

Understanding Government for Public Sector Professionals and Managers

Start date	3 July 2019	End date	3 July 2019
Venue	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
Tutors	Professor Colin Talbot & Dr Carole Talbot	Course code	1819NDX409

Tutor biographies

Dr Carole Talbot is a Research Associate at Cambridge and a former lecturer in public policy and management at Manchester Business School.

Professor Colin Talbot is also a Research Associate at Cambridge and emeritus Professor of Government at University of Manchester.

They both have experience of working, researching and consulting across a wide variety of Government and public organizations.

Course programme

This one-day programme is designed to help busy public sector professionals and managers understand how British government works – both the big picture and the nuts and bolts of policy and policy-making. In a very interactive, responsive and hands-on way, we'll explore the 'tools of government' and how they can be deployed in making policy – as well as the various institutions and actors involved. Even if you are not directly involved in policy (making, implementing or evaluating) this event should help you understand better the context of your professional or managerial work.

09:15 Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee

09:45 **Session 1 Tools of Leviathan: what can, and do, Governments do?**

This session will take a step back and think about the things that Governments can do – what tools do they have to make change happen in their societies? We'll look at how Government and public services use Money, Authority, People and Information, or combinations of some or all of these tool-sets, to effect change.

We'll look at some case studies from British government and public service approaches.

11.15 Coffee

11:45 **Session 2 Structures of Leviathan: the institutional components of British Government.**

British government can seem fiendishly complex – at the centre there are numerous (and frequently changing) departments and responsibilities; a changing cast of ministers and civil servants; parliament and the executive; quangos and agencies; etc. And there are increasingly multiple layers of Government from the centre downwards to devolved administrations and local government and local services, as well as upwards to transnational bodies.

We will introduce our own "Governance Regimes" framework to think about who has power over the public service areas we work in.

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **Session 3 Engaging with Policy: Possibilities, Problems and Pitfalls**

Building on the first two sessions we will move on to thinking about where are the 'points of entry' into policymaking processes, depending on the public service or professional issue at stake.

Using real-world cases, this session will be mainly working in groups to explore how an engagement strategy might be developed to address a specific issue – thinking about the tools and institutions that might be involved?

15:15

Tea

15:45

Session 4 Practice

This final session will be mostly working in small “Action Learning” sets (4 people) to look, in turn, at an issue put forward by participants for discussion.

Each participants will have 15 minutes to use the group as a resource to explore their issue and receive suggestions and advice from each other.

(Participants will be asked in the pre-course briefing to bring a policy issue that affects their profession for discussion, with guidance about what sort of issues are appropriate.)

There will be a short Q&A and round-up session at the end.

17:00

Day school ends

Course syllabus

Aims:

This course aims to provide:

- An understanding of what Governments can, and do, do to effect change in their societies and specifically in the public service and professional areas you work in.
- What roles the various institutions of British Government – broadly defined - play in these processes and how tensions and conflicts might play out between them and how these impact on public services.
- Frameworks and resources for thinking about how you, as public service professionals and public service organization, might best engage with these processes and institutions to effect changes you would like to see Government making.

Content:

In an increasingly complex world public service professions, and leaders, frequently engage with Government in various ways and at multiple levels – either as recipients of new Government policies and initiatives or as proponents of change in public services themselves.

This course provides a broad overview of how Government works and how it interacts with society in general and public services in particular. It will provide participants with a space,

and the tools, to take a step back and look at how this all works and what you can do to effect change yourselves.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be a mixture of inputs from the tutors and active participation and problem exploration by participants.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

Understand better what Government does and how it does it.

Understand the structures and institutions of Government.

Apply the frameworks provided to think about how professional engagement with Government works best.

Gain some practical knowledge of how to take issues forward.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Peter Dorey	<i>Policy Making in Britain</i>	Sage 16/05/2014
James Morrison	<i>Essential Public Affairs for Journalists</i>	Oxford University Press 26/11/2011
Michael Moran	<i>Politics and Governance in the UK</i>	Macmillan Education UK 13/10/2017

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 09 April 2019