





# Governance (GOVN) 390

## Public Policy and Administrative Governance (Revision 6)

**Status:**

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:**

Individualized study online 

**Credits:**

3


**Areas of study:**

Applied Studies (Business and Administrative Studies) or Social Science. GOVN 390 can be used to fulfill the Applied Studies (Business and Administrative Studies) area of study by credential students only.

**Prerequisites:**

None. A previous course in administrative studies, public policy, or public administration/management is recommended. This is a senior-level course and as such students are expected to have advanced analytical and writing skills.

**Precluded:**

GOVN 390 is a cross-listed course—a course listed under two different disciplines—with **POLI 392** . (GOVN 390 may not be taken for credit by students who have obtained credit for POLI 392).

**Challenge:**

GOVN 390 has a challenge for credit option.

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**Faculty:**

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences [↗](#)

## Overview

Governance 390: Public Policy and Administrative Governance has been designed for senior undergraduate students who are interested in the creation and implementation of Canadian public policy. There are no formal prerequisites for this course. While it is recommended that students have taken another course in political science or public administration, the course material should be accessible to anyone with the intellectual sophistication and academic maturity expected of senior undergraduate students.

Governance 390 aims to give students the knowledge, analytical skills, and tools necessary to think critically about matters associated with the making and implementation of Canadian public policy. This course will benefit those who have chosen a career in the public service, those who simply wish to increase their awareness of public policy-making and implementation, as well as students with aspirations toward graduate studies.

## Outline

The course consists of the following eight units.



- Unit 1: Introduction to Public Policy and Administrative Governance
- Unit 2: Public Bureaucracy in Theory and Practice
- Unit 3: Parliament, Bureaucracy, and Accountability in Canada
- Unit 4: Policy Formulation—The Institutions and Processes of Political Governance
- Unit 5: Administrative Governance—The Challenge of Policy Implementation

- Unit 6: Non-State Actors in Policy-Making and Administrative Governance
- Unit 7: Social Diversity and the Question of “Difference” in Policy-Making and Administrative Governance
- Unit 8: Governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century


## Learning outcomes


- Describe the character of public bureaucracy and provide a theoretically informed analysis of the contrast between a classic Weberian bureaucracy and the type of public bureaucracy advocated by the New Public Management (NPM).
- Explain the role of bureaucratic, political, and non-state actors in the policy process.
- Contrast the various policy instruments and service-delivery mechanisms used in policy implementation, and explain the factors shaping the possibility of successful policy implementation.
- Explain the nature of democratic accountability in parliamentary government, and comment on approaches to ensuring ethics in administrative governance.
- Explain the significance of social diversity to the making and implementation of public policy, and discuss the relationship between social diversity and the “differential impact” of public policy.
- Contrast the governing paradigms associated with the administrative welfare state and those of the neo-liberal state, and explain the relationship of the NPM to the neo-liberal mode of governance.

## Evaluation


Your final grade in GOVN 390 will be based on the marks you achieve on the assignments and the final examination. To **receive credit**  for GOVN 390, you must complete all the assignments, achieve a mark of at least D (50 percent) on the final examination, and obtain an overall course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** . The weighting of the assignments and exam toward your final grade are outlined below.

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: Concepts Paper	10%
Assignment 2: Policy Memo Proposal	10%
Assignment 3: Policy Memo	20%
Assignment 4: Research Paper Outline	10%
Assignment 5: Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .

## Materials

Dunn, C. (Ed.). (2018). *The handbook of Canadian public administration* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.  (Print)

## Other materials

All other course materials are available online through the course home page. These include a Course Information, Study Guide, and additional readings.

# Challenge for credit

## Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

## Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the GOVN 390 challenge registration, you must receive a grade of “pass” on the exam.

Activity	Weight
Exam	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

*Opened in Revision 6, March 10, 2020*

*Updated March 8, 2024*

View **previous revision** [↗](#)

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