Focus and Scope of the Course

This course introduces and explores basic issues in the study of public policy in Canada. Not many policy areas can be treated here, but students should gain an encapsulated understanding of Canadian policy fields and processes in a comparative perspective. The course requires students to apply and test concepts to particular cases.

The course focuses, first, on the institutional grammar and societal norms of Canadian public affairs and raises the question of what has replaced the collapse of certainty? And then we turn to seek answers to critical issues in policy making and implementation. In the process, the course draws attention to (1) the variety of ways we can understand public affairs in a federal system; (2) the tendency to treat many life goods as “in care of the state” when in fact they are also coproduced by citizens; and (3) why we need to go beyond the dichotomy of “state and market” to understand issues and restore confidence in public life.

Items on Order in the McGill Bookstore

The following books have been ordered with the McGill University Bookstore and are available for you to acquire as part of your working library. Other works, listed under the topical outline, can be found in the Course Pack, or are on line.

Method of Work and Requirements

The lectures will follow the general sequence of the topical outline. The development of effective work habits for independent scholarship is essential if students are to be able to pursue their scholarly and educational interests on their own. Each person will be responsible for sustaining an active reading program. Your readings should be distributed proportionate to the time spent on each topic.

Lectures: Your attendance is required. Specific material presented in the lectures will not be posted and cannot be accessed in any other way. Should you have to miss a number of lectures for reasons of illness or other types of emergency, you must notify me or the Teaching Assistant. The required readings complement the lectures. Hence class attendance, an active reading and listening commitment plus conference participation are required for the successful completion of the course.

Conferences: Conferences, scheduled to start after the 2nd week of class, will be held at various times to accommodate different student schedules. The attendance of the conferences is mandatory. The conferences are meant to facilitate the discussion of issues raised in the lectures as the conferences are designed to examine in greater depth particular questions or controversies.

Grading: For grading reasons, you will need to tell me in writing, and no later than a week after the mid-term exam results are in, which grading system you choose for the course, from one of two options listed below:

Option A: Mid-term exam (25%), conference participation (10%), paper (25%), and final, non-cumulative, exam (40%)

Option B: No paper, just: mid-term exam (40%), conference participation (10%), and final, non-cumulative, exam (50%).

Please note that your paper option should come from one of the policy areas covered in class. Please remember, papers must look professional in appearance - typed or word processed-containing a title page, authors properly cited for ideas and inspiration, bibliography and a list of sources. Consult a style manual if in doubt. Students who wish to plan ahead may want to devote some days early in the term to thinking about their topics. Students must individually consult with the professor before finalizing their paper topics. My office is Leacock 518.

Deadlines:
(1) There will be a midterm exam tentatively scheduled for February 13, 2019.
If you choose Grading Option A, the individual paper is due 17 April 2019.

The final exam is scheduled by the University. Written work can be done in either English or French.

Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information in English and French.)

TOPICAL OUTLINE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Part I.
Introduction:
Dimensions of organized complexity (first week)

1. Types of Goods and Public Services

2. Types of Policy
   1. Supplying Institutions (not just inherited)
   2. Distributive
   3. Regulatory
   4. Redistributive
   5. Symbolic

Readings:

Course Pack:

3. The Responsible Gov’t Model of Public Service Reconsidered: (one lecture)
Course Pack: Readings:

4. **Constitutional Political Economy and Public Industries** (2 weeks)

Readings:

Course Pack:
- Recall esp. the readings by Ostrom and Ostrom and J. Farrell

**Part II.**
The Collapse of Institutional and Constitutional Certainty:
Building Something New
A Radical Hope?

5. **Building Something New: Radical Hope: “Fishing” for a new constitutional and institutional order** (2 week)

Required Readings:
Miljan, *Public Policy in Canada*, 51-146.

Course Pack:
- J. Lear. *Radical Hope*. (you can read this first)
Part III. Policy Fields: 
Old and New Experiments

5. Health (2 weeks) 
Required Readings: 
Miljan, Public Policy in Canada, 209-233. 
S.E. D. Shortt. The Doctor's Dilemma. 
Course Pack: 

6. Education (2 weeks) 
Required Readings: 
Miljan, Public Policy in Canada, 234-266. 
Wallner, Learning To School. 
Course Pack: 

7. Social Learning and Collective Action (2 weeks) 
Required Readings: 
Miljan, Public Policy in Canada, 243-277. 
Course Pack: 
- L.A. Pal 1993. Interest of State. The Politics of Language, Multiculturalism and

- The Evangeline Cooperative Experience in PEI.

8. A New Public Economy and Industry: Canabis (2 week)
We will collectively apply what we have learned to make sense of the legislation and creation of this new political economy:
- collection of news items and other relevant information. Begin to collect material as soon as class starts.

Conclusions: Building Something New: A New Certainty in Public Life?