



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 447 (Lecture 01)
Comparative Public Policy
Fall 2021

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Susan Franceschet
EMAIL: sfrances@ucalgary.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1:30-3pm (via Zoom); or by appointment
COURSE DAY/TIME: Blended: **In person** class on Mondays 5-6:15pm. Remaining content (videos and recorded lectures delivered asynchronously on-line.
DELIVERY METHOD: Blended: 75 minutes in person. Remaining content (recorded lectures) posted to D2L.
COURSE LOCATION: AD 142
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: POLI 357 *or* POLI 359

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines public policies in comparative perspective, seeking to explain why policies differ so much from country to country. Using recent and ongoing global events, namely the COVID-19 pandemic, this course explores how the tools of comparative public policy help make sense of cross-national differences in terms of public policies and their social and political consequences.

Through a close examination of political institutions and policy histories in six countries (Canada, Germany, Sweden, the United States, and the United Kingdom), we examine how each country addressed the many social and economic crises unleashed by the pandemic, focusing particularly on how different sets of policy legacies, political institutions, and ideas led countries to pursue different policy approaches to the pandemic. The policies examined in the course include health care, income support, childcare, unemployment, and long-term care.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

Throughout the course, students will deepen their understanding of how and why certain issues become public “problems” to be addressed by governments, and how policy responses are formulated and implemented in different institutional contexts and in societies with different political cultures and historical legacies. Because the course adopts a comparative approach, students will learn more about politics, policy, and political systems outside of Canada, while also deepening their understanding of how and why public policies in Canada differ from those in other wealthy democracies.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S)

There is no textbook for the course. Required materials (book chapters, articles, media, podcasts, and videos) will be available electronically either through the Taylor Family Digital Library or in other open access venues or posted to D2L.

COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

Although this is primarily a lecture course, student participation is encouraged.

Students will complete **3** short written assignments (ranging from 500 to 12000 words). There will be a take-home final exam (see details on p. 4).

Following Monday's in-person class each week, students will submit written questions related to the week's topic. The questions must be submitted by the end of the week (Fridays). The questions will not be graded, but students who submit questions for at least **ten** of the weeks will receive 10 marks. Students who do not submit for at least ten weeks will receive 0. The questions will be answered by the instructor either during the in-person class on the following Monday or in the recorded videos posted to D2L.

The weighting of the coursework is as follows:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Assignment # 1	15%	September 29 th
Assignment # 2	20%	October 27 th
Assignment # 3	30%	December 1 st
Weekly questions	10%	Students must post questions to D2L on or before each Friday (except for reading week)
Take-home exam	25%	December 10 th (<i>exam questions will be distributed on December 6th</i>)
Total	100%	

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK:

Assignments must be submitted electronically to the dropbox on D2L **in Word format** (do **not** submit a PDF). Assignments should have a file name as follows: "FirstName LastName Assignment # (for example, Rachel Wong Assignment 3). It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment and to ensure that the proper version is submitted.

Late penalties: Assignments must be submitted by **11:59pm** on their due date (except for the weekly questions/comments that must be submitted by 6pm on Fridays). Instructors recognize that most students are taking several courses and therefore have a heavy workload of reading, writing, and studying. Heavy workloads are best managed by being well organized, keeping up with required readings, and getting an early start on assignments.

In order to maintain fairness, students requesting extensions **without** a legitimate reason (for example, health issue or family emergency) will have late penalties of 2% per day deducted from the grade.

NOTE: If you miss a required course component, please get in touch with the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS

Below is a list of the topics we'll be covering in the course. A schedule of dates and required readings will be posted on D2L by September 7th.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED
Introduction to the course: From problems to policy
Setting the Stage I: Pandemics, crises, and comparative public policy
Setting the Stage II: Concepts for studying public policy
Setting the Stage III: Political institutions in Canada, Germany, Sweden, the UK, and the US
Health care politics and policy (and how pandemic policy outcomes are linked to existing policy and policy legacies)
Social welfare and income support (and how existing policies set the stage for government responses to pandemic-related economic downturns)
Childcare politics and policies (and how pandemic lockdowns are affecting gender inequality)
Long-term care policies (and why/how the COVID-19 hit some countries' long-term care residents so hard and what might happen next)

Please note that the above topics are subject to change as the need arises.

ASSIGNMENT[S]

Detailed instructions and grading criteria for all of the assignments are posted on D2L.

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION

There will be a final take-home exam for this course, worth 25% of your grade. The exam will include some short-answer questions and one short essay question. The questions will be distributed on December 6th, and it is **due** on Friday, December 10th by 11:59pm (submitted to D2L). The exam will draw on all course materials (recorded lectures, in-person classes, videos, and required readings), and you may consult these materials when

writing your answers.

WRITING STATEMENT

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre by contacting them at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

GRADING SCALE. The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (95-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (88-94)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-87)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please email to make an appointment. It is to the student's advantage to keep such appointments. All meetings will be held virtually.

Email is a common form of communication, but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one-on-one meeting outside of these hours, to be held virtually.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course, but please considerate of others and switch off all cell phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the internet is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their

personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at ucalgary.ca/registrar). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit ucalgary.ca/registrar).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy.

This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Reappraisals

The University Calendar states that for reappraisals of graded term work:

“A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) has been unfairly graded, may have the work reappraised as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor **within ten business days** of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class. If not satisfied, the student shall take the matter to the head of the department offering the course **within 2 business days of receiving the decision from the**

instructor, who will arrange for a reappraisal of the work **within the next ten business days**. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

The University Calendar states that for reappraisal of academic assessments (final grades):

“A student may request a reappraisal of a final grade. The only element that will be considered is the final assessment(s) that makes up the final mark (e.g., final examination, final project, and final paper). The exception is when a grade for a piece of graded term work is made available to students after the last day of classes for the term in which the course is scheduled; that grade may also be considered in a reappraisal of the final grade.”

“A student seeking a reappraisal of a final grade should first attempt to review the final assessment with the department or faculty offering the course. After which the student shall obtain a Reappraisal of Final Grade form from [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar) (under Student Forms). The student must indicate exactly what error was made in marking the final assessment and/or in computing the final grade. The reappraisal will only be considered if the student provides a detailed rationale that outlines where and for what reason an error is suspected.” More information is available at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

University Regulations

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Required Access to Technology

Please see the University's resource page at

https://ucalgary.service-ow.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031

Copyright Legislation

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, "students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy."

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students' Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit arts.ucalgary.ca/advising for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Tower, MT 116..

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.