Project Title: Prime Ministerial Leadership in Canada

Term: Fall 2017

Supervisor: Stephen Azzi

Unit: Kroeger College

Description of project:
The project is a comparative study of the leadership styles of Canadian prime ministers. The central research question is: Which forms of leadership are successful in the Canadian context? In answering this question, the project will grapple with several sub-questions. How do leadership styles – the ways leaders interact with others, gain information, prioritize, make decisions, and see that decisions are carried out – affect political outcomes? Which forms of leadership bring about enduring change and which lead to ephemeral results? Is there a particularly Canadian style of leadership? Or do Canadian prime ministers act in much the same way as US presidents and other Commonwealth prime ministers?

Number of students required: 1 or 2

Research duties:
- Archival research at Library and Archives Canada (395 Wellington St.) (25 hours)
- Preparation for interviews, helping conduct interviews, and correcting interview transcripts (20 hours)
- Discussion and consultation with the supervisor (10 hours)
- Reflective research journal (10 hours)

Learning and reflection activities:
- A reflective journal on the student’s research results, in which students develop their own ideas about the archival research and interviews
- Regular meetings to discuss the findings with the supervisor

Learning outcomes:
- Improved knowledge of the Canadian political system and the prime minister’s role in it
- Ability to prepare for and conduct research interviews
- Skills in archival research.
- Improved analytical skills

Evaluation Criteria:
- Weekly meeting with supervisor – 10 per cent
- Reflective research journal – 30 per cent (due on the last day of classes)
- Collection of archival materials – 30 per cent (due in three installments one at the end of each month: September, October, and November)
- Preparation for oral history interviews and correction of interview transcripts – 30 per cent (preparatory notes due one week before each interview; corrected interview transcripts due on the last day of classes)
Skills or knowledge required:
Knowledge of Canadian history and politics.

Any required health and safety training:
No.

Other considerations:
Students will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement covering their work on the oral history interviews.

Application instructions:
Participants are selected on the basis of merit and fit with the research project. Please submit a CV, transcript, and cover letter indicating why you are interested in and qualified for this research experience to the undergraduate administrator of the unit listed above. The application deadline is normally April 30th (for IPAF 4900 opportunities in the summer or fall term), August 15th (for fall and winter term opportunities) and November 15th (to take IPAF 4900 in the winter or summer term). Only students with a GPA of 9.5 or higher and at least third year honours standing will be considered.

To find out more about IPAF 4900, please visit: http://carleton.ca/fpa/ipaf-main/