# PPOL 611.16- Climate Change Politics and Policy Making in Canada
## Course Outline

**Course:** Public Policy 611.16  
**Term:** Winter 2018

**Time:** Monday 9:00-11:50 am  
**Section:** N/A

**Instructor:** Dr. Brendan Boyd  
**Place:** TBD

**Office:** DTC 547 5th floor, School of Public Policy  
**Telephone:** 403-220-3037

**Office Hours:** Monday to Friday  
4:00 to 5:30 or by appointment  
**E-mail:** brendan.boyd@ucalgary.ca

### Required Textbooks:
None

### Desire2Learn:

Desire2Learn, a web-based course management tool, will be used in this course. Students registered in this course can log in at: [https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/). Note that D2L features a class e-mail list that will be used. I will use this email list to communicate with you as required. It is your responsibility to ensure that D2L uses the e-mail address of your choice.

### Course Outline:

In this course we examine the political and governance aspects of climate change policy in Canada. This includes investigation of the features of climate change policy instruments, such as carbon pricing, regulations and voluntary measures, as well as the unique characteristics of climate change policy-making in the Canadian context. Provinces that have significant experience with climate change policy, B.C., Alberta, Ontario and Quebec, are used as case studies; however, the focus includes the federal government and all provinces and territories. The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the contours of the major debates regarding
climate change policy in Canada and provide practical knowledge and skills that allow them to contribute to the design and implementation of policy.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Create the capacity to critically analyze key concepts, trends and issues related to climate change politics and policy in Canada and contribute to salient debates
- Develop a practical working knowledge of the institutions, actors and policy instruments involved in climate change policy
- Develop specific skills that will be useful in conducting climate change policy analysis – and policy analysis in general

**Assignments:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>WEIGHTING</th>
<th>DUE DATES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briefing Note</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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*Participation (10%)*

Students are expected to attend all classes and come prepared, including completing the assigned readings and at least some of the suggested readings. Participating actively in class is critical to achieving the course outcomes. This includes asking questions and commenting on the material presented by the instructor, but also, engaging and debating with your colleagues in the course. Importantly, participation is not marked only on the quantity of contributions in class, but also the quality.

*Group Presentation (25%)*

In groups, students will be assigned a news article about a recent issue, problem or controversy related to climate change policy in Canada. The members of each group will work together to identify the issues, the actors involved, possible solutions and the implications of those solutions. Groups will prepare a short presentation that they will give to the class.

*Briefing Note (25%)*

Students will prepare a briefing note on an issue related to climate change policy implementation. Students will choose between 3-5 different topics and follow a standard briefing note template, both of which will be provided by the instructor. The purpose of the assignment is to gain knowledge about a critical issue related to climate change policy in a Canadian setting, while developing skills that will be relevant to policy analysis and implementation. The briefing note should be 1-2 pages and should not exceed this length.

*Research Essay (40%)*

Students will complete a research essay on an area of Canadian climate change policy. Examples could include: a case study of a specific province or the federal government, international
influences on Canadian climate change policy, an analysis of the implementation challenges of different instruments (carbon tax vs. cap-and-trade). Students can choose their own topic, but it must be approved by the instructor. The essay should be about 1,500 words.

Things to remember when writing a research essay

Make sure you have an argument or thesis statement and clearly state this in your introduction. If you need assistance in formulating an argument, this site may be useful: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/1

Find evidence to support your arguments. There is no specific number of references required, but you need to be certain that all your claims are well supported.

Use regular paragraphs, not short one to two sentence paragraphs, and do not use bullet points.

It’s a good idea to do some preliminary research and discuss your proposed topic with the instructor early on in the course. That way you have more time to refine your topic and shift focus if you find new information or evidence during the course of your research.

Grading Rubric

For all assignments, students will be graded on three criteria:

*Clarity of communication* – ideas are organized and presented logically and clearly. Writing is concise and economical, avoiding unnecessary words and phrases. Technical jargon, broad statements and platitudes are avoided. Please note, there is a significant writing component in this course. The quality of writing, including grammar, punctuation, sentence structure and proper citation will be taken into account in the determination of grades. For additional support, see the Student Success Centre: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

Students are encouraged to use in-text citations (either MLA, APA) and the format should be consistent throughout. For assistance with proper citation format, see: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/ or contact the instructor.

*Synthesis of information* – concepts and information from the course material, and additional sources of information, are used and integrated into assignments. Connections are made between different arguments, ideas and evidence.

*Creative/critical thinking* – analysis considers what is missing or what the implications of a course of action or argument will be. Imaginative and fresh approaches are incorporated into the analysis – take a risk and bring something new to the table.

Tentative Course Schedule:

1. Introduction – Climate science and climate impacts in Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada - The Science of Climate Change

Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change

Other Resources:

IPCC 5th Assessment Report – Summary For Policy Makers -

Prairie Climate Atlas website - http://climateatlas.ca/

Climate Insights 1010 - http://pics.uvic.ca/education/climate-insights-101#quicktabs-climate_insights_101=0

2 Climate change policy in Canada


3 Federalism and multi-level governance


Other resources:


4. Canada, the U.S. and North American climate policy


Other resources:


5. Canada and international action on climate change


Other resources:

6. Carbon tax case studies: BC and Alberta


[http://www.academia.edu/193487/Alberta_Climate-Change_Policy_in_the_Canada-US_Context](http://www.academia.edu/193487/Alberta_Climate-Change_Policy_in_the_Canada-US_Context)

*Other resources:*


7. Cap and trade case studies: Ontario and Quebec


*Other resources:*


8. Other instruments to address climate change


9. **Greenhouse governance – process instruments and implementation**


Haley. B. 2016. Getting the institutions right: Designing the public sector to promote clean innovation. *Canadian Public Policy* 42(S1) DOI:10.3138/cpp.2016-051.

*Other resources:*


10. **Science, evidence and analysis: How does it impact climate policy?**


*Other resources:*


**Important Notes:**

- The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day. Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances, such as a family emergency or ill health. If you require an extension of a deadline, you must contact the instructors before the deadline. If you are ill, a medical certificate from your doctor may be required.
- The School of Public Policy expects the highest standards of professional conduct by students, faculty and staff. Abusive or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This includes any expression of prejudice in any of its forms.
- It is the student’s responsibility to be fully aware of the academic regulations outlined in
the University Of Calgary Faculty Of Graduate Studies Calendar. Provisions regarding Student Misconduct (plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct) will be strictly enforced. Please review the University of Calgary’s Regulations on Plagiarism, Cheating and Other Academic Misconduct, online: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html
http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html

• Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) must discuss their work with the Instructor within fifteen days of the work being returned to the class. If not satisfied the student shall immediately take the matter to the Director of the MPP program or the Academic Director of the School and ask for a ruling and written reassessment. Should the student wish a further appeal it must be addressed to the Director and Palmer Chair of the School within 15 days of the ruling by the MPP Director or the Academic Director. For further information see the School of Public Policy Student Appeals Process at: http://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Student-Academic-Appeals.pdf

• Examinations will not be given prior to the scheduled date.
• 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/. 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

• All material used in this course is for the sole use of the individual and should not be recopied in either print or digital format. For copyright guidelines, including those relating to photocopying and electronic copies, please refer to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) fair dealing guidelines. http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright/fair-dealing

• The University of Calgary complies with the requirements of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act. The University’s policy on the sharing of student information with third parties can be found here: http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/pg-pi-of-students-to-3rd-parties.pdf. The University’s policy on the sharing of student information with the subject can be found here: http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/pg-pi-of-student-to-subject.pdf

• In the event of an emergency, students may be required to evacuate the building. If evacuation is ordered, follow these procedures:

  ▪ Stay calm, do not rush, and do not panic.
  ▪ Safely stop your work.
  ▪ Gather your personal belongings if it is safe to do so. (keys, purses, jackets, cell phones, etc. It may be hours before you are allowed back in the building.)
  ▪ If safe, close your office door and window, but do not lock them.
  ▪ If directed by wardens, follow their instructions.
  ▪ Use the closest emergency exit. Do not use the elevator.
  ▪ Proceed to the designated Emergency Assembly point in front of the Holiday Inn on 8th avenue to the west of the Downtown Campus.
Do not re-enter the building or work area until you have been advised by emergency responders that it is safe to do so.

Graduate Students’ Union Vice-President, Academic
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Graduate Students Association
214 MLT, 2500 University Dr. NW
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4
CANADA
Tel: 403 220-5997
Fax: 403 282-8992

Emergency Assembly Point
Holiday Inn Lobby (weather permitting)
1020 8th Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 1J2
Or remain at nearest exit point

Safewalk / Campus Security: 403-220-5333

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