Geog 9118 - Policy Formation and Futures: Critical and Analytical Approaches
Mondays 1:00-3:00pm

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This course is an advanced seminar on policy formation and policy futures. There is long-standing interest in policy development beginning with agents and influencers, adoption and development, implementation and outcomes and to some extent policy evaluation. This course takes a critical and analytical approach to understanding and analysing policy formation and futures focused in particular on public policy.

Learning objectives: The overarching goal is to acquaint students with policy development as it draws upon and contributes to policy futures. Specific objectives include:

- To develop an understanding of the policy process from adoption through evaluation
- To develop an understanding of the emergent role of policy futures within governments and other agents
- To examine the impacts of policy futures on current decision-making
- To undertake independent study of some topic within public policy futures focused on resource location/allocation

Format: This course will run as instructor- and student-led seminars.

Scope: Primarily Canada though drawing on international experience (Netherlands, Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom in particular).

Anticipated topics

- Brief historical overview: from policy science to evidence-based policy to adaptive policy approaches
- Policy theory
- Geographical policy approaches
  - Place-based policy
  - Multi-level and multi-scale governance and decision-making
- Futures and policy futures
- Policy futures methods: scenarios, Delphi, horizon scanning...
- Selected case studies:
  - Health Care and Human Resource allocation
  - Education
  - Urban policy
  - Social policy
  - Special topics (e.g. social housing)

Assessment

- Seminar participation 20%
- Summary of weekly readings 20%
- Term Paper Proposal 10%
• Oral Presentation of Term Paper 10%
• Policy futures term project 40%

Statement on Academic Offences: “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Types of readings used in this course – discipline and focus will vary by student interests

