



School of Public Policy and Administration  
**2026-2027 Academic Year Courses**

## **Fall 2026**

### **PADM 5220 F, Regulation and Public Policy**

This course examines the economic, political, social, and organizational theories of regulation, a key policy instrument of government. It also assesses select processes and consequences of regulatory practice in certain public policy fields and jurisdictions.

### **PADM 5230 F, Ethics for Public Policy**

This course examines how ethical theories underlie policy design in Canada. By analyzing a variety of ethical frameworks such as virtue theory, cultural relativism, ethics of care, prima facie duties, and utilitarianism, students will better understand how public policy is shaped by a system of values. Topics of discussion may include trade, healthcare, privacy, environmental protection, and artificial intelligence.

### **PADM 5420 F, Evaluation Policy**

Program evaluation plays a critical role in helping governments and public sector organizations understand what works, for whom, under what circumstances, and why. This introductory course provides students with a practical foundation in the theory and practice of program evaluation and its role in evidence-informed public policy and administration. Students will learn how to describe programs using theories of change and logic models, formulate meaningful evaluation questions, assess the strengths and limitations of alternative evaluation designs, and select appropriate qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches to address a range of evaluation objectives. The course also introduces approaches to causal analysis and explores contemporary issues in evaluation. Through practical exercises and real-world examples, students will develop the knowledge and skills to design rigorous, credible, and useful evaluations that support accountability, organizational learning, and continuous improvement in public policies and programs.

### **PADM 5702 A, Political Economy of Pharmaceuticals**

The course examines the socio-economic structures of the pharmaceutical sector, including dominant business models, the regulatory framework governing the approval and reimbursement of medicines, the challenges of conducting health research in a for-profit environment, debates surrounding the institutional corruption of medical research, and corporate strategies to maximize profits, often at the expense of public health. It also explores issues related to access to medicines in both developed and developing countries, orphan drug policy, and policy strategies to expand access to medicines, improve health outcomes, and reduce healthcare costs. Drawing on perspectives from political economy, the economics of innovation, health policy, epidemiology, and the sociology of science, the course adopts a transdisciplinary approach to understanding the pharmaceutical sector and its role in contemporary health systems.

### **PADM 5702 B, Public Policy Advocacy**

## Fall 2026

This course will provide students with the knowledge and practical skills required to engage in public policy advocacy with all levels of government in a Canadian context. It addresses theories of policy change and advocacy, the institutions and cycles of parliamentary and municipal governments, and practical guidance in developing, implementing and evaluating effective public policy advocacy strategies. Students will work in teams to develop, present and assess an advocacy strategy on a current issue of relevance to the charitable and nonprofit sector.

### **PADM 5702 C, Managing Staff and Volunteers**

This course provides knowledge and skills to help students lead paid and volunteer teams in nonprofit organizations. Topics will include an overview of the legal and regulatory environment, the basics of providing feedback and managing performance, and the steps in the employee and volunteer lifecycles. There will be a special emphasis on fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive working environments. Course material will provide tools and techniques that students can quickly apply in nonprofit organizations.

### **PADM 5702 F, AI for Public Policy and Management – Applications, Ethics and Governance (Data Science option)**

This course explores the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in public policy, management programs, and non-profit organisations. Students will critically analyse AI applications, examining benefits and challenges by applying different ethical and responsible AI frameworks. Additionally, the course delves into AI governance theories, models, and tools for managing AI-driven initiatives effectively in the public and non-profit sectors.

## Winter 2027

### **PADM 5212, Civil Society and Public Policy**

What are identity politics and how do identities become politically meaningful? How can identity mobilize political action and shape policy debates? In this course, we will use the tools of political science to analyze identity-based social movements, interest groups, and government responses to them and consider their policy influence in Canada across time. We will consider three case studies: English-Canadian nationalism; gay liberation and HIV/AIDS; and, sex work.

### **PADM 5224 W, Indigenous Policy**

Indigenous peoples' policies as nations are set in a comparative political-economic and institutional context with Canadian policies and programs on Indigenous peoples. The course aims to deepen understanding of the complex challenges facing Indigenous nations in the 21st century by focusing on how governmental policy, economics and institutions affect nation's lives and governance arrangements. Students will learn about the historical and contemporary influences that shape these challenges thereby fostering critical thinking and a more nuanced perspective on the issues facing these communities. Students will engage with Indigenous epistemologies as these contribute to cultural resurgence, community building and engagement.

### **PADM 5228**

*Will be uploaded shortly.*

### **PADM 5229 Health of Populations**

## Winter 2027

In an era defined by complexity, uncertainty, and interconnected global challenges, traditional approaches to public health are no longer sufficient. **PADM 5229 The Health of Populations** offers a transformative learning experience that equips students with the tools to understand, navigate and address global and national population health issues through a complexity-informed systems thinking lens.

This course explores the multifaceted nature regarding the health of populations, from infectious diseases and chronic conditions to climate change, mental health, and community health. Students will engage with real-world case studies, develop systems maps, and apply frameworks like the Social Determinants of Health and PESTEL to analyze the root causes and interdependencies of global and national health problems. Through collaborative projects and student-directed inquiry, learners will cultivate the critical skills identified by the World Economic Forum as essential for the future: **innovation, creativity, and ideation**.

As Angel Gurría, former OECD Secretary General, emphasized, “Unless we adopt a systems approach, unless we employ systems thinking, we will fail to understand the world we are living in.” This course embodies that call to action, challenging students to embrace the complexity of global and national population health with curiosity, compassion, and creativity.

Whether you're preparing for a career in public health, policy, or international development, this course will empower you to think differently, act strategically, and lead with insight in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

### **PADM 5702 B, Digital Governance (Data Science option)**

This course will equip students with the baseline knowledge and competencies they need to effectively work in and lead digital era public organizations. Students will be introduced to digital era approaches to policy making, service delivery and government administration, including user research, agile methods, multidisciplinary teams, and hybrid/remote work. We will answer questions like: “how can policymakers better design programs to meet their users’ needs?”, “Why should public servants work more openly and collaboratively, and how can they do so effectively?” and, “how can public sector organizations harness the potential of new data, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies responsibly and accountably?” The course is organized around the digital era competencies advanced by the open access education project Teaching Public Service in the Digital Age (<https://www.teachingpublicservice.digital/en/competencies>) and does not require that students have any technical knowledge of computing and digital technologies.

### **PADM 5702 C, Aviation Policy**

The Aviation Policy course is designed to provide a roadmap to the understanding of the air transport industry, a highly regulated and complex segment of the domestic and global economy. It uses a multidisciplinary approach of analysis, combining economic and business principles, public policy, law and international relations, among others. A practitioner’s perspective is also provided to help students integrate theoretical concepts with real-life government actions. At the end of the course, students will be able to explain the key components of the sector as well as its economic and legal underpinnings. In addition, they will gain critical insights into the challenges and issues faced by airlines, airports and the federal government.

### **PADM 5702 W**



## Winter 2027

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are central to how governments design programs, deliver services, and make decisions that affect people's lives today. Protecting that information is not only a legal duty but an increasingly important condition of public trust. This course examines how federal institutions manage privacy as a corporate function across the lifecycle of a program or activity, from lawful authority, governance, and information-flow mapping through privacy impact assessments, breach response, and oversight to continuous improvement. Anchored in legislation, Treasury Board policy, and the work of oversight bodies, it draws on scholarship, federal case studies, and a term-long applied project to build the practical judgment privacy practitioners need in a public sector shaped by artificial intelligence, automation, cloud services, and Big Data.