

MPA 861 Indigenous Governance

Course Outline

Professor Daniel Brant

Week 2: May 2 - 6, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (in-person)

Description: Scholars such as Cornell, Curtis and Jorgensen, make the point that government is different from governance and that governance is created to undertake functions of policy making, legislating, enforcing societies rules and ensuring that these societal goals are accomplished. This course is designed to examine a wide range of governance issues including an examination of obstacles and opportunities. The role of federal, provincial and municipal governments will be examined within the context of governance issues. This course will be delivered through an Indigenous lens with the objective of understanding the epistemology of Indigenous governance.

Overview: As a graduate course, there is an expectation that the participants (students) in the course will undertake some research to determine what other austere organizations define as 'governance'. Organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank, ISO, the First Nations Financial Management Board and numerous others, all have a definition that contains similarities of responsibilities. This course will examine these and discuss the efficacy of these respecting Indigenous perspectives.

The course is intended to be highly interactive building presentations from an Indigenous pedagogical approach, guest speakers and reviews of academic literature. This course will examine some of the history of policy-making in Canada with respect to First Nations governance. This will include a high-level examination of the Indian Act, the basis of historical and modern treaties, and recent legislative tools aimed at good governance including First Nations laws. We will also examine some examples of First Nations governance that existed prior to "contact" and continue to exist today.

A reading list of material relevant to governance will be provided in advance of the course and students will be asked to ensure they have read the material as a good amount of time in class will be devoted to discussion of this information. We will also explore some of the innovations that are being promoted by First Nations leaders. (Note that not all leaders are elected) This course will review some innovations in sectoral areas such as economic development, education, social services and examine how the principles of governance are impacted.

The learning outcomes for the students will be to:

- Define and speak to concepts and elements of governance
- Understand and appreciate the history of governance systems including western and Indigenous systems of governance
- Analyze existing governance systems with a view to addressing efficiencies within that system

- Apply the knowledge acquired of governance systems to structures within their existing governing body
- Understand decision making models pertinent to Indigenous governing systems.

Marking Structure: As a condensed course, the marking will be related to participation, short thought papers and a final paper.

- Reflection Paper: What do you think Indigenous governance is? 10%
- Participation 20%
- 2 thought papers @ 15% 30%
- Final Paper 40%