DEPARTMENT OF
POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLS*3470 Business-Government Relations in Canada

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

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

In this course, we will examine the historic interface between business and government in Canada. While the ascendancy of the New Public Management paradigm in the mid-1980s has meant that successive federal governments have attempted to reduce the size and scope of the state through various means, including privatization and deregulation, no industry in Canada today is immune to its influence. But influence over the economy is not limited to the federal government; both the provincial and municipal levels of government also have an impact on the way in which business operates. Moreover, as these lower levels of government take on enhanced importance, their collective impact on business will be even greater.

Although we often tend to think first of how the government 'interferes' in the economy and society, the relationship between government and business is not unidirectional. Business leaders and the various broad-based associations that serve their interests in this country (e.g., Business Council of Canada, Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Conseil du patronat etc.) as well as other public interest groups and societal actors also attempt to influence government policy making.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who have completed this course should be able to:
(i) understand and analyze the complex inter-relationship between government and business in Canada;
(ii) identify the major models of business-government relations and how they are applied in different political contexts;
(iii) assess the impact of business-government relations for public management;
(iv) critically evaluation the strengths and limitations of different approaches to government regulation/management of economic activity;
(v) through a newspaper journal, identify and assess the many ways in which business and government in this country interact on a daily basis;
(vi) communicate confidently and effectively with their classmates so as to impart knowledge and understanding of the course material.
(vii) develop the capacity to write succinctly and clearly through the writing assignments for the course.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Online quizzes
Newspaper journal
Op Ed
Ministerial briefing note
Take-home final

REQUIRED READING

Geoffrey Hale. Uneasy Partnership: The Politics of Business and Government in Canada. 2nd Edition. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018).

Stephen Wilks. The Political Power of the Business Corporation. (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2013).