COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science 4730, Public Policy in Newfoundland

Winter Semester 2008

This course will survey the major current themes in Newfoundland public policy, at the provincial and local government levels, in the context of the Canadian federal system.

The text for the course is Canadian Public Policy, An Introduction, 4th Edition, by Stephen Brooks and the Report of the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada. The instructor will present a framework for the study of Newfoundland public policy and one or more case studies on current Newfoundland public policy issues.

The instructor is:

John R. Cummings, QC, Channing Fellow. Mr. Cummings’ phone number is: 737-8186. His email address is: jcummings@mun.ca. Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 12:00-2:00 p.m.

There will be a number of guest instructors.

Research Paper

Students will prepare a major paper on a current Newfoundland public policy issue on a case study not covered in the course and using one of the theories of public policy formulation set out in the text. The subject must be agreed by the instructor. Students will make a 25 minute presentation of their paper to the class. The paper will be worth 40% of the final mark and an additional 10% will be based on the quality of the presentation. The maximum length of the paper is 5,000 words. The paper framework is attached. The topic and an outline must be provided by February 8th. The paper is due by March 3rd. There will be no extensions granted.

Late delivery of the paper topic and outline will result in a loss of 1 mark per day to a maximum of 10 marks. Late delivery of the paper will result in a loss of 5 marks per day. Papers that are more than 1 week late will not be accepted.

Examinations

There will be a final examination which will be worth 40% of the final mark.

Attendance

10% for attendance and class participation.
What is the public policy?
How did the issue get on the political agenda?
What was the policy discourse- the content of the debate about the policy?
Who were the actors in the policy discourse – politicians, public servants, interest groups, the media, etc?
What did government do?
Why did government either change the policy or leave it the same?
How did government implement the policy and with what consequences?
Are there federal/provincial complications to the policy field and how were they resolved?
Which theory of public policy best explains what the government did?