

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Introduction to Public Policy

Course Number and Section:

GLE

2010G 550

Instructor Name(s): Kate Graham

Instructor Email(s): kgraha@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

How can we remedy the rise in economic inequality, in Canada or around the world? What tools do we have to compel different behaviours and choices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? How can we increase safety for children in schools, or reduce wait times for emergency room or surgical care, or elevate literacy rates?

The answer to all of these questions is the same: public policy.

This course introduces students to the study and practice of public policy. Examining the core concepts of the public policy cycle, policy instruments and program evaluation, the course explores challenges of cross-sector collaboration, multi-level governance, citizenship engagement, and leadership accountability in an environment where major public policy challenges abound. Importantly, this course combines critical perspectives on public policy with engaging discussion about public policy in practice – compelling students to think differently about the way decisions (and sometimes indecision) on key issues shapes the world around them.

Students will have the opportunity to deeply and critically engage with public policy issues that are important and meaningful to them, with an optional final assignment of submitting a policy proposal to a relevant public official or government body at the conclusion of the course.

For students who are creative thinkers, enjoy a blend of theory and practice, and want to imagine different future possibilities for today's biggest challenges – well, this course is for you.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand and be able to apply key terminology and theoretical concepts related to public policy;

Identify and critically examine the policy process, including risks and expectations specific to each stage of the process;

Be familiar with several policy instruments and examine them as potential approaches for addressing contemporary public policy challenges;

Be engaged, individually and while working in small groups, in considering policy options for contemporary issues and how to advance these ideas;

Explore the challenges of cross-sector collaboration, multi-level governance, citizenship engagement, and leadership accountability; and

Be more engaged as citizens, both as policy makers and policy takers.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

This course draws on one central textbook which students are strongly encouraged to obtain either by purchasing or accessing through the library (as we will be reading the entire book!):

Peters, B. Guy (2021). Advanced Introduction to Public Policy, Second Edition. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

The estimated cost of this book is \$34 to purchase in paperback.

We will also be drawing on an array of materials including journal articles, media reports, podcasts and more. All readings are posted in the schedule below, and when possible will be made available in OWL. Weekly readings may change or be added, as events develop (eg. relevant media articles about current events will be added throughout the course).

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Contributions	April 4, 2025	20
Policy Analysis Paper	January 31, 2025	20
Choosing Instruments Small Group Assignment	April 4, 2025	20
ImpactLab London Case Study Contribution	April 4, 2025	40

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, December 10, 2024