

**POLI 3245**  
**Public Policy I**  
Department of Political Science  
Saint Mary's University  
Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Michelle Coffin  
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**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30-9:45  
**Location:** Loyola Building, Room 171  
**Office Hours:** TBA

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**Course Description, Objectives and Outcomes**

This is an introductory course to the study of Canadian public policy. The main objective of the course is to introduce students to the theories, institutions and actors at play in the practice and study of Canadian public policy. The course is divided into four themes to guide our discussions and learning: Public Policy in the Canadian Context, the Policy Cycle, the Public Policy Capacity within Canadian Governments and Ethics and Values of the Public Service and the importance of these to Canadian ideals of liberal democracy.

Although this course might be the first time students are encountering the subject matter it is designed for senior undergraduates with a solid background in the discipline of political science.

The course will cover topics such as:

- the impact of government structures and institutions on the policy process
- the public policy cycle
- the constitutional and legal environment in which public policy is made
- ethical and public accountability considerations in the policy-making process
- policy networks and policy communities that participate in public policy decision-making
- the relationships and contestation that exist within the practice of public policy
- the dominant theories of public policy practice and study in Canada

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- articulate the dominating theories influencing the practice and decision-making of public policy in Canada
- identify and describe the structures and institutions of Canadian government that frame policy making within the Canadian context
- identify and describe the various influences and actors present in the of public policy in Canada
- make independent and informed determinations on the dominating theories, influences, practices of public policy making and the relevant relationships between the public service and politicians, the public, and interest groups.

## Required Readings

- There is no required text.
- Some readings will be available on Brightspace and others will be accessible through the Saint Mary's University Library.

## Course Evaluation

- **Assignments and Grading**

Discussion lead:	20 per cent
FOIPOP/ATIP submissions:	10 per cent
Group Project Outline:	10 per cent
Group Project:	30 per cent
Policy Analyses (3x10):	30 per cent

## Assignment Details

- **Discussion Lead**

Each student is required to lead a class discussion during the term via the preparation and presentation of a synopsis of one of the required course readings. The formal presentations are to be approximately 15 minutes and must conclude with three relevant questions intended to generate class discussion and debate. Students are required to submit hard copies of the synopsis and questions to the instructor on the **day of the presentation**. Presentations will take place throughout the term and students must proactively ensure that they have scheduled a discussion lead with the instructor. A template will be provided and available on Brightspace to help students organize their presentation. Failure to present on the scheduled day most likely will result in a grade of 0/20. The Discussion Lead schedule will be full and therefore opportunities to 'make-up' a missed presentation will not be available.

- **FOIPOP/ATIP Applications**

Each student must prepare either a Government of Canada Access to Information and Privacy application or a Government of Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy application. Democratic governments have a responsibility to provide citizens with the information they require to make informed judgments on the activities of their governments, while also protecting the privacy of citizens. It is the role of public servants to document their activity and to provide such information to citizens upon request in accordance to relevant law(s). Students are not required to submit the application, but it is highly encouraged to do so as application responses provide a great deal of insight into the workings of the public service. Hard Copies of the applications must be submitted to the instructor on **Oct 5**. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day, including weekends.

- **Group Project and Group Project Outline**

Students will organize into small groups to complete a project similar to one that would be conducted in the public service. Groups will assume the functions of policy specialists and will work together to resolve a contemporary public policy issue. Hard copies of the project must be submitted to the instructor on **Nov 28**. Students will be evaluated on their individual performance

(75% [62.5% from instructor, 12.5% from group peers]) as well as for the overall group performance (25% [12.5 from instructor, 12.5% from peer group]). Details of the project and corresponding documents will be posted to Brightspace and discussed in class.

Group topics must be approved by the instructor. Groups are required to meet with the instructor to present an outline of their proposed research early in the term. This meeting will take place outside of class time at a scheduled time with the instructor. A template will be provided to guide students in their preparation of the outline. All groups must meet with the instructor by **September 28**. Failure to meet with the instructor by this date will result in a mark of 0/10.

- **Policy Analyses**

Three times during the term students will submit a policy analysis of one major governmental issue (federal, provincial, municipal) in the news in Canada during the previous week. Within contemporary policy communities this is a common and persistent practice. It is vital for stakeholders to monitor and analyze government decision-making so they know how to proceed in the face of policy change or threats to policy stability. As our readings will discuss, the changing relationships between governments and stakeholders mean such analysis is becoming an increasingly important function to achieve successful policy outcomes.

Each Monday students will have the opportunity to submit a weekly analysis via Brightspace to the instructor. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that they have submitted three policy analyses during the term. A template will be provided and available on Brightspace to help students organize their analysis. Students have until **Dec 4** to submit their final analysis. Only one assignment per week will be accepted. Submitted assignments must represent policy analysis from the previous week's news coverage.

### **Grading scheme**

As per the Saint Mary's University undergraduate academic calendar.

<http://www.smu.ca/webfiles/UG%20calendar%202017-18%2024%20March%202017.pdf>

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY**

It is a serious matter to present the work of others as one's own. Students should familiarize themselves with the university's regulations regarding plagiarism and other types of academic dishonesty which are found in the academic calendar. Familiarity and understanding issues of academic integrity are the responsibility of students. Pages 19-27 of the calendar outline important expectations and responsibilities of students. Here is a link to the calendar:

<http://www.smu.ca/webfiles/UG%20calendar%202017-18%2024%20March%202017.pdf>

## Course Organization

Date	Topics and Assigned Readings
Sept 7	Review of course material and assignments
Sept 12	<p><b><u>What is public administration?</u></b></p> <p>Evert Lindquist (2010), “Chapter 1: Surveying the Public Administration Landscape” in Christopher Dunn, <i>The Handbook of Public Administration, Second Edition</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p> <p>Gregory Inwood (2012), “Chapter 5: Public Administration and Institutions: the Real World of Organizations and the Machinery of Government” in <i>Understanding Canadian Public Administration, Fourth Edition</i>, (Toronto: Pearson).</p>
Sept 14	<p><b><u>What is public policy?</u></b></p> <p>Alex Marland and Jared J Wesley (2016), “Chapter 8: Public Policy and Public Administration” in <i>Inside Canadian Politics</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p> <p>Michael Howlett (2010), “Chapter 22: The Policy Process” in Christopher Dunn, <i>The Handbook of Public Administration, Second Edition</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p>
Sept 19	<b>Class Discussion re: assignments and organization</b>
Sept 21	<p><b><u>Approaches and Perspectives on Canadian Public Administration &amp; Policy</u></b></p> <p>Donald Savoie (1999), “The Rise of Court Government in Canada,” in <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i>, Vol 32, Issue 4, pp. 635-664.</p> <p>Peter Aucoin (1995), “Chapter 1: Introduction: The New Public Management” in <i>The New Public Management: Canada in Comparative Perspective</i>, (Montreal: Institute for Research on Public Policy).</p>
Sept 26	<p>Peter Aucoin and Donald Savoie (2009), “The Politics-Administration Dichotomy: Democracy versus Bureaucracy?” in <i>The Evolving Physiology of Government</i> edited by O.P. Dwivedi, Tim A. Mau and Byron Sheldrick, (Ottawa: University of Ottawa Press, 2009), pp. 97-117.</p> <p>B Guy Peters and Donald Savoie (2012), “In Search of Good Government,” in <i>From New Public Management to New Political Governance</i>, edited by Herman Backvis and Mark D Jarvis (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press), pp.29-45.</p> <p>Aucoin, P. (2012), “New Political Governance in Westminster Systems: Impartial Public Administration and Management Performance at Risk,” in <i>Governance</i>, Vol 25, Issue 2, pp. 177–199.</p>

Sept 28	<p><b><u>Deadline to Meet with Instructor re: Group Outline (value: 10 pts)</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Public Policy Context in Canada</u></b></p> <p>Lydia Miljan, (2012), “Chapter 3: The Context of Policy Making in Canada” in <i>Public Policy in Canada, Sixth Edition</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p> <p><b><u>Public Policy, Federalism and Multi-Level Governance</u></b></p> <p>Richard Simeon and Amy Nugent (2012), “Chapter 5: Parliamentary Canada and Intergovernmental Canada: Exploring the Tensions,” in Herman Bakvis and Grace Stogstad (eds.), <i>Canadian Federalism: Second Edition</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p>
Oct 3	<p>William Towns (2016), “Chapter 5: A Discussion of Federal Policy Ideas and Dynamics in Canadian Urban Transit” in <i>Transit-Oriented Federalism: Policy Ideas and Dynamics in Canada's Urban Transit Policy Regime</i>, PhD Dissertation, University of Waterloo, Environmental Studies in Planning, <i>UWSpace</i>.  <a href="http://hdl.handle.net/10012/10947">http://hdl.handle.net/10012/10947</a></p> <p>Christopher Alcantara and Zachary Spicer (2016), “A New Model for Making Aboriginal Policy? Evaluating the Kelowna Accord and the Promise of Multilevel Governance in Canada,” <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 59 (2), pp. 183–203.</p>
Oct 5	<p><b><u>FOIPOP/ATIP Assignment Due</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Public Policy and the Courts</u></b></p> <p>Heather McIvor (2013), “Chapter 5; The Policy Capacity of the Supreme Court of Canada” in <i>Canadian Politics and Government in the Charter Era</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p> <p>Raymond Bazowski (2014), “Chapter 10: Judicial Politics in the Age of the Charter” in James Bickerton and Alain-G. Gagnon (eds.) <i>Canadian Politics, Sixth Edition</i>, (Toronto: Toronto University Press).</p> <p>F L Morton and Rainer Knopff (2000), “Judges, the Court Party And The <i>Charter</i> Revolution” in <i>Policy Opinions</i>, April 2000.</p> <p>F L Morton (1999), “Dialogue or Monologue?” <i>Policy Opinions</i>, April 1999.</p>
Oct 10	<p><b><u>Policy Agenda, Formulation and Design in Contemporary Governance</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Public Networks and Communities</u></b></p> <p>Grace Skogstad (2008), Policy Networks and Policy Communities: Conceptualizing State-Societal Relationships in the Policy Process,” in <i>The Comparative Turn in Canadian</i></p>

<p>Oct 12</p>	<p><i>Political Science</i> edited by Linda White et al. (Vancouver: UBC Press), pp. 205-220.</p> <p>Evans, B. Mitchell and John Shields (2006), <i>Neoliberal Restructuring and the Third Sector: Reshaping Governance, Civil Society and Local Relations</i>, (Toronto: Centre for Voluntary Sector Studies).</p> <p>(TWO STUDENTS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS DISCUSSION LEAD)</p> <p>Bryan Evans and Halina Sapeha (2015), “Are Non-Government Policy Actors Being Heard? Assessing New Public Governance in Three Canadian Provinces,” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 58 (2), pp. 249–270.</p> <p>Mario Levesque (2012), “Mapping a Way Forward: Interest Group Selection and Roles Performed in Engagement Processes,” <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 55 (4), pp. 531–552.</p> <p>Nancy Bouchard (2016), “The Dark Side of Public Participation: Participative Processes that Legitimize Elected Officials’ Values,” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 59 (4), pp. 516–537.</p>
<p>Oct 17</p>	<p><u>E-Government/Open Government/Governance</u></p> <p>Mary Francoli (2011), “Embracing a New Relationship with Canadians: Addressing Barriers to New Media Adoption in Canada’s Public Service,” in Christopher Stoney and G Bruce Doern (eds.), <i>How Ottawa Spends: Trimming Fat or Slicing Pork, 2011-2012</i>, pp. 280-296.</p> <p>Kathleen McNutt (2014), “Public Engagement in the Web 2.0 era: Social Collaborative Technologies in a Public Sector Context,” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 57 (1), pp. 49–70.</p> <p>Don Lenihan and Carolyn Bennett (2015), “Rebuilding Public Trust: Open Government and Open Dialogue in the Government of Canada,” prepared for Canada 2020. <a href="http://canada2020.ca/open-government-open-dialogue-lenihan-bennett/">http://canada2020.ca/open-government-open-dialogue-lenihan-bennett/</a></p>
<p>Oct 19</p>	<p><u>Public Policy and Lobbying (30 minutes - Group Project Planning, time permitting)</u></p> <p>Ludovic Rheault (2013), “Corporate Lobbying and Immigration Policies in Canada,” in <i>Canadian Journal of Political Science</i>, 46(3), pp. 691-722.</p> <p>Office of the Commissioner of Lobbying  <a href="https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/h_00000.html">https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/h_00000.html</a></p> <p><i>Lobbying Act</i> and regulations  <a href="https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/h_00008.html">https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/h_00008.html</a></p> <p><i>Lobbying Code of Conduct</i>  <a href="https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/h_00014.html">https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/h_00014.html</a></p>

	<p>Registry of Lobbyists  <a href="https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/00035.html">https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/eic/site/012.nsf/eng/00035.html</a></p>
Oct 24	<b>Group Project In-Class Preparation</b>
Oct 26	<p><b><u>Policy Implementation</u></b></p> <p><u>Alternative Service Delivery as Policy Instrument</u></p> <p>David Zuzzman (2010), “Chapter 14: Alternative Service Delivery,” in Christopher Dunn, <i>The Handbook of Public Administration, Second Edition</i>, (Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press).</p> <p><u>Taxation as Policy Instrument</u></p> <p>Allan M Maslove (2010), “New Directions and Old Dilemmas: Taxation as an Instrument of Public Policy,” in Glen Toner, Leslie A Pal and Michael J Prince (eds.), <i>Policy: From Ideas to Implementation: In Honour of Professor G Bruce Doern</i>, (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press).</p>
Oct 31	<p><u>Public School Curriculum as Policy Instrument</u></p> <p>E. Milne (2017), “Implementing Indigenous Education Policy Directives in Ontario Public Schools: Experiences, Challenges and Successful Practices,” in <i>International Indigenous Policy Journal</i>, 8 (3) .</p> <p><u>New Perspectives on Policy Instruments</u></p> <p>Patrice Dutil (2015) “Crowdsourcing as a New Instrument in the Government’s Arsenal: Explorations and Considerations,” <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 58 (3), pp. 363–383.</p>
Nov 2	<p><b><u>Policy Evaluation</u></b></p> <p>Leslie A. Pal (2014), “Chapter 7: Evaluation” in <i>Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times, Fifth Edition</i>, (Scarborough: Nelson Education).</p> <p>Paul G. Thomas (2008), “Why is Performance-based Accountability so Popular in Practice and so Difficult in Practice?” in <i>Holy Grail or Achievable Quest?</i> (KPMG International).</p>
Nov 7	<p>Ralph Heintzman (2009), “Measurement in Public Management: The Case for the Defence” in <i>optimum online</i>, 39 (1).  <a href="http://www.optimumonline.ca/article.phtml?e=fjtcgvty&amp;id=325">http://www.optimumonline.ca/article.phtml?e=fjtcgvty&amp;id=325</a></p> <p>Edward Nason and Michael A. O’Neill (2015), “What Metrics? On the Utility of Measuring the Performance of Policy Research: An Illustrative Case and Alternative</p>

	from Employment and Social Development Canada,” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i> , 58 (1), pp. 138-160.
Nov 9	<b>Group Project In-Class Preparation</b>
Nov 14	<b>STUDY DAY – NO CLASS</b>
Nov 16	<b>Guest Speaker</b>
Nov 21	<p><b><u>Policy Capacity of Canadian Governments</u></b></p> <p>Lorne Sossin (2003), <i>Dilemmas of Evaluation, Accountability and Politics: Contracting Out Social Services in Ontario</i>. A Report to the Panel on the Role of Government in Ontario. (THREE STUDENTS RECOMMENDED FOR THIS DISCUSSION LEAD)</p> <p>Michael Howlett and Andrea Migone (2014), “Making the Invisible Public Service Visible? Exploring Data on the Supply of Policy and Management Consultancies in Canada” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 57 (2), pp. 183–216.</p>
Nov 23	<p><b><u>Ethics and Values in the Public Policy Making Processes</u></b></p> <p>JW Langford (2007), “Acting on Values: An Ethical Dead End for Public Servants” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 47(4), pp. 429-450.</p> <p>Ralph Heintzman (2007), “Public Service Values and Ethics: Dead End or Strong Foundation?” in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 50 (4), pp. 573-602.</p>
Nov 28	<p><b>Group Assignments Due</b></p> <p>Ralph Heintzman (2014), “Renewal of the Federal Public Service: Toward a Charter of Public Service,” prepared for Canada 2020. <a href="http://canada2020.ca/public-service-renewal/">http://canada2020.ca/public-service-renewal/</a></p> <p>Kenneth Kernaghan (2014), “Digital Dilemmas: Values, Ethics and Information Technology in <i>Canadian Public Administration</i>, 57 (2), pp. 295–317.</p>