

JSGS 801 – Governance and Administration

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN CAMPUS		
INSTRUCTOR:	Lisa Jane de Gara	Dan Florizone
PHONE:	780-937-5472	306-260-4896
E-MAIL:	Lj.degara@usask.ca	Dan.Florizone@usask.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Phone or video meetings available by appointment (please email to request)	
OFFICE LOCATION:	N/A	N/A
TERM/SEMESTER:	Fall 2021	Fall 2021
DATE AND TIME:	Classes take place on Mondays: Sept 13, Sept 20, Sept 27, Oct 4, Oct 18, Oct 25, Nov 1, Nov 15, Nov 22, Nov 29 5:00-7:00pm CST	

The syllabus for this course is comprised of this document and the document titled “JSGS Common Syllabus 2021-22.”

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes governing institutions and the process of modern government within Canada as a means of enhancing students’ understanding of policy formulation and implementation. This course is intended to provide a basis for critically assessing political and administrative decision-making and policy outcomes.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Demonstrate critical and analytical thought about issues central to governance and public management;
- Critically communicate meaningful research and knowledge about democratic institutions and public management;
- Characterize the multiple institutional roles that are necessary for democratic societies to function effectively;
- Apply the key concepts and principles of modern governance and administration, focusing particularly on the philosophical, ethical and constitutional issues associated with function of public managers in a democratic context; and
- Reflect and demonstrate growth in your core competencies of Politics and Democracy.

COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH

This course reviews the principles and practices of the institutions of policymaking and public-service delivery in Canada. It also examines contemporary public-sector management, especially its stresses and challenges, and the role that public servants can play in meeting these challenges, including the changing focus on government accountability, the desire to create more effective service delivery and better functioning programs, and the increasing use of new governing instruments.

Classes will include presentations and discussions on the readings, discussions of short case studies, and guest speakers.

COURSE FORMAT

JSGS students have told us they prefer in-person instruction. That is why we are pleased to offer this class in person and on-site according to the latest protocols for health and safety at the [University of Regina](#) and the [University of Saskatchewan](#). Please refer to this information so that you are prepared for a great experience on campus. Health and safety guidelines may be adjusted as the pandemic situation changes into the fall.

This class is designed for synchronous instruction that complements learning material that you will access through URCourses or PAWS. Your regular attendance at synchronous sessions offers the best opportunity to ask questions, make connections, and participate in learning based on the learning material.

Students are encouraged to bring a laptop or other WIFI-enabled mobile device to class. This will enhance your experience by giving you access to online tools that allow classroom polls, surveys, and other collaboration tools that we may use this term.

Students who cannot attend in person can access the class remotely through a live Zoom link.

REQUIRED READINGS

The textbook for this class is: Bevir, Mark. 2012. *Governance: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press. It is available as a physical book or an eBook on all major eBook platforms.

All other readings for each module are provided to you in the [Canvas Learning Management System](#).

COURSE OUTLINE

<i>Module</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Completed by</i>
1	Introduction	Sept 13
2	Governance and Administration	Sept 20
3	Bureaucracy and Public Policy	Sept 27
4	Federalism and Multi-Level Governance	Oct 4
<i>Thanksgiving “catch up” week (Oct 11 to 15)</i>		
5	Courts and Judicial Review	Oct 18
6	Public Administration and Management Reforms	Oct 25
7	Indigenous Rights and Institutions	Nov 1
<i>USask mid-term break (Nov 8 to 12)</i>		
8	Good Governance	Nov 15
9	Complexity and Networks	Nov 22
10	Open Governance and e-Government	Nov 29
<i>Final exam available Nov 30 (due Dec 6 at 9PM Saskatchewan time)</i>		

ASSIGNMENTS

Module answers – after completion of each module (30% – 3% per module)

- To ensure you have a proper understanding of each module’s content before moving on, you are required to answer a few questions at the end of each module.
- We expect concise answers: in fact, the shorter the better, as brevity shows clear understanding and confidence in the subject matter.
- For these answers, you are welcome to simply use direct quotations from articles, with appropriate referencing.

Module presentation – sign up sheet available, starting with module #3 (30%)

- In groups, you will prepare a presentation on one of the modules. Everyone must work in a group; there will be no exceptions.
- Your presentation may include a short video presentation, a slide deck (i.e., a PowerPoint) and a briefing note (an absolute maximum of two pages).

- Your presentation should focus on a current or historical news story that is relevant to that module. You should explain the situation of the current event, unpack the various dynamics, and connect it to the module content.
- You must upload your presentation on the “completed by” date of the *previous* module, so that it can help your classmates understand the content of the module on which you are presenting. In other words, you must have the module presentation prepared a week in advance of the subject itself so it can be used as a tool.
- We may pose a few questions on the discussion board and some of your classmates may also do so; in the same way as you would in an in-person presentation, you are expected to provide concise responses in the discussion board.
- The wide geographic dispersion of this cohort will present some challenges to group work, however it will also provide valuable experience in collaborating with others around the world.
- At the end of the module, you will email the instructors with a grade for each of your fellow group members, reflecting their contributions to the group and based on the JSGS grading framework.
- The specific grades you provide will be kept confidential. The aggregate grade for each group member will form the basis of 50% of their assignment grade, with the instructors providing the remaining 50%.

Class participation (10%)

- In the same way that you are not expected to actively contribute to every single class in an in-person setting, you are not expected to post on the discussion board in every single module.
- However, to enhance your own learning and the learning of your colleagues, be active and engaged on the discussion board, ask questions, and share your thoughts in response to others.

Final exam (available Nov 30 and due Dec 6 at 9PM Saskatchewan time) (30%)

- Full instructions for the final exam, including word length and format, will be provided before the mid-term break.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late submission will be penalized 10% for every day the assignment is late. As a student in a professional program, you should meet deadlines as a professional is expected to do. If you have extenuating circumstances, contact the instructors.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This course was originally developed by Jeremy Rayner and Dion Martens for the Fall 2020 session. We are thankful for their contributions.