



University
of Victoria

POLI 369: Issues in Canadian Politics: “Power, Policy and Governance in Canada”

Instructor Spring 2023: Dr. Justin Leifso

Course delivery: POLI 369 will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description: In this class, we will explore Canadian public policy and governance in the context of broader structures and processes of political power. We’ll discuss how to study policy and governance through a variety of critical theoretical perspectives including governmentality, feminist perspectives, critical race theory, political economy, decolonial perspectives and affect theory. Through such approaches, we’ll theorize the Canadian state and discuss how its technologies and instruments intersect with class, gender, race, and Indigeneity. Students will have the opportunity to closely study and locate policy areas such as energy, the environment, reconciliation, justice, immigration and healthcare within the complexity of how power operates in modern life.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Interrogate the meaning of public policy, power, and governance.
- Learn to locate public policy within broader structures of power such as the state, assemblages, gender, race, and colonialism.
- Study specific government policies and programs using a variety of theoretically-grounded approaches.

Topics may include:

Public Policy
Power
Neoliberalism
The Canadian State

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.