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The SFU Semester in Dialogue: Governance for the 21st Century May-June 2014

DIAL 390, 391 (10 credits)
7 weeks, 20 students
SFU Harbour Centre, Vancouver, BC

Faculty

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Administration

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Location: SFU Harbour Centre Campus, HC 3050

Time: The program is intensive, meeting five days a week from 10:00-4:00 PM. Note that students are not able to take other courses during the semester, or have employment or other commitments during the course hours.

Course Description

As citizens of the twenty-first century our lives are in an ever-accelerating state of change. Technological advances, the speed at which we do business, the global nature of commerce and culture, and even the growing instability of the earth's environment all point towards continuous change and the need for rapid responses. And yet, in the center of this maelstrom of change and re-examination, sits a surprisingly immovable, presence: our systems of governance.

Municipal, provincial, and federal elected bodies would be easily recognizable to any 150 year-old historical visitor in form, function, process, and guiding principles. Large unelected bureaucracies still operate on antiquated foundations in a kind of stasis, struggling to respond to the change revolving all around. Yet, there is a new generation of young voters that has grown up submerged in the information age and is unlikely to accept a democracy where their only interaction is to vote once every few years. This generation has answers at their finger-tips, can organize a flash-mob in a matter of hours, and for whom the deep ruts of any political party affiliation belie their own complex fluidities of identity and interest.

This course is interested in the possibilities our current historical situation offers to these deeper questions of governance, citizenship, privacy, human rights, democracy, and freedom. The plan is to deconstruct the current systems into manageable constituent parts and carefully examine each of these for ongoing utility through a variety of lenses.

accountable, accessible and responsive? How might the next generation use the tools of the new media to build alternative networks of communication and popular governance in the shadow of the old order? Are our technological advances outstripping our systems of governance?

Student Learning Outcomes

We hope the students come away with:

- A sense of the range of governance that exists across their small groupings, their communities, Vancouver, and the world. What are the possibilities for governance? How do governance and bureaucracy interact, influence, and impede each other? How are decisions made with regard to governance, both in form and in function? What are our individual options as citizens, voters, and individuals with regard to governance and its possibilities moving forward?
- Expertise that they can carry forth with them into the world, ranging from the particular to the general, a sense of themselves as having some ability to step into complex situations see governance patterns and potentially facilitate, work *with*, varied and various stakeholders.

More Specifically:

-Interdisciplinary and Collaborative Learning

Students learn to:

- ! Appreciate the complexity of collaboratively defining shared goals for a project
- ! Demonstrate the ability to recognize governance and tn24 197.3228v(gove) 0.2 (rna)0.2 (nco, 50 0 (

! Plan, facilitate, host and report on the implementation of public events
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Thought Leader debriefs: a short debrief will be held after most visits, either during or right after lunch.

Op-Ed Piece: You will write and submit an article for a daily newspaper. Initially, you

Evaluation Areas	Course Number – Letter Grade Assigned for Each Course
Oral Presentations, Participation, Hosting, Reflections	DIAL 390
Individual Projects, Op. Ed., Small Group work and presentations	DIAL 391

Readings

The approach to general reading assignments is different than that typically associated with undergraduate courses. Students will be provided with a set of readings prior to course that are meant to provide some shared general background knowledge and to act as aids in developing your individual perspectives. Students are encouraged to read and digest such information. You may also be offered, on an ongoing basis, short readings to help build the perspectives that will contribute to specific dialogues throughout the course. It is important to read these carefully in order that you may contribute thoughtfully.

Field Trips

A number of field trips will occur during the semester. Groups of students will be asked to organize the transportation and events for each trip.

Guests and Dialogue

There will be numerous guests in our classroom throughout the course. Invited guests from diverse professions and organizations will be asked to engage in open and respectful

B F , Province of BC: Climate action Secretariat, Green
Communities
S P , BC Treaty Commission
C L , founder and former president, America Speaks
A D , Provincial politician, former leader of the NDP
J B , professor of psychiatry, UBC
K J , Vancouver city council
J S , founding member of the Social Venture Network and president of
Renewal Partners
A G , President of Weyerhaeuser
F R , Co-founder and Artistic Director of Media
L P , Metro Vancouver