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Office hours: Mondays 1:30 – 3 pm or by appointment

Themes: This course asks students to participate in a seminar-based evaluation of comparative theories of public policy, applying them to the case of successive Harper governments in Canada since 2006. The course is designed to stimulate the preparation of high-quality student research papers. Given this highly structured emphasis on seminar participation and cross-fertilization across student projects, no other research or writing assignments will be admitted as substitutes for the course requirements outlined below.

Course requirements: One two-hour seminar per week. Regular attendance is essential in order to fulfill the course requirements. Given the strong case study research component of the course, seminar attendance and participation are crucial in order for students to complete the core assignment. Students are expected to present two seminars during spring term and to submit one draft and one finished paper. Students are urged to prepare written comments on weekly readings as a basis for discussion, including when they are not scheduled to make formal presentations.

Seminar assignments will be made at the beginning of the term. Presentations should focus on critical questions and integrative points linking the readings, not on descriptive summaries of texts. For example, is framework X presented in weeks two through five more theoretically elegant, or empirically tractable, than framework Y? What predictive statements follow from applying conceptual approach Z to case study materials considered on 12 February and following? Responsibility for presentations rests with students; the instructor must be notified at least three hours before the start of class if for any reason you will not be making your scheduled presentation on the given materials. Given enrolment numbers, there is no guarantee that missed seminar presentations will be rescheduled. All students will be required to make at least one seminar presentation on or before March 5, in order for the instructor to grade at least one significant piece of work before the drop deadline of March 10.

Grading scheme: No tests or exams. Emphasis is placed on extensive reading, weekly seminar participation, and well-developed research, writing and seminar presentation skills.

Class participation 15% (based on quality of in-class engagement)  
Presentations 30% (two each @ 15%)  
First draft paper 20%, due 19 March 2013  
Final paper 35%, due 2 April 2013  

Essay assignment: Instructions follow this outline. Note strictly enforced late penalty. Essays are organized in sequential order: Students must in all cases submit assignment #1 as a prerequisite
for the completion of assignment #2. Grading regulations are clearly delineated in the Faculty of Arts and Science calendar.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, please see the website of Writing at the University of Toronto: www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources

Back up your work: Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work, and to make hard copies of their essays before handing them in to the instructor. These should be retained until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades posted on ROSI.

Late penalty for papers: A late penalty of 3 percentage points per day including Saturdays and Sundays will be assessed for both assignments. Only in rare circumstances will a full or partial waiver of the late penalty be considered, and no extensions will be granted in advance of essay assignment deadlines. Papers not submitted in person to the instructor at the beginning of class on the due date must be submitted in person to the Department of Political Science staff in Sidney Smith room 3018 during regular business hours, usually between 9 AM and 5 PM on weekdays only. The instructor assumes no responsibility for papers otherwise submitted. No fax or e-mail essay submissions will be accepted.

Texts:

Other course readings will be available on the portal site for POL 474H/2317H.

COURSE SCHEDULE
8 January – Introduction to course syllabus and key terms; organization of seminar presentations

15 January
Sabatier, chaps. 1, 2, 3

22 January
Sabatier, chaps. 4, 5, 6

29 January
Sabatier, chaps. 7, 8, 9

5 February
Sabatier, chaps. 10, 11, review of chaps. 1-9
12 February
Health care policy


19 February **Reading week, no class meeting**

26 February
Energy and the environment


5 March **students must make a seminar presentation on this date or before**
Intergovernmental relations


12 March

**Foreign policy**


19 March

**first draft papers due**

**Childcare, abortion and women’s rights**


26 March
Relations with Canada’s North


2 April **final papers due**
Presentation of student research papers
Course Assignment Information

1. First draft paper, due 19 March
Suggested length is 1000 to 1500 words in total (4 to 6 typed, double-spaced pages)
In light of conceptual material in the Sabatier, ed., course textbook, develop the core of an
empirical paper that explains developments in a given policy domain at the federal level in
Canada since the election of the first Harper minority government in 2006. Your choice of policy
sector can be guided by the areas covered on the course outline, but is not restricted to those
fields. Your essay should be constructed so that you either (a) employ one conceptual approach
elucidated in the Sabatier volume to explain what happened, and to generate predictive
statements about future developments; or (b) compare the utility of two or more conceptual
approaches presented in the Sabatier reader to explain what happened, and to generate predictive
statements about future developments.

Research paper, due 2 April
Suggested length is 2500-3000 words in total (10 to 12 typed, double-spaced pages)
In light of comments received on your first draft paper, flesh out the main lines of your
argument, refine your empirical data and discussion, and draw some key conclusions that are
relevant to Canadian and comparative public policy. Be sure to use course readings to help guide
your own writing, argumentation and research toward a level of publishable quality.