Politics 451  
**Public Policy Analysis**  
(08-2)

**Class Time:** Wednesday 1:30-4:20 HC 1325  
**Class E-Mail List:** pol451-d1@sfu.ca, pol851-g1@sfu.ca

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NOTE: This outline is also available through the Class WWW Site  
([http://www.sfu.ca/~howlett/courses.html](http://www.sfu.ca/~howlett/courses.html))

**Outline:**

This course describes and evaluates the work of policy analysts in modern liberal-democratic governments. It sets out the origins of the ‘policy analysis movement’ in the 1960s in the United States and traces the diffusion and evolution of the idea of policy analysis throughout the world over the next 50 years. Within this comparative context, the course explores the current state of policy analysis in Canadian governments and non-governmental organizations, detailing the techniques of, and capacities for, policy analysis found in each. The merits and demerits of the recent tendency for analysis to shift from ‘modern’ to ‘post-modern’ analytical techniques, along with those of the most recent ‘evidence-based’ policy movement, are discussed and the implications of these different orientations for the training and recruitment of policy analysts, and the impact of their work, are set out. The course highlights the tensions which now exist between traditional policy analysis concerned with ‘speaking truth to power’ and that focussed on the struggle to “make sense together”.

**Required Texts (Note: All Texts Available at Harbour Centre Bookstore)**


**Recommended Texts**


**Requirements and Marking:**

1. There will be a final examination worth 30 percent of the course mark. It will be held from TBA am on TBA. Room TBA.

2. One 20-25 page paper is due at the end of term and is worth 50 percent of the class mark. Papers should be typed, double-spaced and properly formatted. **Papers are due on the last day of class. LATE PAPERS WILL LOSE TEN PERCENT PER DAY LATE.**

3. A 3-5 page outline of the paper is due by e-mail in Week VIII. The outline should set out the general argument to be made in the paper, the methodology to be followed, and include appropriate traditional and non-traditional (WWW) bibliographic references. The outline will be returned in Week VIII and will account for 10 percent of the paper grade. **LATE OUTLINES WILL RECEIVE A ZERO GRADE.**

4. Twenty (20) percent of the course mark will be awarded on the basis of class participation. This includes two oral presentation of readings from the course lists in weeks II-XII **LATE PRESENTATIONS WILL RECEIVE A ZERO GRADE.**

**Paper Topic:**

Choose a government agency in Canada. Outline the nature of its policy analytical capacity and its evolution over the past two decades. Assess what kinds of policy analysis have been, and are, practiced in this agency, at what level, and if this capacity has grown or shrunk over the period in question. Determine if this level and type of analysis is appropriate for the types of duties undertaken by this agency.

**Papers are due on the last day of class.**

**WEEKLY READING LIST**

*NOTE: All required and recommended readings have been placed on reserve in Belzberg Library*

**WEEK I: Introduction to Policy Analysis: Origins and Purpose**

Required Reading:


Webber, D. J. "Explaining Policymaker's Use of Policy Information: The Relative Importance of the Two-Community Theory Versus Decision-Maker Orientation."

Recommended Reading:


WEEK II: The Policy Analysis Movement

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK IV: Policy Analysis in Canada: Origins, Growth and Impact

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK V: Policy Analysis in Canadian Governments (I): By Jurisdiction

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK VI: Policy Analysis in Canadian Governments (II): Specialized Agencies

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK VII: Policy Analysis in Canadian NGOs (I): Business and Labour

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK VIII: Policy Analysis in Canadian NGOs (II): Parties and Interest Groups

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


** OUTLINES DUE

WEEK IX: Policy Analysis in Canadian Brokerage Groups (I): Think Tanks and the Media

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK X: Policy Analysis in Canadian Brokerage Groups (II): Academics, Consultants and Pollsters

Required Reading:

The State of the Art  
Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007

Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007

Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007

Recommended Reading:


Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006. Ch. 4

WEEK XI: Canadian Policy Analysis in Comparative Perspective

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK XII: Evaluating Policy Analysis in Canada and Elsewhere: Evidence-Based Policy Making and Usable Knowledge

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


WEEK XIII: Training Policy Analysts: The Role of Political Science

Required Reading:


Recommended Reading:


** Papers Due **

Final Exam Time & Date TBA. Location: TBA
AN IMPORTANT REMINDER:

Plagiarism involves using another author’s words without attribution or otherwise presenting another person’s work as one’s own. It is a fraudulent and serious academic offence that will result in a severe academic penalty. Also, close paraphrasing of another author’s work & self-plagiarism, including submitting the same, or substantively the same, work for academic evaluation more than once, are unacceptable practices that will result in a severe academic penalty.


The Department of Political Science’s interpretation of this policy can be found at http://www.sfu.ca/politics/undergrad/ug_misc.html, and is available in hard copy format outside our General Office. All students are responsible for familiarising themselves with these policies.

A helpful SFU Library tutorial on plagiarism is at http://www.lib.sfu.ca/researchhelp/tutorials/interactive/plagiarism/tutorial/introduction.htm

The DOs and DON’Ts of AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Do not:
- submit an entire paper or part(s) of a paper or papers that has been written or researched by any other person(s);
- submit a paper as an assignment that has been bought from another person or from a ‘paper mill’ or essay service;
- submit a paper or other written assignment that has been submitted at another time or for a different course by yourself or any other student or former student;
- submit material that has been downloaded from a website, without acknowledging (using appropriate citation style) that you have done so;
- take someone else’s idea(s) and represent it/them as your own;
- copy any text verbatim, or with only slight variation from the original text, without using quotation marks and documenting the source with proper citation style;
- do not closely paraphrase another’s material; either paraphrase completely in your own words, or cite as a direct quotation using quotation marks (in either case, give full credit and details regarding authorship and location of the original material);

Do:
- learn how to cite material properly (there are many good guides on this, including the departmental one);
- use a recognized citation style (eg. APA, MLA, Chicago), according to instructions given by the course instructor, and be consistent in the use of the style throughout any single piece of written work;
- carefully read and make sure you understand the university’s policy on academic honesty;
- ask the instructor of this course or other faculty members if you have any questions about plagiarism.