GRADUATE SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY

GRS PO 742 – Fall 2016

Comparative Public Policy explains the mysteries of stark cross-national differences in policy-making processes, capacities and outcomes. This graduate seminar asks why countries address similar challenges with fundamentally different public policies. We consider how variations in political institutions, economic organization and social class influence the articulation of policy solutions and the capacities of political actors to solve their social, economic, and environmental problems. The course relies on both scholarly articles and case studies to investigate the challenges and periodic successes of political governance in diverse political economies. The course is relevant to students interested in either public policy or comparative politics.

There will be one exam (worth 40 percent) and one twenty-five page paper (worth 50 percent). The paper should be based upon a minimum of 15 sources. Sources must be cited whenever any factual data or ideas are taken from them. Word-for-word reproductions must be placed in quotation marks; paraphrases must be cited. Plagiarists automatically fail and cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean’s office. (See “The Academic Conduct Code.”) No make-ups will be given for the exam unless approval is obtained from the professor in advance. No make-ups will be given to accommodate travel plans. Please note that anyone who drops the class after the 8th week will receive a grade of “F” according to the university rules. All materials are available online through the blackboard website.
I. 9/7 INTRODUCTION

Collective action problems and policy outcomes.


II. 9/14 NEGOTIATING POLICY SOLUTIONS & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY


CASE ANALYSIS: “Pricing Carbon: The Birth of British Columbia’s Carbon Tax.” 2062.0


III. 9/21 POLITICAL PARTIES AND PENSION POLICIES


**IV. 9/28**  
**BUSINESS ORGANIZATION, COORDINATION, SKILLS AND COMPARATIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS**


**V. 10/5**  
**LABOR DUALISM AND LABOR MARKET POLICIES**


VI. 10/12 CULTURE, IDEAS & FAMILY POLICIES

Markus, Hazel. *Clash: How to Survive in a Multicultural World*.


Recommended: Hall, Peter. 1993. “Policy Paradigms, Social Learning, and the State.” *Comparative Politics* 25 (3 April);

VII. 10/19 SOCIAL POLICY REGIMES AND ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMS


CASE ANALYSIS: Martin selections on active labor market policies.


VIII. 10/26 DEMOGRAPHICS, GENERATIONAL WARFARE AND YOUTH POLICIES


CASE ANALYSIS: “Taking a Therapeutic Approach to Juvenile Offenders: The ‘Missouri Model.’” Kennedy School of Government. Or “Going it Together: Coventry’s Community Safety Partnership.”

IX. 11/2 SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND IMMIGRATION POLICIES


Entzinger, “Changing the rules while the game is on: From Multiculturalism to Assimilation in the Netherlands” in Michael Bodemann & Gökce Yurdakul eds. Migration, Citizenship, Ethnos.

CASE ANALYSIS: To be determined

X. 11/9 RELIGION & REGULATION


XI. 11/16   EXAM

XII. 11/30   SUPRANATIONAL POLITICAL INTEGRATION, THE DEFICIT OF DEMOCRACY AND BREXIT


CASE ANALYSIS: Brexit

XIV. 12/7   CONCLUSION: LOCAL ACTIVISM
