POLI 351
Public Policy Analysis

Instructor:
Dr. Lynn Hancock (Summer 2021)

Course delivery: In the Summer 2021 term, this course will be delivered synchronously.

Course description:
This course introduces students to the fundamental skills of policy analysis, the structure and operation of the civil service, and to real-world challenges involved in identifying and solving public policy problems. Throughout the term there will be opportunities for students to critically examine what it is to be a civil servant, the role of government in society, and how members of the bureaucracy interact with elected officials.

In addition to examining the role of the public service in analysing, proposing, and administering government programs, students will also build practical skills relevant to work as an analyst, including: identifying policy problems, researching and evaluating policy alternatives, and making recommendations through briefing notes and presentations. Throughout the term, emphasis will be placed on systematic and transparent analysis, and writing and presenting materials in a manner that is appropriate for their intended audience.

About the instructor: Dr. Lynn Hancock is an instructor in Political Science. Her work focusses on Canadian public policy in the health sector.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
• Identify and describe policy problems
• Identify multiple solutions to policy problems and complete transparent and unbiased analysis to determine which is most appropriate
• Prepare briefing notes and other materials that are well researched, clear, concise, and appropriate for their intended audience
• Work both individually and as a member of a team to develop public policy analysis.

Topics may include:
Public policy frameworks
Approaches to public policy
Consultation and stakeholder analysis
Policy instruments

This online summary is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.
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