

MPA 861 – Indigenous Governance
Summer Term, 2019
Queen’s University
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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. As such the class will interact with subject matter experts and policy makers.

Overview: The World Bank has said that; "Good governance is epitomized by predictable, open and enlightened policy-making, a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos acting in furtherance of the public good, the rule of law, transparent processes, and a strong civil society participating in public affairs".

This course will examine some of the history of policy-making 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 recent legislative tools aimed at good governance. We will also examine some examples of First Nations governance that existed prior to “contact” and continue to exist today.

The course will explore some of the policy and governance issues that have come to the forefront as a result 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. These tools include a management framework, financial management, 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.

Assignments and Marking Structure:	Course Weight (%)	Due Date
Assignment		
Reflection Paper	10	May 15
Take-Home Exam	20	June 3
Participation	15	Ongoing
Consensus-Building Exercise	30	In Class
Final Paper	25	June 21