



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS

POLI 447 (Lecture 01)  
Comparative Public Policy  
Fall 2020

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Susan Franceschet  
**EMAIL:** [sfrances@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sfrances@ucalgary.ca)  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 1:30-3pm (via Zoom); or by appointment

**COURSE DAY/TIME:** Hybrid. Synchronous class time on Mondays 5:30-6:30pm; remaining content (recorded lectures/videos) to be delivered asynchronously.

**DELIVERY METHOD:** This course will take place **online** via D2L and Zoom. Synchronous Zoom sessions will be held weekly throughout the term (Mondays from 5:30-6:30pm, excluding holidays).

**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 and anti-racism protests, the 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, the United States, Germany, France, Sweden, and the United Kingdom), we examine how each country addressed the many social and economic crises unleashed by the pandemic. The policies examined in the course include health care, income support, childcare, unemployment, and long-term care as well as policies related to diversity and inclusion.

**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.

### REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Students will require a computer with internet connection, as well as a microphone and webcam (built in or external).

### COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES

Although this is primarily a lecture course, active student participation is strongly encouraged. There will be opportunities to participate in class discussions and Q&A sessions during our weekly synchronous meetings via Zoom. To facilitate discussion, students must submit questions or comments on the course material the morning of our Monday classes. Submitting these questions/comments is worth 5% of your grade and will be designated **pass/fail**. That is, if you submit questions for at least **8** of the weeks of the course by the deadline (9am on the day of the class), you will get the whole 5%. If you submit questions or comments for fewer than **8** classes, you will get 0.

There are an additional **5** written assignments, most of them relatively short (ranging from 150 to 1500 words. There will be a take-home final exam (see details on p. 4).

The weighting of the assignments is as follows:

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Assignment # 1	10%	September 28 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment # 2	15%	October 13 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment # 3	15%	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Assignment # 4	5%	November 10 <sup>th</sup>
Assignment # 5	25%	December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Weekly questions/comments for synchronous classes	5%	Must be submitted by 9am each Monday (except Oct 12 and Nov 9)
Take-home exam	25%	December 11 <sup>th</sup> ( <i>exam questions will be distributed on December 7<sup>th</sup></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, Keisha 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 9am on the day of class).

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 12<sup>th</sup>.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED
Introduction to the course: From problems to policy
Setting the Stage I: Pandemics, protests, and comparative public policy
Setting the Stage II: Concepts for studying public policy
Setting the Stage III: Political institutions in our six country case studies
Health care politics and policy (and how pandemic 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)
Equality policies: How have public policies contributed to race inequality?

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 7<sup>th</sup> (posted to D2L by **noon**) and it is **due** on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm (submitted to D2L). The exam will draw on all course materials (recorded lectures, synchronous 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+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

## **INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or 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.

## **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](https://www.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](https://www.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>.

### **Appeals**

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

### **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](http://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/](http://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-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afb2e144b031)

### **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-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.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.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://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].

### **Important Contact Information**

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives

Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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/>.