This course is intended to provide foundational knowledge of key governance structures and political institutions at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels in Canada. Together, we examine the Constitution, the Westminster parliamentary system, federalism, and the courts. We consider emerging challenges to existing institutions, including the rise of cities, demands for self-government among Canada’s Aboriginal Peoples, and the transition from government to governance, and conclude by reflecting on the quality of Canada’s democratic institutions in comparative perspective.

The course is designed as a discussion-intensive seminar. Students are expected to complete each week’s required readings in advance, attend every class, and contribute actively to class discussions.

What Students Can Expect to Learn:
- The institutional context within which public policy is made in Canada
- The foundational importance of the Constitution and constitutional conventions in the Canadian political system
- The role of, and interplay between, executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government
- The formal and informal rules that delineate the responsibilities of federal, provincial, and municipal governments
- The array of policy challenges facing all governments, and the complex governance structures that have (or have not) emerged to respond to those challenges
- Core research and writing skills required to be a successful public policy practitioner
Outline of Topics and Assignments

Each section will meet separately unless a guest speaker or plenary session is scheduled. In these instances, all sections will meet in CG 160 from 2-4pm (note the time change!).

Week 1  Sept 12  Introduction (Clark)
         Sept 14  Introduction (Eidelman)
         Sept 16  Introduction (Triadafilopoulos)

Week 2  Sept 21  Constitutional Framework

Week 3  Sept 28  Constitutional Framework II: Democratic Reform

Week 4  Oct 5  Machinery of Government

Week 5  Oct 12  Institutional Dynamics within Government
             *Plenary led Ian Clark, Sean Speer (SPPG Fellow),
              and James Janeiro (Office of the Premier)*

Week 6  Oct 19  Multilevel Governance I: Federalism
             *Assignment Due: Research Outline*

Week 7  Oct 26  Multilevel Governance II: Federal-Provincial Dynamics
             *Plenary led by Robert Schertzer (U of T Political Science)*

Week 8  Nov 2  Multilevel Governance III: Cities in the Federation
          *Plenary led by Gabriel Eidelman*

         Nov 4  *Research Skills Workshop*
          *Option 1:  10am-12pm, Robarts Library, Computer Lab 4033*
          *Option 2:  2pm-4pm, Robarts Library, Computer Lab 4033*

Week 9  Nov 9  Multilevel Governance IV: Indigenous Governance

Week 10 Nov 16  The Courts and the Charter
                 *Assignment Due: Jurisdictional Scan*

Week 11 Nov 23  From Government to Governance

Week 12 Nov 30  Judging Canada’s Institutions

         Dec 16  *Assignments Due: Final Paper and Op-ed*
Requirements and Evaluation

All assignments will be discussed in class and detailed instructions will be distributed as the course progresses.

Attendance and Engagement (20%): Engagement is measured by actions including but not limited to: (a) consistent attendance (one cannot participate if one does not attend); (b) being prepared for class (at a minimum, this means completing the required readings); (c) being attentive to class discussion; (d) raising thoughtful comments and questions in class; (e) providing insight and analysis to the readings and discussions; (f) attending office hours; (g) bringing relevant news articles and other materials to the attention of the class.

Institutional Analysis (80%): The purpose of this assignment is to better appreciate the impact of institutions and governance mechanisms on public policy making. From a predefined list of governance challenges/issues, you will write a research paper to be developed in multiple parts:

1) Research Outline (10%) – A two-page backgrounder on your topic and preliminary sketch of your analytical approach. Due October 19.

2) Research Skills Workshop (included in participation grade) – To help develop your jurisdictional scan, you will attend a research skills workshop led by reference and research librarians from Robarts Library. See schedule above for dates and location. Unfortunately, there are no make-up dates.

3) Jurisdictional Scan (25%) – A five-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 challenges. Due November 16.

4) Final Paper (30%) – A 12-page final paper 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. Due December 16.

5) Op-ed (15%) – A 650-750 word op-ed article that presents your research findings in a compelling and accessible format for a lay audience. Due December 16.
Course Policies

Course Website: All required readings, assignment descriptions, and course grades will be posted on the course website via Blackboard.

Email Policy: We normally respond to email within 48 hours. Please note that email received during weekends and after business hours may take longer to answer, so do not leave your requests or queries until the last minute. Also, please do not submit course assignments via email.

Late Assignments: We expect students to turn in assignments on time. No exceptions are made except in the case of an adequately documented emergency. You must make a reasonable effort to inform your section faculty as soon as the problem arises and present your written documentation when you return. It is at our discretion whether to accept the late assignment and/or attach a lateness penalty. If you do miss an assignment deadline, your grade for this component will be reduced by 3% for the first day and 1% per day thereafter, including weekends. Students are also strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their assignments. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned. All graded assignments are to be kept by students until the grades have been posted on ROSI.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

Plagiarism: It is the responsibility of each student to be able to demonstrate the originality of his or her work. Failure to properly reference figures, concepts, and quotations that are not your own will result in academic penalties, as required by the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism. At a minimum, for every assignment, the sources of all data and ideas must be properly referenced using a standard academic referencing style such as Chicago, APA, or MLA. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to reference sources, please visit: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize
Seminar Topics and Readings

All required readings are available via Blackboard, and should be read in advance of class. As you absorb the material, ask yourself: 1) What is the most useful insight you gained from each readings? 2) How does this insight relate to an experience you have had in the field, or a governance matter currently in the news?

In addition, we recommend that students review appropriate topics within the “Governance and Institutions” subject area on the Atlas of Public Management (http://www.atlas101.ca/pm(subjects/governance-and-institutions). Each of the topic pages has a list of open access readings that serve as supplementary readings for the course.

Week 1 – Introduction
What is governance? What are institutions? Why study them?


Week 2 – Constitutional Framework
What are the core elements of the Canadian constitution? What are constitutional conventions? How do these rules impact policy making in Canada?


Week 3 – Constitutional Framework II: Democratic Reform
What are the basic principles of Canada’s parliamentary system of government? What are some current challenges to the structure and functioning of Canada’s parliamentary institutions? What are the prospects of reform?

**Week 4 – Machinery of Government**

*What is the role of Cabinet in policy making? What is the role of the Prime Minister’s/Premier’s Office? What checks and balances are created by Parliament?*


**Week 5 – Institutional Dynamics within Government**

*What are the relationships between “guardians” and “spenders,” central agencies and departments, the political executive and the civil service, and partisan advisers and public servants?*


**Week 6 – Multilevel Governance: Federalism**

*Why is federalism such an important part of policy making in Canada? Why are some policy responsibilities considered exclusively federal or provincial, yet others shared? How has this division of responsibilities changed over time?*


Week 7 – Multilevel Governance II: Federal-Provincial Dynamics

How does federalism structure the substance of policy making? What is meant by “performance” considerations in federalism?


Week 8 – Multilevel Governance III: Cities in the Federation

How are cities in Canada governed? What do municipal governments actually do? What is the relationship between municipalities and federal/provincial governments?


Week 9 – Multilevel Governance IV: Indigenous Governance

What is Aboriginal self-government? How has the relationship between Aboriginal Peoples and the institutions of Canadian federalism evolved over time? What are the remaining obstacles to recognizing Aboriginal governing institutions?


Week 10 – The Courts and the Charter
Do politicians make laws, or judges? What is the relationship between the courts and elected legislatures? What has been the impact of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on public policy?


Week 11 – From Government to Governance
What is governance, as opposed to government? Has the transition to governance strengthened or undermined existing institutions? How can effective and legitimate governance be ensured?

Wells, Paul. 2016. “Meet Sir Michael Barber, the Political Delivery Man.” Maclean’s, February 18.

Week 12 – Judging Canada’s Institutions
How do our institutions perform in comparative perspective? By what criteria?