

POLS*3670
COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
Department of Political Science
University of Guelph

Winter 2012

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 – 2:20
Room: MACK 115

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Office: MacKinnon 539
Office Hours: Thursdays 3:00 – 5:00
(Or by appointment)
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Overview

This course explores public policymaking in countries of the Global South in comparative perspective. The course is divided into three main parts. It opens with an introduction to the general theoretical debates on the specificities of policymaking in developing societies due to weak states and bureaucracies, high levels of inequality and the influence of informal institutions. We will then study the various stages of the policy process, actors involved in policymaking and factors that explain policy stasis and change. In the second part, we look at several policy areas ranging from economic to environmental policy. In the third part of the course students will undertake cross-national comparative analyses of specific policy areas through a series of student presentations. The course primarily focuses on public policy in democratic societies.

Requirements

- In-class mid-term examination on **February 14** (30%)
- Presentations **Weeks 10-13** (30%)
- Final Exam **during Final-Exam Period** (40%)

Courselink

You are required to consult the course's Courselink page regularly as additional readings and announcements will be posted with frequency. A discussion forum will be setup and will be directed by the instructor and the TAs. Using the general discussion forum may help students to test out the ideas and obtain input from peers as well as the instructor. We will provide input if it is required and will try to answer questions. It is primarily designed to encourage students to engage in a discussion in an attempt to clarify material from the lectures and the readings that

remain unclear or on which students would like to elaborate or explore further. Students must know that the Courselink discussions must adhere to the University's formal policy of communication and engagement. According to University Policy, students have the responsibility to foster an environment characterized by mutual respect. As such, do know that propriety is expected in these university fora and action will be taken should the policy be violated

Important Notes

- In this class, students may **only** use electronic mail for **procedural inquires**. All substantive questions regarding lectures, readings, writing assignments and presentations must be asked in person. Nevertheless, students are strongly encouraged to approach the TA's or the Professor during their office hours with any queries, rather than using e-mail.
- Only under truly exceptional circumstances shall make-up examinations be administered and late essay submissions be accepted. Medical, or similar, documentation, stating that the student is (fully) **incapacitated and unable to work**, is required. The note must state the exact dates during which such incapacitation occurred. After the end of the semester, make-up tests and final exams will only be administered after having been granted permission from the Academic Review Sub-Committee.

Your continued registration in the course will be taken as evidence that you have agreed to the requirements, terms and conditions of the course.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Unless noted, all the readings in the list below are mandatory and available through Course Reserve.

PART I: THE POLICY PROCESS, INSTITUTIONS AND ACTORS

WEEK 1: The Study of Public Policy in the Global South

Jan 10 Introduction and Overview of the Course

Jan 12 What is policy? Why study policy? General Considerations on the Study of Policymaking in the Global South

- Díez, Jordi and Susan Franceschet. 2012. *Comparative Public Policy in Latin America* "Introduction" and "Conclusion." Toronto: The University of Toronto Press.

WEEK 2: Theories of Public Policy

Jan 17 & 19 Theoretical Approaches in the Policy Sciences

- Howlett, Michael et al. 2009. “Understanding Public Policy: Theoretical Approaches” in *Studying Public Policy: Policy Cycles and Subsystems*. New York: Oxford University Press.

WEEK 3: The State, Institutions and Bureaucracy in Policymaking

Jan 24 The State, Embedded Autonomy and the Policy Process
 Jan 26 Institutions, Bureaucracies and Policy

- Evans, Peter. 1995. *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 21-42.
- Teichman, Judith. 2012. “The New Institutionalism and Industrial Policymaking in Chile” in Díez and Franceschet *Comparative Public Policy*.
- Wilder, Andrew “The Politics of Civil Service Reform in Pakistan,” *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 63, No. 1 (2009), pp. 19-39.
- Díez, Jordi. 2006. *Political Change and Environmental Policymaking in Mexico*. New York: Routledge: 127-149.
- [Recommended] Migdal, Joel. 1988. *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 52-96.

WEEK 4: The Developmental State, Poverty and Inequality

Jan 31 The Rise and Fall of the Developmental State?
 Feb 2 The Politics of Anti-Poverty Policy and Inequality

- Johnson, Chalmers. 1999. “The Developmental State: Odyssey of a Concept” in Meredith Woo-Cumings (ed.) *The Developmental State*: 32-60.
- Luccisano, Lucy and Laura Macdonald. 2012. “The Limits of Anti-Poverty Policy: Citizenship, Accountability, and Neo-Clientelism in Mexico’s *Oportunidades* Program” in Díez and Franceschet *Comparative Public Policy*.
- Williams, Glyn et al. 2003. “Participation and Power: Poor People's Engagement with India's Employment Assurance Scheme” *Development and Change* 34(1): 163-192.

WEEK 5: Social Movements, Policy Networks and the Policy Process

Feb 7 & 9 State-Society Relations and Policymaking

- Wong, Joseph. 2005. "Adapting to Democracy: Societal Mobilization and Social Policy in Taiwan and South Korea" in *Studies in Contemporary International Development*: 88-111.
- Torres-Ruiz, Antonio. 2011. "HIV/AIDS and Sexual Minorities in Mexico: A Globalized Struggle for the Protection of Human Rights." *Latin American Research Review* 46 (1):30-54.
- Kubal, Mary Rose. 2012. "Transnational Policy Networks and Public Security Policy in Argentina and Chile" in Díez and Franceschet *Comparative Public Policy*.

Please note that Professor Daniel Béland (University of Saskatchewan) will be speaking on February 9 from 10:00-12:00 (MACK 621). The title of his talk is "Ideas and Political Explanations." You are strongly encouraged to attend.

WEEK 6: Mid-Term Examination and Discussions of Group Presentations

Feb 14 **Mid-term Examination**

Feb 16 The Comparative Method, Overview of Presentation Assignment and Organization of Groups

- O'Neil, Patrick H. 2010. *Essentials of Comparative Politics*: 3-13.

WEEK 7: READING WEEK

PART II: ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY

WEEK 8: Economic Restructuring and Policymaking

Feb 28 & Mar 1 Economic Policy

- Sengupta, Mitu. 2009. "Making the State Change its Mind: The IMF, the World Bank and the Politics of India's Market Reforms" *New Political Economy* 14(2): 181-210.
- Teichman, Judith. 2002. "Managing the Politics of Market Reform" in *The Politics of Freeing Markets in Latin America*. Chappell Hill: North Carolina University Press: 160-193.
- Brinkerhoff, D. and A. Goldsmith. 2003. "How Citizens Participate in Macroeconomic Policy: International Experience and Implications for Poverty Reduction" *World Development* 31(4): 685-701.

Please note that Professor Joe Wong (U of T) will be speaking on March 1 from 10:00-12:00 (MACK 621). The title of his talk is “Betting on Biotech: Public Policy and the Innovation Economy.” You are strongly encouraged to attend.

WEEK 9: The Welfare State and Social Policy

Mar 6 The Welfare State in Comparative Perspective
 Mar 8 The Politics of Social Policy Reform

- Esping-Anderson, Gøsta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press: 9-34.
- Sandbrook, Richard et al. 2007. *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery: Origins, Challenges, Prospects*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 123-146 & 232-254.
- Fraizer, Mark W. 2004. “China’s Pension Reform and its Discontents” *The China Journal* 51 (January): 97-114.
- Lopreite, Débora. 2012. “Welfare State Regimes in Latin America: Argentina in Comparative Perspective” in Díez and Franceschet *Comparative Public Policy*.
- [Recommended] Krishna, Anirudh. 2011. “Gaining Access to Public Services and the Democratic State in India: Institutions in the Middle” *Studies in Comparative International Development* 46(1): 98-117.

WEEK 10: “Third-Generation” Policies

Mar 13 Environmental Policy in the Global South
 Mar 15 The Making of “Moral Policies:” Why All the Fuss?

- Díez, Jordi. “Conclusion” & any one of Chapters 2-12 in Jordi Díez and O.P. Dwivedi (editors). *Global Environmental Challenges: Perspectives from the South*. Peterborough: Broadview.
- Meier, Kenneth “Drugs, Sex, Rock and Roll: A Theory of Morality Politics” *Policy Studies Journal* 27 (4): 1999, pp. 68-95.
- Díez, Jordi. 2010. The Importance of Policy Frames in Contentious Politics: Mexico's National Anti-homophobia Campaign. *Latin American Research Review* 45 (1): 33-54.

WEEKS 11-13: Presentations