



University
of Victoria

POLI 351: Public Policy and Analysis

Instructor Summer 2023: Dr. Sean Darling

Course delivery: In the Summer 2023 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

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 course there will be opportunities for students to examine what it is to be a civil servant, the role of government in society, and consider 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 on systematic and transparent analysis, and writing and presenting materials in a manner that is appropriate for the intended audience.

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