COURSE PPG 1000H
Governance and Institutions

FALL 2013
CG 150 (Canadana)

INSTRUCTORS
David Cameron  
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~ office hours by appointment ~

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is intended to provide foundational knowledge for the rest of your MPP studies. It focuses on the broader contexts within which policy is made and on the institutional and governance frameworks that both enable and constrain public policy choices and implementation. Students will learn some of the core theoretical concepts in political science and public policy and how they explain and can be applied to some of Canada’s biggest policy challenges. Students will also be given the opportunity to develop some core skills (such as in the writing of briefing notes for a government audience) required to be successful practitioner.

Each instructor will teach a third of the course. Jonathan Craft will teach Part 1 of the course (weeks of September 9, 16, 23 and 30). David Cameron will teach Part 2 of the course (weeks of October 7, 14, 21 and 28). Matthew Mendelsohn will teach Part 3 of the course (weeks of November 4, 11, 18 and 25).

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the key themes in the literature for each week.

THE DELIVERABLES

Your assignments for each Part of the course will count for 1/3 of your final mark. We will discuss the requirements for each in more detail in class.

Part 1

Theoretical paper

This assignment requires you to reflect critically and analytically about the readings, theories, concepts and debates canvassed in the first four weeks of the course. This is not a descriptive exercise. Your task is to provide a critical analysis of a topic selected from a list to be provided in class. The paper must draw out the principle arguments associated with the topic and assess its relationship and implications for the practice of Canadian governance. Papers are expected to include theoretical and applied considerations. The assignment should not exceed 6 double spaced pages (excluding references). Due date: September 30th.

David Cameron
Jonathan Craft
Matthew Mendelsohn
Part 2

Policy Essay

The paper should identify and analyze an issue that arises out of the topics discussed in this part of the course, and examine the policy agenda and challenges that relate to it. The assignment should not exceed 6 double-spaced pages (excluding references). Hard copy only. Due date: November 8.

Part 3

Options Note

For your assignment, you may identify any one issue on which you would like to develop an options note. You should define clearly the problem you are trying to solve, your policy objectives, the various options you are considering, the process and manner through which you could make the proposed change, and the various policy considerations (including fiscal, legal, communications, etc). Your options note should be 4-5 pages. It should be written in bullet form, single spaced, with spaces between each bullet. Due date: December 6.

PLAGIARISM

The rules governing plagiarism as defined by the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) apply. Students should familiarize themselves with them by accessing the SGS website.

EXTENSIONS AND LATE PENALTIES

Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of 5% per day (this includes weekend days). Extensions will only be granted for documented medical or emergency situations.

READINGS

Readings will be available on the course portal. Students must do the readings and must prepare responses and comments to share with colleagues in class.


COURSE SCHEDULE

- **Section 1**: Mondays 4:10 p.m. - 7 p.m.
- **Section 2**: Wednesday 9:10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- **Section 3**: Fridays 9:10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**NB:**

It is important that students attend their assigned section. If a situation arises in which you will not be able to attend your section, please email the instructor beforehand to request permission to attend a different section that week.

David Cameron
Jonathan Craft
Matthew Mendelsohn
PART 1 OF COURSE (JONATHAN CRAFT)

Organization of Part 1

The first class will begin with a brief overview of the course and assignments. All four sessions will include an opening lecture from the instructor on the content and issue under discussion. Following a break, students will be broken into groups and discuss a set of questions or complete a group exercise related to the weekly topic and readings. Classes will end with a plenary discussion.

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF GOVERNANCE
(Week of September 9th)

Required Readings:


Discussion theme: Have we shifted to ‘governance’? Does it matter for Canadian policy making?

WEEK TWO: INSTITUTIONAL THEORY AND APPLICATION
(Week of September 16th)

Required Readings:


Discussion theme: What practical implications does institutional theory suggest for Canadian governance and policy making?
WEEK THREE: THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE CANADIAN STATE  
(Week of September 23rd)

Required Readings:


Discussion Themes: Responsible government and 'the democratic deficit', public sector (re)organization, cabinet formation in Canada.

WEEK FOUR: CLASSICAL THEMES AND CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES  
* (Week of September 30th). Note: Theory paper due at the beginning of class (hardcopy only).

NOTE: The final class for Part 1, Section 3 (Friday, September 27th) will be meeting in OI-5230 (O.I.S.E. Rm. 5230 at 252 Bloor Street W.) from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Required Readings:


Discussion Theme: Legitimacy and defining the public interest, public sector renewal, is there life beyond ‘governing from the centre’?

PART 2 OF COURSE (DAVID CAMERON)

Organization of Part 2

The first hour of each class will be devoted to a presentation and general discussion of the seminar topic. After the break, the class will be divided into breakout groups. Each group will be responsible for addressing a specific question and reporting back to the plenary in the last hour of the class. Two or three students will be assigned the responsibility for leading the breakout-group discussion and making the presentation back to the plenary.

David Cameron  
Jonathan Craft  
Matthew Mendelsohn
WEEK FIVE: SOCIAL CONTEXT I: THE HISTORIC DIVISIONS: LANGUAGE, REGION, ABORIGINAL PEOPLES
(Week of October 7)

Required Readings:


Supplementary Readings:


WEEK SIX: SOCIAL CONTEXT II: CULTURAL PLURALISM, RELIGION, GENDER
(Week of October 14)

NOTE: October 14, Thanksgiving Day, is a holiday at U of T. The section of PPG 1000 that normally meets on Mondays will this week meet on Friday, October 18, 1-4 pm in CG 361.

Required Readings:


David Cameron
Jonathan Craft
Matthew Mendelsohn


Supplementary Readings:


WEEK SEVEN: THE GLOBAL CONTEXT
(Week of October 21)

Required readings:


Muller, Jerry Z. 2013. “Capitalism and Inequality.” Foreign Affairs 92(2): 30-51. (Blackboard)


Supplementary Readings:


David Cameron
Jonathan Craft
Matthew Mendelsohn 6


WEEK EIGHT: POLICY CONDITIONS: GEOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHY AND TIME
(Week of October 28)

Geography


Demography


Time


PART 3 OF COURSE (MATTHEW MENDELSOHN)

Organization of Part 3

The first class (November 4) will be lecture style and will outline the elements of an Options Note, Cabinet Submission or Memorandum to Cabinet.

The next three classes (November 11, 18, and 25) will begin with a one hour lecture from the instructor on the content and issue under discussion. Following a break, students will be broken into groups and will have one hour to prepare one of the sections of a cabinet submission (stakeholder analysis, constitutional analysis, fiscal analysis, etc). Groups will present their section of the cabinet submission to the class in the final half hour of class.
WEEK NINE: The Elements of Decision-Making in Canada (examples: The Clarity Act, The Citizens’ Assembly on Electoral Reform) (Week of November 4th)

Readings:


WEEK TEN: EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE (week of November 11th)

Readings:


WEEK ELEVEN: RETIREMENT INCOME (week of November 18th)

Readings:


WEEK TWELVE: IMMIGRATION (week of November 25th)

Readings:
