INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT
PPG1000 Governance and Institutions (Fall 2016)
School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto

The goal of this multi-part assignment is to better appreciate the impact of institutions and governance mechanisms on public policy making.

You will select *one* governance challenge/policy issue from the list below and complete all of the following components: a research outline, a jurisdictional scan, a final paper, and an op-ed.

1. Fulfillment of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
2. Establishment of a national pharmacare program
3. Credential recognition for foreign trained professionals
4. Modernization of Ontario's universities
5. The municipal infrastructure deficit

Submission instructions:

Prof. Triadafilopoulos	Submit electronically via Blackboard
Prof. Clark	Submit electronically via Blackboard
Prof. Eidelman	Submit electronically via the following link: http://tiny.cc/PPG1000assignments

Format: All assignments should be double-spaced and written in 12-pt font. No title pages are necessary. Simply put your name, student number, and title at the top of the first page.

Necessary Components:

1) Research Outline (10% of course grade)

A 2-page backgrounder that: (a) identifies your selected topic; (b) summarizes the existing policy landscape, including current policies and/or policy proposals under debate; and (c) clearly identifies the central governance challenge presently facing decision makers.

In addition, include a bibliography of sources consulted to date. You may cite your sources in any standard academic format, as long as you are consistent.

Due: October 19 by 11:59 p.m.

Criteria for Grading:
- Is the central governance challenge clearly articulated?
- Does it provide sufficient and accurate background information?
- Is the research sufficient, based on sources consulted to date?
- Is it clearly written, concise, easy to read, and free of spelling and grammatical errors?
- Have the proper formatting requirements been followed?

2) Jurisdictional Scan (25% of course grade)

A 5-page review of how decision makers in other relevant jurisdictions (municipal, state/provincial, and/or national/federal governments) inside or outside Canada have responded to similar governance challenges. All sources should be properly cited in text and listed in your bibliography.

Due: November 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Criteria for Grading:
- Is it apparent that the scan is informed by careful research?
- Are the case analogues relevant and justifiable?
- Is it supported by credible and properly cited sources?
- Is it clearly written, concise, easy to read, and free of spelling and grammatical errors?
- Have the proper formatting requirements been followed?

> *Research Workshop (included in course participation grade)*
> To assist with your jurisdictional scan, the reference and research librarians at Robarts Library have developed a workshop to help you find credible data sources. The workshop will be held in Robarts Library, rm. 4033 (4th floor electronic classroom) at the following times.
>
> Option 1: Thursday, November 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
> Option 2: Thursday, November 4, 2-4 p.m.
>
> A sign-up sheet will be distributed to select your desired timeslot. Note that there are no make-up dates available.

3) Final Paper (30% of course grade)

A 12-page (approx. 3,000 word) essay that incorporates feedback received on previous components and assesses the feasibility of responses to your selected governance challenge given the constraints created by Canada's political institutions.

The paper should: (a) explain the central governance challenge facing decision makers, drawing on your research outline; (b) briefly review how we arrived at this predicament, commenting on the role of institutions and key historical events; (c) review available alternatives to the status quo, drawing on your jurisdictional scan; and (d) analyze the feasibility or viability of these alternatives given the constraints created by Canada's governing institutions.

Due: December 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Criteria for Grading:
- Is the author's analysis reasonable, coherent, and convincing?

- Is the analysis supported by credible and properly cited sources?
- Does the author engage with the appropriate literature, and has instructor feedback from previous work been incorporated?
- Does the paper flow smoothly and logically?
- Is the paper free of spelling and grammatical errors, and have the proper formatting requirements been followed?

3) Op-ed (15% of course grade)

A 650-750 word op-ed article that presents your research findings in a compelling and accessible format for a lay audience. Compose your op-ed as if you are submitting to a newspaper with national reach, such as the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, or *Toronto Star*.

Consider these tips:
- Write for the lay reader (avoid jargon and acronyms)
- Use simple words, short sentences, and short paragraphs
- Choose a strong title that clearly summarizes your position
- Grab the reader's attention in the first sentence
- Use the first paragraph to state your point and remaining space to back it up
- Use anecdotes and analogies to make your point as clear as possible to the reader
- Finish by reinforcing your central message

Due: December 16 by 11:59 p.m.

Criteria for Grading:
- Is it clearly written, concise, easy to read, and free of spelling and grammatical errors?
- Does the author summarize the challenge in clear and succinct language?
- Does the author present a logical, well-reasoned, and sensible position on the issue?
- Would it provoke a strong reaction from the average reader?
- Have the proper formatting requirements been followed?