

POLI 3250: Canadian Public Administration
Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University

Professor: Lori Turnbull

Office Hours: T/TH 3:30-5 p.m. (or by appointment)

Office: Suite 1201 Mona Campbell building

Email: lturnbul@dal.ca

Course synopsis

The purpose of this course is to gain a solid and critical understanding of the structure, organization, and role of the permanent public service in Canada. We discuss the evolution of the independent public service, ethical standards, hiring practices, the hierarchical structure that defines the public service, the role of the Clerk of the Privy Council and senior public servants in directly supporting ministers, and the very important relationship between public servants and political staff. Though we draw comparisons both within Canada and to other countries, the primary focus is on Canada's federal public service. We discuss efforts to reform the public service and analyze their successes and failures.

Assigned reading

Dunn, Christopher. 2010. *The Handbook of Canadian Public Administration* (second edition). Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Assignments

Group presentation: 20%

Participation in class discussion: 10%

Online essays: 40%

Final exam:30%

****Group Presentation:** Students will work in groups of 2-3 to present a critical analysis of the main themes of the assigned readings for the week. Students must do this once over the course of the term. Your formal presentation should be 15 minutes long and should offer a critical analysis of the material in the readings rather than merely a description. Following your presentation, you will facilitate class discussion for the remainder of the class.

University Statements

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. Click [here](#) to read more.

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click [here](#) to read more.

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. Click [here](#) to read more.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Click [here](#) to read more.

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
<https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

- Copyright and Fair Dealing: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Aboriginal Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Topics and Assigned Readings

September 5, 7: Introduction

- Dunn, Chapters 1 and 2

September 12, 14: Public Service Organization

- Dunn, Chapters 3-5

September 19, 21: Public Service Institutions

- Dunn, Chapters 6-8

September 26: Review

September 28: Online Essay

October 3, 5: Working in the Public Sector

- Dunn, Chapters 9-11

October 10, 12: The State in Transformation

- Dunn, Chapters 12-14

October 17, 19: A Responsive Public Service (?)

- Dunn, Chapters 15-17

October 24, 26: Diversity in the Public Service

- Dunn, Chapters 18-20

October 31: Review

November 2: Online Essay

November 14, 16: Public Service and the Policy Process

- Dunn, Chapters 21-24

November 21, 23: Budgeting in Canada

- Dunn, Chapters 26 and 27

November 28: The Role of Deputy Ministers

- Dunn, Chapter 28

November 30: Review