

MPA 861 – Indigenous Governance
Summer Term, 2021
Bob Watts- bobwatts@icloud.com
Course Overview

Description: Good governance is viewed as an essential feature of successful nations. This course will examine governance best practices, opportunities, and obstacles that practitioners from First Nation, federal and provincial governments need to consider as First Nations assume an increasingly greater role in shaping the future of Canada.

The course will examine some policy and governance issues that highlight difficulties in federal, provincial and First Nation approaches to governance. We will explore in depth a current issue affecting Indigenous, federal, and provincial governments. Much of the course will be dedicated to developing solutions to a current intergovernmental issue that has significant Indigenous content. We are at an interesting time and will examine the colliding forces of colonisation, UNDRIP legislation, the recognition of traditional form of government and reconciliation.

Overview:

This course will examine some of the history of policymaking in Canada with respect to First Nations governance. This will include an examination of the Indian Act, historical and modern treaties, the Charlottetown Accord, and legislative tools aimed at good governance.

The course will explore some of the policy and governance issues that have come to the forefront because of recent court cases and government legislation. We will explore some best practices regarding governance in First Nations and in Tribes in the United States and Canada. This will include examining management tools that can help enhance good governance, including a management framework, leadership tools including negotiating, conflict resolution and leading a team.

Much of the learning in this course will be shaped through dialogue including interaction with experts in the field of governance and interaction with members of the class. As such both preparation in terms of knowledge of the readings and participation in the class are very important.

Course objectives and assignments

- To equip future public policy leaders with an understanding of the current state of Indigenous public policy and how it has evolved
- To challenge future public policy leaders to consider what a public policy paradigm that recognizes Indigenous self government looks like
- To articulate both in writing and orally and to work in and with other groups to develop policy or legislative change reflective of reconciliation and Indigenous government

**Assignments and
Marking Structure:**

Assignment	Course Weight (%)	Due Date
Reflection Paper	20	May 3
Participation	20	Ongoing
Consensus-Building Exercise	30	In Class
Final Paper	30	June 10