PSCI 428/631. The State and Economic Life: Corporations and the Public Good

Fall, 2016
EV3 3406, Friday, 11:30 am - 2:20 pm

Instructor: Michael Stevenson
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Office Location: Hagey Hall 340
Office Hours: Friday 2:30 – 4:00 pm.

Contact Policy: Appointments are not necessary to see me during office hours. If you are unable to meet during these times, alternative arrangements can be made. For all correspondence, please use my UW email address.

Course Description: This course examines the rise of corporate authority in domains long associated exclusively with state stewardship; the processes through which corporate actors exert influence in public policy making arenas; the contemporary role of corporations in the resolution of complex societal challenges; and the implications of increasing corporate power for individual states, the inter-state system, and democratic process.

Pre-Requisites: Four PSCI courses; level at least 4A, or permission of instructor.

Course Objectives:
- To increase your appreciation of the influence of corporations in contemporary public policy making.
- To provide you with opportunities to further hone your skills in selective-reading, critical analysis, and constructing concise arguments, both verbally and in writing.
University Regulations:

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Readings:

Five required texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore:

- Culpepper. *Quiet Politics and Business Power: Corporate Control in Europe and Japan.*
- Goldacre. *Bad Pharma: How Drug Companies Mislead Doctors and Harm Patients.*

All supplementary required readings will be available online via LEARN. Assigned readings should be read before the relevant classes.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Overview of individual assignments:

6 Short Reaction Papers (30%)

For six weeks - i) Sept 16th; ii) Sept 23rd; iii) Sept 30th or Oct 7th; iv) Oct 14th or Oct 21st; v) Oct 28th or Nov 4th; & vi) Nov 11th or Nov 18th - students are required to submit a short ‘reaction paper’. These papers - which must be submitted electronically via LEARN before the start of class - should be no more than one page single-spaced (11-12 font in .doc/x format) and should outline some of your reactions to the assigned readings. While papers should attempt to link your reactions to the broader themes addressed that week, these are not research papers and therefore there is no need to consult any sources beyond assigned readings. Marked papers will be returned electronically within 7 days of their submission. Late reaction papers will not be accepted.

Presentation of Research Topic/ work in progress. (10%)
A 10-minute presentation on your research paper topic outlining the issue in question; why it is significant; how it relates to issues examined thus far, and your perspective or anticipated argument. Presentations will take place over weeks 11 & 12 (Nov 24th & Dec 2nd) with individual presentation dates to be decided upon in the first class.

**Research Paper** (40%)

Papers should be between 3000-4000 words. Consultation with the instructor regarding potential topics is encouraged. Please use 12pt font, double-spaced pages, and include the word count on the bottom of the last page. Hard copies of papers are due on Dec 2nd, and will not be accepted after Dec 9th. Papers must be also submitted via LEARN. Marked papers will be returned electronically or in hard copy in HH 340 on December 16th.

**Participation** (20%)

All students are expected to attend seminars, keep up with the required readings and actively participate in seminar discussions, and your participation grade will reflect these expectations.

**Late Policy:**

Late reaction papers will not be accepted.

Unless accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. healthcare worker's note), research papers will be penalized at a rate of 3 per cent per day (including weekends) each day that they are late.

**Course Schedule**

**September 9th - Week 1: Introduction**

No readings

**September 16th - Week 2**

Reading 1: Bakan part 1 (Intro – Chapter 3)

September 23rd - Week 3

Reading 1: Bakan part 2 (Chapters 4 - 5)


September 30th - Week 4

Singer part 1 (Intro to Chapter 7)

October 7th - Week 4

Singer part 2 (Chapters 8 – 15)

October 14th - Week 5

Goldacre part 1 (Intro – Chap 3)

October 21st - Week 6

Goldacre part 2 (Chap 3 – Afterward)

October 28 - Week 7

Whiteside part 1 (Intro – Chapter 3)

November 4th - Week 8

Whiteside part 2 (Chapter 4 - 6)

November 11th - Week 9

Culpepper part 1 (Intro – Chapter 3)

November 18th - Week 10

Culpepper part 2 (Chapter 4 – 7)

November 25th - Week 11


Presentations round 1

**December 2nd - Week 12**


Presentations round 2