POLI 364 Canadian Public Policy

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Sean Darling

Course delivery: In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
This course examines, assesses and applies theoretical perspectives to the study of policy-making in Canada. As such, it will address both where and how decisions are made (or not) across levels, scales and locales of government. Given that numerous actors such as interest groups, lobbyists, the public, and the media affect public policy, this course will emphasize both structure and agency, key terms and concepts associated with how government functions. This course will also discuss processes of governance. The first section of the course introduces various approaches to public policy in Canada. We will follow this by applying these approaches to selected policy domains in Canadian politics, including health, environment, ethnicity, race, risk and security. The final portion of the course will focus on the applied craft of policy-making.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
• Introduce theoretical approaches and concepts concerning public policy;
• Explore crucial components of the public policy processes;
• Allow participation in public policy development and engagement;
• Provide a knowledge and skill set that students can expand in the workplace;
• Learn how to write a policy brief and a position paper;
• Develop analytic, writing, research and presentation skills that are fundamental to working in both public and not-for-profit sector environments.

Topics may include:
Policy paradox
Intersectionality
Policy networks and communities
Policy domains

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.