

## PPOL 607 – Politics and Collective Choice Course Outline

|                      |   |                   |   |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| <b>Course:</b>       | Public Policy 607<br>Politics and Collective Choice             | <b>Term:</b>      | Fall 2018   |
| <b>Time:</b>         | Thursday<br>5 PM  | <b>Section:</b>   | 01  |
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Dr. Tom Flanagan  | <b>Place:</b>     | Nexen Technology and<br>Conference Center, DTC<br>(Downtown Campus) |
| <b>Office:</b>       | No office in DTC  | <b>Telephone:</b> | 403-239-6988  |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | 4 PM Thursday in Waves<br>Or 620J (6 <sup>th</sup> Floor) 3-5pm | <b>E-mail:</b>    | <a href="mailto:tflanaga@ucalgary.ca">tflanaga@ucalgary.ca</a>      |

### Required Readings:

#### Purchase Recommended—will read all or most of book

de Waal, Frans. *Chimpanzee Politics: Power and Sex among Apes*. Baltimore, MD.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2007, revised 25th anniversary edition. Paperback.

Flanagan, Thomas. *Game Theory and Canadian Politics*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998. Paperback.

#### D2L Links and Library Reserve

Flanagan, Tom. *Winning Power: Canadian Campaigning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014. Hardcover.

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3332673>

Potts, Malcom, and Thomas Hayden. *Sex and War: How Biology Explains Warfare and Terrorism and Offers a Path to a Safer World*. Dallas, TX: Ben Bella Books, 2008.

<http://ebookcentral.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=544564>

Shepsle, Kenneth A., and Mark S. Bonchek. *Analyzing Politics: Rationality, Behavior, and Institutions*. New York: Norton, 2010. Ebook version is not available. Print copies are on reserve in the TFDL.

Thaler, Richard H., and Cass R. Sunstein. *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth, and Happiness*. New York: Penguin, 2009. Revised edition. Ebook version is not available. Print copies are on reserve in the TFDL.

Tullock, Gordon, Arthur Seldon, and Gordon L. Brady. *Government Failure: A Primer in Public Choice*. Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute, 2002. For sale from Amazon in hardcover, paperback, or ebook, <https://www.amazon.com/Government-Failure-Primer-Public-Choice/dp/1930865201>, or at the Cato Institute website, <https://store.cato.org/book/government-failure>. Ebook available in university library: <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=231593>

### **Other Readings:**

Other readings or links may be posted from time to time on D2L.

### **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/>. 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 Description:**

The objectives of this course are to understand

- a) The “political animal”
- b) The nature of politics as coalition-building
- c) The influence of politics on policy-making
- d) Rational choice, game theory, and public choice as tools for studying politics and public policy
- e) The limitations of rational choice

Note: You may study elementary game theory in PPOL 609 as well as in PPOL 607. However, the emphasis will be different. PPOL 607 will emphasize n-person games as models of coalition formation, while PPOL 609 will emphasize games as models of rational decision-making. There may be some overlap, but that is not a bad thing in learning a difficult subject such as game theory.

### **Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Paper                             | 50% (Due December 6, last day of class)   |
| Midterm exam                      | 25%                                       |
| Final examination (not open book) | 25% (Scheduled by Registrar, Dec. 10-20)) |

### **Term Paper**

Length: The paper should be 20 typed pages double-spaced, plus title page and bibliography.

Due: December 6, 2018, last day of class

The goals of this paper are (1) to inform yourself about an important issue of public policy and (2) analyze it politically, answering questions such as: why did government introduce (or fail to introduce) this policy; who supports it and who opposes it; who benefits from it and who loses; is it politically possible to introduce, amend, or repeal it (depending on circumstances); and how do politicians manipulate it for coalition-building? Canadian topics are recommended, although exceptions can be made for students from other countries. Below are a few examples of possible areas; the list is only illustrative, not exhaustive. Your topic might fall within one of these, though it would be more focused.

- Canada Pension Plan
- Old Age Security
- Employment Insurance
- Equalization
- Charter Schools
- Employment equity
- Refugee determination in immigration
- Carbon tax
- Defeat of HST in British Columbia

The opportunity to choose your own topic makes this a good platform for starting research on your capstone project. Whether you want to do this or not, please have a conversation with me about your choice of topic, because I may be able to help you clarify it and to suggest some sources for research. You can make an appointment if you wish, but in most cases it will be sufficient to catch me before or after class, or during the break. I will always be in Waves 4-5 PM on class days, and I will schedule extra office hours if necessary.

Note that the paper is not supposed to argue for or against any particular policy. Whether you endorse or oppose a policy, it is still crucial to understand the politics.

**Grading\*:** Letter grades as described in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar (see section E.1 of Calendar online) will be given for all elements of grade determination noted above. The course grade will be determined based on a weighted average of those grades according to the percentages shown above. In the event that elements are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, they will be converted to letter grades. As a guide to determining standing, the following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

|    |        |    |       |    |       |
|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | 97-100 | B  | 75-79 | C- | 60-62 |
| A  | 90-96  | B- | 70-74 | D+ | 55-59 |
| A- | 85-89  | C+ | 67-69 | D  | 50-54 |
| B+ | 80-84  | C  | 63-66 | F  | 0-49  |

*\*Please note: information above as per the FGS Calendar.*

## **Schedule of Topics**

### **Chimpanzee and Human Politics**

|          |  |                              |
|----------|--|------------------------------|
| Sept. 6  | Politics and policy, chimpanzees         | <i>Chimpanzee Politics</i>   |
| Sept. 13 | Chimpanzees and humans                   | <i>Sex and War</i> , 39-97   |
| Sept. 20 | Human politics continued; reconciliation | <i>Winning Power</i> , 11-29 |

### **Game Theory and Politics**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Sept. 27 | Foundations: <i>Game Theory</i> , 3-36; <i>Nudge</i> , 1-39   |
| Oct. 4   | Two-person models: <i>Game Theory</i> , 37-73; <i>Analyzing Politics</i> , 197-220                                      |
| Oct. 11  | Coalitions: <i>Game Theory and Canadian Politics</i> , 74-92; <i>Winning Power</i> , 70-91; Voting games, Arrow theorem |
| Oct. 18  | Spatial models: <i>Winning Power</i> , 46-69; <i>Game Theory</i> , 140-163 Electoral systems and reform                 |
| Oct. 25  | Voting games: <i>Game Theory</i> , 105-107, 120-139   |
| Nov. 1   | Midterm exam  |

### **Public choice and Public Policy**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| Nov. 8  | Public choice: <i>Government Failure</i> |
| Nov. 15 | No class                                 |
| Nov. 22 | Public choice                            |
| Nov. 30 | Public choice                            |
| Dec. 6  | Public choice                            |

### Important Notes:

- 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/](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>
- 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.  
<https://libanswers.ucalgary.ca/faq/199025>
- 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>
- A link for the Student Ombuds' Office is [www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/)
- Links to campus mental health resources include: [www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/) and [www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/) .
- 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

Elena Favaro

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**Graduate Students Association**

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**Emergency Assembly Point**

Holiday Inn Lobby (weather permitting)

1020 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW

Calgary, Alberta T2P 1J2

Or remain at nearest exit point

**Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333**

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