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).

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

Required Texts


http://www.oxfordhandbooksonline.com/oso/public/content/oho_politics/9780199548453/toc.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)

### 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)

### 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)

### February 2

**How to compare**

### 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

### March 2: STUDY BREAK/NO CLASSES

### March 9

**Policy Evaluation, Feedback and Learning**
- Howlett ch. 7, Policy Evaluation
- Bovens Hart, Kuipers, Politics of Policy Evaluation (in Moran)
- Freeman, Learning in Public Policy (in Moran)

### March 16

**Public Opinion and Public Policy**

March 23

**What explains policy change: pensions & welfare**
- 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**

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)