

hand in first journal / reading log today & include this week's (Oct.4) readings

V) Oct. 11: TEST**VI) Oct. 18 Which Women and With What Consequences? Difference, Diversity, Politics and Policy**

- a) Intersectionality: gender, race, class, sexual orientation
- b) Politics and Policy re: Aboriginal women
- c) Politics and Policy re: Immigrant women

d) Politics and Policy re: Intimate Life & Sexuality

Required:

- *Isabel Altamirano-Jiménez, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 6
- *Yasmeen Abu-Laban, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 7
- *Lois Harder, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 9

Further Reading:

- Frances Abele, "Between Respect and Control: Traditional Indigenous Knowledge in Canadian Public Policy," in Michael Orsini and Miriam Smith, eds., Critical Public Policy (UBC 2007)
- Yasmeen Abu-Laban, "Political Science, Race, Ethnicity, and Public Policy" in Michael Orsini and Miriam Smith, eds., Critical Public Policy (UBC 2007)
- Lydia Miljan, "Aboriginal Policy," in Public Policy in Canada An Introduction (Oxford 2008)
- Miriam Smith, "Queering Public Policy: A Canadian Perspective," in Michael Orsini and Miriam Smith, eds., Critical Public Policy (UBC 2007)

VII) Oct. 25: Global and National Economics & Equality

- a) political and economic challenges & crises
- b) political and economic choices

Required:

- *Henderson & Jeydel, Chapter 8
- *Bakker, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 11

Further Reading

- Lydia Miljan, "Macroeconomic Policy," in Public Policy in Canada An Introduction (Oxford 2008)

*****Hand in Essay Outline/ Annotated Bibliography today: Oct. 25*****

VIII) Nov.1: Employment / Unemployment**Required:**

- *Henderson & Jeydel, Chapter 4
- *MacDonald, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 3

Further Reading:

- Georges Campeau, From UI to EI: Waging War on the Welfare State (UBC 2004)
- Amy G. Mazur, "Equal Employment Policy," in Theorizing Feminist Policy (Oxford 2002)
- Ann Porter, Gendered States: Women, Unemployment Insurance and the Political Economy of the Welfare State in Canada, 1945-1997 (UT Press, 2003)
- Annis May Timpson, Driven Apart: Women's Employment Equality and Childcare (UBC 2001)

IX) Nov. 8: Reconciliation (Work/Life) Policies & Childcare**Required:**

- *Henderson & Jeydel, Chapter 5
- *Jenson, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 1
- *Mahon, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 2

Further reading:

- Paul Kershaw, Carefair: Rethinking the Responsibilities and Rights of Citizenship (UBC 2005)
- Amy G. Mazur, "Reconciliation Policy," Theorizing Feminist Policy (Oxford 2002)
- Lydia Miljan, "Family Policy" in Public Policy in Canada An Introduction (Oxford 2008)
- Lydia Miljan, "Social Policy" in Public Policy in Canada An Introduction (Oxford 2008)

Annis May Timpson, Driven Apart: Women's Employment Equality and Childcare (UBC 2001)

X) Nov. 15: Health & Reproductive Rights

Required:

- *Henderson & Jeydel, Chapter 9 & 6
- *Armstrong, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 4

Further Reading:

- Janine Brodie, Shelley Gavigan and Jane Jenson, The Politics of Abortion (1992)
- Marianne Githens and Dorothy McBride Stetson eds., Abortion Policy in Cross Cultural Perspective (1996)
- Melissa Haussman, "What Does Gender Have to Do with Abortion Law?" Canadian Women's Movement-Parliament Interactions on Reform Attempts 1969-1991, International Journal of Canadian Studies 21 (Spring 2000)
- Gail Kellough, Aborting Law: An Exploration of the Politics of Motherhood and Medicine (1996)
- Amy Mazur, "Body Politics I: Reproductive Rights Policy," in Amy Mazur, Theorizing Feminist Policy (2002)
- Lydia Miljan, "Health Policy," in Public Policy in Canada An Introduction (Oxford 2008)
- Francesca Scala, "Scientists, Government, and 'Boundary Work': The Case of Reproductive Technologies and Genetic Engineering in Canada," in Michael Orsini and Miriam Smith, eds., Critical Public Policy (UBC 2007)

XI) Nov. 22: Violence & Physical Autonomy

Required:

- *Henderson & Jeydel, Chapters 11 & 12
- *Collier, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 8

Further Reading:

- Amy G. Mazur, "Body Politics II: Sexuality and Violence Policy," Theorizing Feminist Policy (Oxford 2002)

*****Hand in Research Essay today: Nov. 22*****

XII) Nov. 29: Past, Present & Future Challenges: From Charter Equality Rights, to the Environment

Required:

- *Dobrowolsky, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 10
- *McNutt and Hawryluk, in Dobrowolsky, Chapter 5

Further reading:

- Luc Juillet, "Framing Environmental Policy: Aboriginal Rights and the Conservation of Migratory Birds," in Michael Orsini and Miriam Smith, eds., Critical Public Policy (UBC 2007)
- Lydia Miljan, "Environmental Policy," in Public Policy in Canada An Introduction (Oxford 2008)

*****Hand in final set of Journal/ Reading logs today: Nov. 29*****