

# JSGS 801 – Governance & Administration

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN CAMPUS	
INSTRUCTOR:	Merelda Fiddler-Potter
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OFFICE LOCATION:	Usask - TBA
TERM/SEMESTER:	Fall 2022
DAY AND TIME:	Mondays, 1pm-4:00pm

**CLASS DATES:** September 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, (no class Oct. 10), 17, 24, 31, (no Class Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>), 14, 21, 28, Dec. 5. Additional in person office hours and optional meet ups will be announced in Canvas.

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

Analyzes governing institutions and the process of modern government within Canada as a means of enhancing a student's 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:

- 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;
- 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; and
- Reflect and demonstrate growth in your core competencies of Politics and Democracy.

JSGS programs, courses, and assignments are designed to prepare students for successful careers. Student performance is assessed based on a competency framework shaped through ongoing collaboration with researchers, alumni, and other public sector partners. The specific readings, assignments and activities in JSGS 801 will help you acquire and demonstrate competence in the following:

- **Evidence and Strategic Thinking** – develops and applies an evidence-informed approach to policy issues and policy options;
- **Connection and Collaboration** –communication with different audiences to build relationships and harness a diversity of perspectives to gain understanding, design, and advance policy solutions; and
- **Implementation and Improvement** – lead self, teams, and partners to implement policy decisions, manage change initiatives, monitor progress, and support continuous improvement.

## **COURSE CONTENT AND APPROACH**

This course examines governance in the public sector. This includes mainstream federal, provincial, and municipal governments, as well as other public sector organizations. Understanding how governance structures affect the policy process is critical in the policymaking and service delivery processes. In fact, most organizations strive to create more effective service delivery and functioning programs, to ensure they are making the most of their resources.

Classes will include presentations and discussions on the readings, discussions of short case studies, and guest speakers. In addition, students will get the opportunity to apply the concept they learn when they research, compare, and evaluate governance structures throughout the semester.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

### *Online, Synchronous Instruction*

This course is designed for online participation in real time (also known as synchronous instruction). Scheduled classes complement learning material found on PAWS. Please review the learning material in advance of each scheduled class. Your regular attendance in class offers the best opportunity to ask questions, make connections, and participate in discussions based on the learning material.

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## 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

**Sept. 12:**      **Module One:** Introduction

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 1 – Due Sept. 12, Noon

**Sept. 19:**      **Module Two:** Governance and Administration

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 2 – Due Sept. 19, Noon

**\*\*Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>** Last day to withdraw from Fall Classes with 75% tuition credit.

**Sept. 26:**      **Module 3:** Bureaucracy and Public Policy

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 3 – Due Sept 26, Noon

**Guest Panel Presentation** – Set-Up and Discussion for Major Assignment

**Oct. 3:**        **Module 4:** Federalism and Multi-Level Governance

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 4 – Due Oct 3, Noon

**Oct. 10:**      Holiday - No Class

**Oct. 17:**      **Module 5:** Courts and Judicial Review

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 5 – Due Oct. 17, Noon

**Oct. 24:**      **Module 6:** Public Administration and Management Reforms

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 6 – Due Oct. 24, Noon.

**Oct. 31:**      **Module 7:** Indigenous Rights and Institutions

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 7 – Due Oct. 31, Noon

**Nov. 7:**        No Class – Fall Break week Nov. 7-11.

**Nov. 14:**      **Module 8:** Complexity and Networks

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 8 – Due Nov. 14, Noon

**Nov. 21:**      **Module 9:** Open Governance and e-Government

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 9 – Due Nov. 28, Noon

**Assignment:** Major Assignment Presentations.

**Nov. 28:**      **Module 10:** Good Governance

**Assignment:** Discussion Board 10 – Due Dec. 5, Noon

**Dec. 5:**      Final class discussion

**\*\*Dec. 7, Last day to withdraw from Fall Classes without Academic penalty.**

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

### **1. Module Answers: 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.
- We will discuss the content of these modules, and more, in class. The online modules give you an opportunity to ensure you understand core concepts from each week.

### **2. Problem Definition: 15% - Due Date: Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**

- A significant part of the policy process is identifying problems and considering policy solutions that could address the issue.
- In this assignment students will define a governance policy issue. Additional instructions embedded in the course. See assignment tab.

### **2. Presentation – National Parks Governance Structures: 30%**

**Presentations dates: Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. A schedule will be posted in Canvas.**

- While many connect governance with mainstream federal and provincial governments and how they manage citizens, almost all organizations have governance structures.
- As part of this course, students will be given the name of an organization their group will review for the group presentation.
- Each group will be responsible for a maximum two-page briefing note and a 10-minute presentation. Preparation and brevity are key for this assignment.

- Additional details, rubrics, and requirements can be found under the assignment tab.

### **3. Class participation: 10%**

- Active engagement and participation is required of each student. This means actively listening and participating in class discussions, guest lectures, and presentations.

### **4. Briefing Note 15%: Due: Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

- Students will examine a series of potential governance structures and write a briefing note recommending the governance structure they feel would best address the issue. Additional instructions embedded in the course. See assignment tab.

**General Note about evaluation:** Assignments should reflect the student's efforts to meet the learning objectives of Evidence and Strategic Thinking, Connection and Collaboration, and Implementation and Improvement, as described above.

## **ENROLLMENT**

Class enrollment will be normally limited to 30 students.

## **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 professionals are expected to do. If you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the instructor directly.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

This course was originally developed by Dr. Jeremy Rayner, Dan Florizone, and Lisa Jane de Gara for the Fall 2022 session. We are thankful for their contributions.

**The syllabus for this course is comprised of this document and a companion document titled "JSGS Common Syllabus 2022-23."**