



Queen's  
UNIVERSITY

**School of Policy Studies**  
**MPA 800 Governing Institutions**

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### **Course Objective and Description**

Political institutions and processes of decision-making play a fundamental role in shaping policy outcomes. This course analyzes governing institutions and the processes of modern government as a means of sharpening our understanding of policy formulation and implementation. While the course pays particular attention to the Canadian experience, American comparisons are used to highlight important differences in the way our institutions function. The knowledge gained in this course should provide a basis for critically assessing political and administrative decision-making and policy outcomes.

A knowledgeable policy actor requires certain skills to be effective. This course is designed to help future policymakers and advisors acquire some of those skills. These include abilities: to lead using a variety of styles; to work cooperatively and effectively with one's peers; to communicate ideas clearly and succinctly in a public forum; to write efficiently and persuasively; to analyze and synthesize material; and to succeed in a professional environment.

### **Course Textbook Information**

The following textbooks are essential for the course and available through the bookstore:

Marland, Alex & Jared Wesley, Inside Canadian Politics. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Craft, Jonathan & Amanda Clarke, Issues in Canadian Governance. Toronto: Edmond, 2018.

Selected essays will be used from the following book:

Thomas, David M. and David N, Biette (eds.), Canada and the United States: Differences that Count, 4th edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014.

The following textbook is a short and useful background introductory text on Canadian Government that students may wish to consult before or during the course:

Malcolmson, Patrick and Richard Myers, The Canadian Regime: And Introduction to Parliamentary Government in Canada, fifth edition, University of Toronto Press, 2012.

