

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Theories and Thinkers

Course Number and Section:

GLE

4010F 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Neil Bradford

Instructor Email(s): bradford@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

This seminar explores foundational ideas, thought leadership, and policy entrepreneurship in the contemporary study of Governance, Leadership and Ethics. Seminar learning is organized around three inter-connected themes.

1. Studying influential GLE thinkers and their ideas about collective action, collaborative leadership, and social innovation.
2. Testing the interplay between theory and practice, applying GLE ideas in diverse real-world governance settings, ranging from the local to the global scales and across economic, environmental, and social fields.
3. Reflecting on the different styles of thinking and modes of analysis that shape GLE studies, ranging from normative visions and causal theory to policy applications.

The seminar considers the GLE's intellectual underpinnings and the transformative potential of "big ideas" in public affairs. While weekly readings are extensive, we will share responsibilities for equitable coverage. Student teams will facilitate seminars and "workshop" their own thought leadership.

Learning Outcomes:

This seminar has three central learning objectives. First, it will provide students with a multi-disciplinary and comparative understanding of the socio-political theories and influential thinkers shaping the contemporary study of Governance, Leadership and Ethics. While today's most complex, urgent public problems require some form of collective action and collaborative governance, the conditions for success or failure are not well-understood. The seminar's second learning objective addresses this knowledge gap by exploring the relationship between governance theories and institutional practice in different policy contexts and geographic settings. Third, the course aims to strengthen student capacity for thought leadership, studying processes of idea generation, knowledge transfer, and social innovation.

Course Outline will provide any additional information as well.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

This seminar draws on a range of source materials that provide full coverage of both classical and contemporary thought leadership in the multi-disciplinary study of Governance, Leadership and Ethics. There is no single textbook assigned.

Costs-Please see Course Outline for full details related to any costs required.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Please see Course Outline for full Evaluation Breakdown		

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Thursday, August 14, 2025