

PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PGOV 101- MODERN CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

This course introduces students to the field of public policy and governance by immersion in a key set of contemporary challenges for Canada and the world. It is available to all students but is also intended as the gateway course for those planning to take more Public Policy and Governance courses. Students will be taught foundational concepts, learn basic communication and analytical skills, and explore key current issues.

PGOV 201- PUBLIC POLICY

A survey course on public policy: what it is and how it is studied. Students will examine the social forces and ideas behind public policy debates as well as the nature of policy outcomes throughout history in Canadian and global settings. A further understanding of policy process and outcomes is achieved by undertaking case studies of a range of policy fields such as economic, health, aboriginal, environment, and international security.

PGOV 202- GOVERNANCE

This course will introduce the concept of governance and ask students to address questions that often arise from the process of governance such as: What constitutes good governance? How do we keep governing bodies accountable? Who are the stakeholders? How does governance differ in the public, voluntary, and private sectors? How does Indigenous Governance work? What are the risks and benefits of privatization or public-private partnerships? How do we govern without government?

PGOV 301- COMPARATIVE PUBLIC POLICY

The course will examine ways in which policies are formulated and implemented in Canada as well as in other democratic systems across the world. The course will also examine policy issues that arise in different governing systems. Policies and governance across different levels and forms of government will be covered in order to give students a detailed account of the evolution and diversity of policy formation and implementation. Students will be required to complete a comparative research assignment.

PGOV 302- PUBLIC MANAGEMENT

An intermediate examination of the structure and practice of government and governance, this course covers local, indigenous, provincial, national and international entities. It seeks to answer how political communities organize themselves for governing, how governing organizations are best managed, how leaders deal with such persistent issues as political power and bureaucracy, accountability, participation and citizen rights, and financial and other resources.

PGOV 303- RESEARCH METHODS IN PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

As a foundational course in the theory and practice of policy research, the course covers the history and development of policy research methods and provides an introduction to quantitative and qualitative methods applied to policy design, implementation, and evaluation. Students will apply concepts and methods to research projects on contemporary problems in Canada and in the global community in such fields as economic, health, aboriginal, environment, and international security.

PGOV 401- STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

As the capstone course for the Public Policy and Governance program, it applies key concepts and values learned in the program to contemporary case studies. Visiting leaders and scholars as well as program faculty will engage with students on topics pertaining to governance and policy, with an emphasis on problem-solving and long-term thinking with real-world examples. Course methods may include lectures, guest speakers, cases, presentation, and simulations.

PGOV 402- SENIOR SEMINAR ON PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Students will engage in discussion with one another and with readings on major contemporary public policy issues domestically and internationally. The course will have students debate research recently published in the field and complete several assignments, both oral and written, in relation to these readings.

PGOV 451 – EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Students will spend the equivalent of a single term, usually the summer between the junior and senior year, gaining hands-on experience in a work or volunteer setting that will provide them with exposure to public policy and governance experience. The intern placement would be for a minimum of 60 days. Placement settings may include non-profits, government offices, or community organizations. With the permission of the Program Coordinator, the requirement could also be met by an approved service learning experience.

PGOV 490- HONOURS THESIS

Under the supervision of a professor, each student completes a research project, from conception to completion, over the course of the year. The student is responsible for choosing a topic, the use of resources, the methodological soundness, and literary quality of the final product. Restricted to Honours with Subsidiary students.