McMaster University logo, with the words Arts & Science next to it.


# ARTSSCI 4EP3

# Environmental Policy Inquiry

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| **COURSE SYLLABUS**  2022-2023⏐FALL TERM 1  Monday: KTH B101, 14:30 - 16:20  Wednesday: KTH B101, 14:30 - 15:20 | Dr. Chris McLaughlin  Office Hours: Monday 13:30 - 14:20  Office Location: L.R. Wilson Hall 3038  Email: chris.mclaughlin@mcmaster.ca |

## Course Description

This course provides a critical analysis of the relationship between public policy and environmental issues in the context of complex, interconnected systems of people and nature. Students will engage with a range of literature, sources of information and expert guests. Students will learn, assess and explain how environmental issues, scientific evidence and policy processes converge. Opportunities to develop relevant communications and other career skills will help students gain insights and understanding of how course themes and concepts unfold in reality.

## Course Objectives

I am an academically trained practitioner in the Hamilton Harbour and Great Lakes environmental policy regimes, experienced in policy forums and strategic leadership, and in communicating the challenges and limitations of environmental policy to a variety of clients and audiences.

Subsequently, regional and global issues affecting Hamilton Harbour and the Great Lakes will frame much of our attention. Specifically, we will examine two fundamental challenges for environmental policies: how to recognize, understand and communicate the complexities inherent in social-ecological systems and how to design governance models and develop public policies that accommodate and embody those complexities – that is, how to apply what the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement calls the “ecosystem approach” to environmental management and restoration.

Holling and Meffe (1996)[[1]](#footnote-1) described our collective shortcomings for such design and development as a ‘pathological’ feature of human institutions:

“As the human population grows and natural resources decline, there is pressure to apply increasing levels of top-down, command-and-control management to natural resources. This is manifested in attempts to control ecosystems and in socioeconomic institutions that respond to erratic or surprising ecosystem behavior with more control. Command and control, however, usually results in unforeseen consequences for both natural ecosystems and human welfare in the form of collapsing resources, social and economic strife, and losses of biological diversity. We describe the ‘pathology of natural resource management,’ defined as *a loss of system resilience when the range of natural variation in the system is reduced* encapsulates the unsustainable environmental, social, and economic outcomes of command-and-control resource management [and subsequently causes the system to become] less resilient to external perturbations, resulting in crises and surprises.”

Our investigative, analytical and communicative efforts during this course will be informed by this perspective and fundamental challenge.

The course has been designed to be both thoughtful and useful, so that upon completion you will have:

1. An understanding of theories and processes of public policy, and the ways in which policy is shaped by institutions, interests and ideas, with particular reference to the Great Lakes;
2. An appreciation for the characteristics and complexity of social-ecological systems, especially the human dimensions of governing and managing in such systems;
3. Employed the skills and resources of academic inquiry to analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources, recognizing the importance of stories and narratives for engaging in policy development;
4. Improved your capacity to communicate research, options and ideas on policy matters by writing and refining tools used to assist and influence policymakers and public opinion; and
5. Contextualized your experiences in the course to further your own career development.

## Required Text

Catherine F. Smith, 2019. *Writing Public Policy: A Practical Guide to Communicating in the Policy Making Process.* Oxford University Press, fifth edition.

All other required resources will be listed and available on Avenue2Learn.

## Course Assignments and Grade Allocations

This course has no final exam. Your grade will be based on participation and course assignments completed over the term. The schedule is subject to change as per policies and circumstances, with adequate time and accommodations provided. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be provided in advance.

**Assignments Deadlines Value**

Participation Ongoing 10%

Policy Inquiry #1 Mon Oct 3 10%

Policy Brief – Draft Mon Oct 24 10%

Policy Brief – Peer Review Mon Oct 24 5%

Policy Inquiry #2 Mon Oct 31 10%

Policy Brief – Final Mon Nov 7 20%

Policy Inquiry #3 Mon Nov 14 10%

Public Commentary Wed Nov 30 20%

Self Evaluation – Reflections Mon Dec 5 5%

## Schedule of Sessions

Readings are preparation for the topics and activities on that same day, meaning that *they are to be read prior* *to the corresponding session*.

Assignments and respective due dates are bolded among the readings.

Some sessions may occur remotely via Zoom, primarily to accommodate guest speakers. Remote sessions and adjustments to the readings will be announced with adequate notice.

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| **Date** | **Topics / Activities** | **Readings / Due** |
| Wed Sep 7 | Philosophy, Motives, Goals, Content, Expectations  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Gibson 2011, Bullshit, Ethics  Howlett and Joshi‐Koop 2010  Orr 2002, Chapter 1  Shilling 2018  Smith 2019, Chapter 1 |
| Mon Sep 12 | Policy Theories and Stages  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Gibson 2010, Simplicity  Howlett 2013, Chapter 2  Howlett et al. 2020, Chapter 3  Smith 2019, Chapter 2, 3 |
| Wed Sep 14 | Social-Ecological Systems Thinking  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Carpenter and Peterson 2019  Folke 2016  Gibson 2012, Community, Denial  Holling 1996  Homer-Dixon 2006, Chapter 1  McLaughlin 2008 |
| Mon Sep 19 | Great Lakes Policy Regime  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Activities: Collaboration | Hartig and Vallentyne 1989  Linton and Hall, 2013  Rabe and Gaden 2009  Smith 2019, Chapter 4, 5 |
| Wed Sep 21 | Great Lakes Policy Regime  Activities: Guest Speaker TBD | Bails et al. 2005  International Joint Commission 2020  Smith 2019, Chapter 6 |
| Mon Sep 26 | Stakeholders in Policy Processes  Dr. Lynda Lukasik, Guest Instructor  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Chow-Fraser and Lukasik 1995  Gibson 2012, Allies  Lukasik 2004  Reed et al. 2018 |
| Wed Sep 28 | Policy Briefs  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Gibson 2010, Balance  Gibson 2014, Kuznets  Smith (2019) Chapter 8 |
| **Mon Oct 3** | Great Lakes Remedial Action Plans  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Activities: Collaboration | **Policy Inquiry #1**  Krantzberg 2020  McLaughlin and Krantzberg 2021 |
| Wed Oct 5 | Policy Briefs  Activities: Guest Speaker | Gibson 2013, Opinion  Smith 2019, Conclusion |
| Mon Oct 10 | Thanksgiving – No Class |  |
| Wed Oct 12 | Fall Recess – No Class |  |
| Mon Oct 17 | Policy and Governance  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Homer-Dixon 2006, Chapter 9  McLaughlin and Krantzberg 2011, 2012  Smith (2019) Chapter 10  Wondolleck and Yaffee 2022 |
| Wed Oct 19 | Policy Analysis  Activities: Guest Speaker | Environment and Climate Change Canada 2020, 2021 |
| **Mon Oct 24** | Policy Capacity  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Activities: Collaboration | **Policy Brief – Draft**  **Policy Brief – Peer Review**  Howlett 2013, Chapter 8  Johns 2017  Wu et al. 2015 |
| Wed Oct 26 | Wicked Problems and Policy  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | Head 2019  Rittel and Webber 1973  Skaburskis 2008 |
| **Mon Oct 31** | Science and Policy  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Activities: Collaboration | **Policy Inquiry #2**  Armitage et al. 2015  Gibson 2014, Science  Johns and Teare 2015  Norton 2022 |
| Wed Nov 2 | Public Commentary  Activities: Guest Speaker TBD |  |
| **Mon Nov 7** | Public Commentary  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Activities: Collaboration | **Policy Brief – Final**  McLaughlin 2017, 2019, 2022  McNeil 2017  Moro 2021  Shaw 2022  Shkimba 2022  Smith 2019, Chapter 7  Van Dongen 2021 |
| Wed Nov 9 | Public Commentary  Activities: Guest Speaker TBD |  |
| **Mon Nov 14** | Policy Legitimacy  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Activities: Collaboration | **Policy Inquiry #3**  McLaughlin 2014  Melnychuk and de Loë 2020  Skogstad 2003  Smith 2019, Chapter 9 |
| Wed Nov 16 | Policy and Governing  Activities: Guest Speaker | Marland and Wesley 2019 |
| Mon Nov 21 | Indigenizing Environmental Policy  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry  Public Commentary  Activities: Class Presentations | Bradford et al. 2017  Ettawageshik and Norman 2020  Porter 2022 |
| Wed Nov 23 | Indigenizing Environmental Policy  Activities: Guest Speaker |  |
| Mon Nov 28 | Public Commentary  Activities: Class Presentations |  |
| **Wed Nov 30** | Knowledge Mobilization  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | **Public Commentary**  Nguyen et al. 2017  Selzer et al. 2020 |
| **Mon Dec 5** | Policy and Great Lakes Futures  Activities: Lecture, Discussion, Inquiry | **Self Evaluation – Reflections**  Fahey and Pralle 2016  Friedman et al. 2015  Hartig et al. 2020 |
| Wed Dec 7 | Environmental Policy Reflections  Career Development – Next Steps  Activities: Discussion and Inquiry | Gibson 2015, Hubris, Status  Homer-Dixon 2020, Chapter 18 |
| Dec 9-22 | Final Exam Period | No Final Exam |

## Penalties for Late Submission of Assignments

Students are expected to submit assignments on deadline. Assignments are due by 11:59PM on the due date via Avenue2Learn. Hard copies of assignments will not be accepted unless otherwise indicated.

Extensions will only be granted for exceptional and extenuating circumstances. Students must make all reasonable efforts to inform the Instructor if an extension is required. The Instructor may deny requests for deadline extensions.

Late assignments without permission will be subject to a penalty of 5% of the grade off the top for that particular assignment for every day late beyond the deadline specified or explicitly agreed upon.

## The Writing Centre

Communications skills – including a strong capacity for written expression – are essential to your academic and career success.

The Writing Centre at the on-campus Student Success Centre can help you improve your academic writing style, process, spelling and grammar: [studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca](http://www.studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/).

I also recommend that you use one of the predominate style guides consistently: American Psychological Association Publication Manual (APA style), Modern Language Association Handbook (MLA style), Chicago Manual of Style (Chicago style), or the Associated Press Stylebook (AP style). I have no preference for the style you choose, just ensure consistency throughout your course work.

Full references for course readings will also be made available on the course website. At certain points in the course, if it makes sense or is necessitated that the course schedule be modified, the instructor will notify students accordingly, either in class or in the course website.

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy-1-1.pdf), located at https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures- guidelines/

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

* plagiarism (submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained).
* improper collaboration in group work.
* copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Authenticity/Plagiarism

**Some courses may** use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g., Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](file:///\\ads.mcmaster.ca\departments\artsci\common\Course\Outlines%202022-23\As%20Submitted\www.mcmaster.ca\academicintegrity).

## Courses with an Online Element

**Some courses may** use on-line elements (e.g., e-mail, Avenue to Learn, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## Online Proctoring

**Some courses may** use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Code-of-Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities.pdf) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g., use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## Academic Accommodations of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.mcmaster.ca/) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Academic-Accommodations-Policy.pdf) policy.

## Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the [Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Requests-for-Relief-for-Missed-Academic-Term-Work-Policy-on.pdf).

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster channels, such as McMaster Daily News, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

## Notes For All Arts & Science Courses

1. Some of the statements above refer to a “Faculty Office”; please note that the Arts & Science Program Office serves in this capacity.
2. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email regularly. Announcements will be made in class, via A2L, and/or via the course email distribution list.
3. For additional information regarding requests for accommodation, relief for missed term work (e.g. MSAF), deferred examinations, etc., students should read carefully the [Requests](https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/) and [Resources](https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/current-students/resources/) pages on the Arts & Science Program website.

1. Holling, C.S., and G.K. Meffe, 1996. Command and control and the pathology of natural resource management. *Conservation Biology*, 10/2: 328-337. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)