POLS 2250 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (FALL 2024)

Credit Weighting: 0.50   **Pre-/Co-Requisites:** 1150/1400   **Restrictions:**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Prof. Geoff Cameron

Email:

Office Location:

GENERAL DETAILS

This course introduces students to the study of public administration, with a focus on Canadian government. Public administration is the study of the administrative organization and practices of government, often with an orientation to the implementation of policy and the delivery of services to citizens. Our overarching question is: how does the machinery of government work? To answer this question, we will begin by examining the politics of bureaucracy and the structural foundations of the modern administration state. We will explore the politics-administrative dichotomy and examine the values and ethics of public service leadership. Our analysis of the Canadian public service will focus on the organization of government and the delivery of services, viewed initially from historical perspective and in light of ideological perspectives on the relationship between state and society.

The second part of the course will engage more directly with theoretical approaches to the study and practice of public administration. The far-reaching influence of New Public Management (NPM) will be explored by considering its theoretical origins and its relationship to conceptually adjacent approaches to public administration reform. We will proceed to examine some of the central operations of government in relation to human resources and budgeting, before considering the modern influence of digital technology and calls for more "open government".

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who have completed this course should be able to demonstrate:
- Understanding of the role that the bureaucracy plays in the Canadian system of government
- Understanding of organizational theories that have shaped public administration in Canada
- Knowledge of the institutions and processes by which government delivers programs and services to the public
- Knowledge of the ideas, actors, and institutions that shape the behaviour of public servants
- Understanding of internal processes of government organization and decision-making
- Analytical and oral presentation skills
- Time management skills
- Research skills by using the internet and library databases

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Mid-Term Exams (15% x 2) - In class essays
Video Presentation (25%)
Final Exam (45%)

REQUIRED READING

Paul Barker and Tim A. Mau. Public Administration in Canada. 2nd Edition. (Scarborough: Thomson Nelson, 2017).

Department of Political Science
5th Floor MacKinnon - 50 Stone Road East
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1
T 519-824-4120 x 56505
polsmail@uoguelph.ca
uoguelph.ca/polisci

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