Master of Public Policy Course Guide
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
2020-2021

Acknowledgments

MPPSA's 2020-21 Executive Team thanks the class of 2020 and 2021 for completing the survey that informed the creation of this guide.

Disclaimer

The contents of this guide are based on student experiences and are not intended to replace academic advice and requirements administered from the Munk School. This guide should not act as your only source of information when choosing courses as professors, assignment breakdown and course load can change throughout semesters and vary based on individual opinion.

Note

If a course is missing or a section has 'N/A' written beside it that means that the course is new or there were no responses in the survey related to that course or specific question.

MPP1 Course Guide

PPG1001H: Governance and Institutions

Professor: Gabriel Eidelman

Professor teaching style: This course is an interactive lecture style that often includes guest speakers. Student participation is encouraged for learning and working through the material in this course. The class often consists of break out groups to discuss and work through concepts that are then shared with the broader class. There is minimal reliance on self-teaching, but for those without political science backgrounds it is best to reach out and ask questions when needed. Attending office hours is encouraged particularly before starting assignments.

Workload ranking on a scale of 1-5 (1 being not heavy and 5 being heavy): 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 2 (Increased as assignment deadlines approached)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Class participation
- Group explainer assignment – submitted in two parts (draft + presentation and final version)
- Institutional analysis – three parts (intro, jurisdictional scan, and final analysis)

Note: In Fall 2020, the course will be co-instructed by Professor Jonathan Craft and Professor Gabriel Eidelman.

PPG1001H: The Policy Process

Professor: Phil Triadafilopoulos

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format followed by break out discussion groups. It is encouraged to come prepared having done the readings as they form the basis of the lecture and discussion; forming reading groups is encouraged for this course. The material is quite theoretical, but the professor finds ways to make the content engaging through humor and examples. This professor is extremely approachable when you take the time to reach out and seek further clarification on content and is a very fair grader. The professor is also flexible and helpful in office hours/after class.

Workload: 3.5

Hours spent studying per week: 4 (increased as assignment deadlines approached)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Class participation
- Midterm (this was new last year and is taken with the other section)
- Three-part group case analysis (Group outline, Group presentation, individual essay)

Note: This course will be offered in the Winter 2021 term and will be co-instructed by Professor Triadafilopoulos and Professor Eidelman.

PPG1001H: The Policy Process

Professor: Mathew Wilder

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style manner with breakout discussion and activities. The lecture is not always centered around the readings of the week. The professor often asks theoretical questions. This professor is very approachable, helpful during office hours and flexible.

Workload: 3.5

Hours spent studying per week: 4 (increased as assignment deadlines approached)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Class participation
- Midterm (this was new last year and is taken with the other section)
- Three-part group case analysis (Group outline, group presentation, individual essay)

Note: This professor will not be teaching the course in the 2020-21 academic year.

PPG1002H: Microeconomics for Policy Analysis

Professor: Michael Baker

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style (chalk board notes), where questions are welcome and encouraged. The professor is great at teaching students with minimal math background, he demonstrates theories and answers questions well. The professor can sometimes go through content quickly, so it is best to have read the lecture summary (administered on Quercus) and textbook notes prior to class. Attending tutorial and completing problem sets is strongly encouraged. This professor is very approachable and helpful during office hours. Study groups are recommended.

Workload: 5

Hours spent studying per week: 6-8 (will vary based on your experience with math)

Assignment Breakdown:
- 5 tests (every two weeks)
- Final Exam

<mark>Note:</mark> Professor Baker will no longer teach the course in the fall of 2020 it will be co-taught by Professor Heblich and Professor Kroft (one will teach the first 6-weeks and the other will teach the last 6-weeks). See the description Professor Heblich's teaching style on page 12.

PPG1002H: Microeconomics for Policy Analysis

Professor: Kory Kroft

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered through traditional lecture style (lecture slides and white board notes) and offers opportunity for questions and discussion. The professor moves through material quickly; however, he does not deviate from the lecture slides, which are shared with the class. The professor teaches the content very well. Attending tutorial and completing problem sets is strongly encouraged. Study groups are recommended.

Workload: 5

Hours spent studying per week: 8 (will vary based on your math experience)

Assignment Breakdown:
- 5 tests (every two weeks)
- Final exam

PPG1003H: Macroeconomics for Policy Analysis

Professor: Peter Dungan

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format, where questions are welcome. The professor prides himself on clear instruction and will note early in the semester that he does not ever attempt to trick students through complex language or question wording. The professor records his lectures and puts them on Quercus, which are great to study from. The professor answers questions well and is very approachable and flexible. The professor often spends time going over things that will not be tested on which can lead some students to be unengaged for periods throughout the lecture. There is a rare reliance on self-teaching in this course, if you attend lecture, take notes and seek help from the professor when needed you will be well-prepared for the assignments and tests.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3-5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Two tests
- Macroeconomic Data Report
- Final Exam

PPG1004: Quantitative Methods for Policy Analysis

Professor: Garth Frazer

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format and questions are welcome throughout class. This professor is very passionate about the subject matter and will ask for class participation when working through examples. The professor does not test on things he hasn't explained in class and there is a rare reliance on self-teaching. There is a lot of content so he will sometimes rush through concepts near the end of lecture, but he is always willing to provide clarification if needed or will not ask you to complete questions on an assignment if he did not have time to go through it. It is recommended to form a study group for the weekly assignments. The professor is very approachable, but it is recommended to ask him questions in office hours as opposed to after class. Flexibility with deadlines is dependent on context.

Workload: 5

Hours spent studying per week: 6-8 (will depend on your experience with math)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Weekly assignments
- Major group assignment
- Final Exam

PPG1005H: The Social Context of Policy Making

Note: This course will now be co-instructed by Professor Loewen and Professor Stein in the Fall Term as a cross-listed course with MGA, GLA1005.

Professor: Ito Peng

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a mix method model consisting of professor or guest lecture, student lead lectures and seminar discussion. Classes will typically begin with student presentations and seminar like discussions facilitated by the students, followed by a lecture from the professor or a guest speaker. This professor is open to debate and is very conversational in discussion. It is recommended to get clarification on assignment expectations in class or during office hours. This professor is very receptive to student needs, approachable and flexible.

Workload: 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 2-3 (increases as assignment deadlines approach)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Group presentation
- Op-ed
- Critical response paper OR Briefing note
- Two-part research paper (Intro and final paper)
- Class presentation

PPG1005H – The Social Context of Policy-Making

Professor: Daniyal Zuberi

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a mix method model consisting of professor or guest lecture, student lead lectures and seminar discussion. This professor covers course content well, has very interactive discussions, is great at facilitating student engagement and answers questions very well. This professor is very flexible and receptive to student needs.

Workload: 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 4 (increases as assignment deadlines approach)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Group presentation
- Critical Response Paper OR Briefing Note
- Two-part research paper (intro and final paper)
- Class participation

PPG1005H – The Social Context of Policy-Making

Professor: Andrew Parkin

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a mix method model consisting of professor or guest lecture, student lead lectures and seminar discussion. This professor is a great lecturer and engages well with students. Coming prepared for thoughtful discussions regarding the readings is important, though you do not need to memorize them. This professor engages well with the students and develops connections with those in his class.

Workload: 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 3 (increased as assignment deadlines approached)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Group presentation
- Op-ed
- Critical response paper OR Briefing note
- Two-part research paper (intro and final paper)
- Class participation

PPG1007H – Putting Policy into Action

Professor: Drew Fagan

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered partially in lecture style with lots of discussion and activities to apply the material taught. This professor often invites guest speakers with experience in public policy to lecture and engage with the students. This professor is super engaging, is very flexible and extremely approachable. His door is always open to chat about assignments, relevant issues or life. This course and his teaching style are very relevant to the public policy world.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3 (increases as assignment deadlines approach)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Briefing note (split into two assignments)
- Class participation
- Ministers Brief (group assignment)

PPG1007H – Putting Policy into Action

Professor: Janet Mason

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered partially in lecture style with lots of discussion and thought activities. This professor challenges you to think critically, engages students well and is very helpful in office hours. Guest speakers are often invited to lecture the class. This professor can sometimes rush through the lectures to get to activities that provide an application piece to the course.

Workload: 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 3

Assignment Breakdown:
- Briefing note (split into two assignment)
- Class participation
- Ministers Brief (group assignment)

PPG1007H – Putting Policy into Action

Professor: Maurice Bitran

Professor Teaching Style: This is a seminar style class as the professor favours class discussion. This professor often invites guest speakers to lecture the class. This professor has vast experience in policy and uses his experience to answer questions well. This professor has a background in science policy which is a unique perspective in this program. This professor is very engaging and helpful in office hours.

Workload: 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 3

Assignment Breakdown:
- Briefing note (split into two assignment)
- Class participation
- Ministers Brief (group assignment)

PPG1008H – Program Evaluation for Policy Analysis

Professor: Jonathon Hall and James Radner

Professor Teaching Style: This course is co-instructed where Professor Hall teaches the more quantitative first 6 weeks of the course and Professor Radner teaches the more qualitative last 6 weeks of the course.

Professor Hall does not allow screens in his class, unless required for accessibility purposes. Professor Hall teaches in a traditional lecture style and encourages questions. Professor Hall cold calls on students to answer questions which keeps students engaged in the material but can be stressful for some students. Professor Hall does not provide detailed lecture notes or copies of his examples so students should take thorough notes for their own review. Individuals without a math background found that he didn't always answer questions in the clearest way, however, the textbook is helpful and his exams are quite direct. Study groups are recommended.

Professor Radner leads his class in three parts; lecture and small group activities, followed by small break out group discussions with him and time to work on the final team project. It is Recommended to come to this half of class having done the readings

as they are discussed in the small break out groups for participation. Professor Radner is quite passionate about the subject matter and provides lots of examples.

Overall, the first half of the course requires some self-teaching and the second requires little work outside of class to understand the material.

Workload: 4

Hours spent studying per week: 6

Assignment Breakdown:
First Half
- Weekly assignments
- Midterm

Second Half
- Class participation
- Final group project
- Final Exam

Note: The course Decision Making and Strategy is a new course as of the 2020-21 academic year and therefore the MPPSA cannot provide information on it at this time.

PPG2001H – Legal Analysis in Public Policy: Property Law and Cities

Professor: Larissa Katz

Professor Teaching Style: The course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format with Q&A and discussion. This professor is very engaged with students and encourages student participation throughout lecture. This professor is great at answering questions, is receptive to student needs and offers flexible office hours.

Workload (on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being not heavy 5 being heavy): 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3-5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Weekly question submissions/class participation
- Group presentation and Group paper: topic related to property law, identifying context, considerations and policy options.

PPG2001H – Legal Analysis in Public Policy: Regulatory Law

Professor: George Vegh

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style with discussion. This professor mainly lectures by talking about cases and current events, encourages participation and is great at answering questions meaningfully. It is recommended to have done the readings prior to class as he does touch on them in lecture.

Workload: 2

Hours spent studying per week: 2 (increased as assignment deadlines approached)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Class participation
- Three small papers
- One in class presentation on a reading

PPG2001H – Legal Analysis in Public Policy: Canadian Migration Policy

Professor: Michael Battista

Professor Teaching Style: This class is delivered in a discussion-based format. This professor is very engaging and incorporates interesting stories into legal discussion. This professor encourages class participation and student leadership when possible. This professor is very fun, laid-back and approachable, however, there is little guidance on assignments and final papers, so it is recommended to reach out when needed.

Workload: 2

Hours spent studying per week: 1-2 (increases as assignment deadlines approach)

Assignment Breakdown:
- Personal assignment interviewing a recent immigrant to Canada and reflection
- Attend immigration hearing with analysis and presentation
- Final paper (15 pages)
- Class participation
  - Optional – present recent news for participation marks

PPG2002H – Applied Economics: Environmental Economics

Professor: Heblich

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format. This professor expects students to have a good understanding of economics than may be had. It is encouraged to reach out for clarification and ask questions when needed.

Workload: 4

Hours per week spent studying: 5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Written assignment
- Presentation
- Midterm Exam
- Final Exam

PPG2002H – Applied Economics: International Development

Professor: James Radner

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered through a partial lecture style model; the professor will provide a presentation where the remainder of the course will consist of student discussion and participation. This professor is super encouraging and engaging. It is recommended to come to class having done the readings as they are discussed in the breakout sessions.

Workload: 4

Hours spent studying per week: 3-5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Participation
- Group op-ed and Group presentation
- Final Essay in three parts (similar to program eval group project)

PPG2002H – Applied Economics: Public Finance (WINTER)

Professor: Kory Kroft

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format. Somewhat required self-teaching, but the professor is extremely open to questions.

Workload: 4

Hours spent studying per week: 6-7

Assignment Breakdown:
- Three problem sets
- Midterm
- Reading presentation

PPG2002H – Applied Economics: Public Finance (SUMMER)

Professor: Matthias Oschinksi

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered through traditional lecture style format with casual discussion. This professor is very engaging, a big-picture thinker, and likes to discuss unrelated side stories. This professor is easy to approach.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3-5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Large problem set
- Mid-term exam
- Final exam

PPG2008H – Comparative Public Policy

Professor: Michael Donnelly

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered through lecture style format, either professor or student lead. Majority of the class is student presentations with very little student engagement. Some students felt that they relied on self-teaching in this course.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Policy description
- Bibliography of paper
- Feedback on peer paper
- Theory critique
- Methods critique of paper
- Final group report
- Class participation
- Group Presentation

PPG2008H – Comparative Public Policy

Professor: Millar

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format followed by class discussion with in-class activities. This professor often focuses on theoretical aspects of comparative policy but does bring up a lot of current events. This professor is very engaging and always open to suggestions and student feedback. the course did seem disorganized; however, this might change with the new semester and feedback.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3-4

Assignment breakdown:
- Class participation
- Commentary assignment
- J-scan
- News article/op-ed
- Research memo
- Group report
- Group presentation

Note: This course will be taught by Professor White (WINTER 2021)

PPG2011H - Ethics and the Public Interest

Professor: Andrew Stark

Professor Teaching Style: This course consists of an informal lecture style (i.e., no lecture slides), with lots of discussion. This professor typically begins class on a particular topic related to ethics where the remaining portion of the class is for conversational discussion and student participation. This professor is open to questions and is flexible with assignments. The professor does do some cold calling on students and uses examples from readings so it's best to come prepared.

Workload: 2.5

Hours spent studying per week: 3

Assignment Breakdown:
- Class participation
- Midterm exam (open book)
- Final take home exam (paper style)

PPG2022H - Moral Foundations of Public Policy

Professor: Joseph Heath

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style with class discussion. There is somewhat of a need to self-teach as the course is not as engaging as it could be, however, the professor is great at communicating difficult philosophy to non-philosophy majors. This professor is dynamic and very flexible.

Workload: 2

Hours spent studying per week: 2

Assignment Breakdown: N/A

<mark>Note:</mark> This course will be taught by Professor Franklin Hall in Winter 2021.

PPG2010H – Panel Data Methods for Public Policy Analysis

Professor: Olesya Falenchuk

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format with question prompts; there are also labs with aid from the professor. The professors lecture slides are very in-depth; however, the material can be complicated which may result in some self-learning. Student engagement is minimal, though the professor is very flexible with deadlines.

Workload: 4.5

Hours spent studying per week: 6

Assignment Breakdown:
- Several problem sets

- Major group project (work required real-world data and can therefore only be completed on campus for confidentiality purposes)

PPG2012H – Policy and Politics

Professor: Jamison Steeve

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a seminar style format, with guest speakers. This professor encourages students to do the readings before class, is happy to talk outside of class and has great life experience that he brings to the course. This professor's assignment expectations can be vague and might result in the perception of the professor being a hard marker, so it is best to attend office hours or reach out if assistance is needed on assignments.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3

Assignment Breakdown:
- Weekly journals
- One presentation (casual; sharing thoughts and some discussion questions)
- Briefing Note
- Final paper

PPG2015H – Topics: Policy Development (Co-instructed)

Professor: Bill Hughes & Brad Graham

Professor Teaching Style: This class consists of a joint lecture from the professors or a guest lecture, student participation and then an opportunity to work on the final assignment and consult with the professors. These professors give great guidance and support throughout the term.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 4

Assignment Breakdown:
- Two Briefing Notes
- Group cabinet submission and group presentation

PPG2017H – Urban Policy

Professor: Gabriel Eidelman

Professor Teaching Style: This course is very interactive. The professor will lecture interactively for the first half and the latter half involved meeting alumni who work in urban policy at different levels of government and non-governmental organizations. This professor was very engaging and super encouraging to work through concepts with.

Workload: 3.5

Hours spent studying per week: 3-4

Assignment Breakdown:
- Weekly blog posts
- Class participation
- Group assignment and presentation for an NGO on a particular topic

PPG2021H – Priority topics in Public Administration

Professor: Yaprak Baltacioglu

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a seminar style with lots of discussion. This professor is a wonderful mentor and those that completed the survey urged students to take this course.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 2-3

Assignment Breakdown:
- Presentation on the readings
- One pager on what leadership means to you
- Final assignment on comparing failures and success in public sector
- Profiling a public leader assignment

LAW7030H – Issues in Aboriginal Law and Policy

Professor: Bob Rae

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a partial lecture style with lots of class discussion. Students will often lead the first half of the class where the lecture will turn into conversation about the topics.

Workload: 3.5

Hours spent studying per week: 3-5

Assignment Breakdown:
- Weekly reflections
- Presentation
- Final paper

<mark>Note:</mark> This course will be taught by Professor Edwards in Fall 2020. This course follows the Faculty of Law sessional dates, therefore, students enrolling in this course should be prepared to start class in early September. See [here](#) for dates.

LAW2048H – The International Context of Canadian Energy Policy

Professor: George Vegh

Professor Teaching Style: This course is delivered in a traditional lecture style format. This course is not the most engaging.

Workload: 2

Hours spent studying per week: 2-3

Assignment Breakdown:
- Class participation
- One presentation
- Three short papers

<mark>Note:</mark> Only two students completed the survey for this course. This course will be offered in Fall 2020, as PPG2014.

HAD5778H – Comparative Health Systems and Policy

Professor: Marchildon

Professor Teaching Style: This professor offered lots of support and guidance and the material was very interesting. The professor is somewhat engaging.

Workload: 3

Hours spent studying per week: 3-4

Assignment Breakdown:
- Proposal
- Presentation
- Final paper

Note: Only one student completed the survey for this course. This course will now be taught by Professor Allin in Winter 2021.