



# McGill

**McGill University**  
**Political Science POLI 610**  
**Winter 2015**  
**PUBLIC POLICY: CANADIAN AND COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES**

Professor: Antonia Maioni  
Office: 1130 avenue des Pins (Charles Meredith House)  
Phone: 514-398-4815  
E-mail: [antonia.maioni@mcgill.ca](mailto:antonia.maioni@mcgill.ca)  
Office Hours: Mondays, 2.30-4.30 pm.

### **Course Objectives and Requirements**

This seminar focuses on the comparative analysis of public policy issues. We examine explanatory models of the evolution and formation of public policy, as well as comparative methodology. We also turn our attention to the study of public policy issues that illustrate the workings of specific policy environments in Canada and in other advanced industrial societies.

This seminar presents an overview of the study of public policy for graduate students in political science. It is designed to focus on the state of the literature in the field, specific case studies in Canadian public policy, and an understanding of the comparative method in policy analysis.

### **Course method of evaluation**

- Participation, including leading seminars and team project (30%)
- Two reviews of readings (30 %)
- Policy research paper (40 %)

Please be reminded that McGill University values academic integrity. It is your responsibility as a McGill student to understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).

*Ce cours est donné en anglais mais les étudiants peuvent rédiger leurs travaux en français s'ils le souhaitent.*

### **Required Texts**

1) Michael Moran, Martin Rein and Robert Goodin (eds): *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008)  
[http://www.oxfordhandbooksonline.com/oso/public/content/oho\\_politics/9780199548453/toc.html](http://www.oxfordhandbooksonline.com/oso/public/content/oho_politics/9780199548453/toc.html)

2) Michael Howlett, *Canadian Public Policy: Selected Studies* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013) <http://www.utppublishing.com/Canadian-Public-Policy-Selected-Studies-in-Process-and-Style.html>

3) Additional Readings: can be accessed via the web or through the McGill University Library on-line resources.

### January 5

**Introduction, schedule & course syllabus, requirements & evaluation.**

### January 12 \* (to be rescheduled)

#### **Public policy as a field of study**

- Howlett, ch. 2: Policy Development as Decision-Making
- DeLeon, The Historical Roots of The Field (in Moran)
- Winship, Policy Analysis as Puzzle Solving (in Moran)
- Richard Simeon, "Studying Public Policy," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 9 (December 1976): 548-580.

### January 19

#### **Making Public Policy**

- Page, The Origins of Policy (in Moran)
- Shue, Ethical Dimensions of Public Policy (in Moran)
- March and Olsen, The Logic of Appropriateness (in Moran)
- Stone, "Causal Stories and the Formation of Policy Agendas," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 104, No. 2 (Summer, 1989), pp. 281-300
- Lindblom, "Still muddling, not yet through," *Public Administration Review* 39 (1979): 517-526

### January 26\* (to be rescheduled)

#### **Structures, Interests, Institutions**

- Immergut, Institutional Constraints on Policy (in Moran)
- Quiggin, Economic Constraints on Public Policy (in Moran)
- Galston, Interests and Power (in Moran)
- Hay, Globalization and Public Policy (in Moran)
- Anthony King, "Ideas, Institutions and the Policies of Governments: A Comparative Analysis, Part III," *British Journal of Political Science*, vol. 3 (1973) pp. 409-423.

### February 2

#### **How to compare**

- Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method," *American Political Science Review*, 65 (December 1971), pp. 682-693.
- Skocpol and Somers (1980): 'The Uses of Comparative History in Macrosocial Inquiry', *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 22: 174-197.
- Ragin and Zaret (1983), 'Theory and Method in comparative research: two strategies' *Social Forces*, 61(3), 731-54

- Esping-Andersen (1989) 'The three political economies of the welfare state', *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, 26(1), 10-36

### February 9

#### **Team Project: Building a School of Public Policy**

- Allison, Emergence of Schools of Public Policy: Reflections by a Founding Dean (in Moran)

### February 16

#### **The Policy Process (using the Canadian case)**

- Howlett ch. 3, Agenda-Setting
- Howlett ch. 4, Policy Formulation
- Howlett ch. 5, Decision-Making

### February 23

#### **Implementation & Public Management**

- Howlett ch.6, Policy Implementation
- Sabatier and Mazmanian, "The Implementation of Public Policy" *Policy Studies Journal*, Vol. 8, no. 4, pp. 538-560, January 1980.
- DeLeon and DeLeon, "What Ever Happened to Policy Implementation?" *Journal of Public Administration Research Theory* (2002) 12 (4): 467-492
- Hupe, "The Thesis of Incongruent Implementation: Revisiting Pressman and Wildavsky," *Public Policy and Administration* January 2011 vol. 26 no. 1 63-80
- Hood, "A Public Management for All Seasons?" *Public Administration* 69 (1): 3-19, March 1991.

### March 2: STUDY BREAK/NO CLASSES

### March 9

#### **Policy Evaluation, Feedback and Learning**

- Howlett ch. 7, Policy Evaluation
- Pierson, "When Effect Becomes Cause: Policy Feedback and Political Change" *World Politics*, 45 (July 1993), pp. 595-628.
- Béland (2010), "Reconsidering Policy Feedback: How Policies Affect Politics," *Administration & Society*, 42(5): 568-590.
- Bovens Hart, Kuipers, Politics of Policy Evaluation (in Moran)
- Freeman, Learning in Public Policy (in Moran)

### March 16

#### **Public Opinion and Public Policy**

- Page and Shapiro, "Effects of Public Opinion on Policy," *American Political Science Review*, 77 : 1, March 1983, 175-190.

- Petry, “The Opinion-Policy Relationship in Canada,” *Journal of Politics*, 61: 2, May 1999, 540-50.
- Soroka and Wlezien. 2004. “Opinion representation and policy feedback: Canada in comparative perspective” *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 37(3): 531–60.
- Soroka, Maioni, Martin, “What Moves Public Opinion on Health Care?”, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Vol. 38, No. 5 (March 2013).

### March 23

#### What explains policy change: pensions & welfare

- Myles and Pierson. 1997. “Friedman's revenge: The reform of liberal welfare states in Canada and the United States” *Politics and Society* 25(4):
- Babich and Béland “Policy Change and the Politics of Ideas: The Emergence of the Canada/Quebec Pension Plans,” *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*, Volume 46, Issue 3, pages 253–271, August 2009
- Van den Bosch and Cantillon, Policy Impact (in Moran)
- Fox Piven, The Politics of Retrenchment (in Moran)

### March 30

#### What explains policy differences: health care

- Hacker, “The Historical Logic of National Health Insurance: Structure and Sequence in the Development of British, Canadian, and U.S. Medical Policy,” *Studies in American Political Development*, vol. 12, no. 1, April 1998.
- Brown, “Pedestrian Paths: Why Path-Dependence Theory Leaves Health Policy Analysis Lost in Space” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 2010 Volume 35, Number 4: 643-661.
- Maioni, “Parting at the Crossroads: The Development of Health Insurance in Canada and the United States, 1940-1965,” *Comparative Politics*, 1997.
- Marmor, Okma, Latham “National Values, Institutions and Health Policies” *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, Volume 12, Issue 1-2, 201.

### April 6

#### Toward better public policy analysis: where from here?

- Howlett, ch. 8: Policy Analytical Capacity and Evidence-Based Policy-Making
- Klein and Marmor, Reflections on Policy Analysis (in Moran)