

Western University
Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
Public Administration: PS4901-002
Session Dates: Feb 28 to April 11 2014

Professor: Tim Cobban
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Subject

This course is designed to provide an advanced overview of local government in Canada. It surveys the structures, functions, and financing of local governments, and examines their relations with federal and provincial governments. Core concepts and ideas are applied to the City of Toronto, primarily through student contributions to class discussions.

Organization

The class will meet from 9:00 - 12:00 and 1:00 - 4:30 in Metro Hall, Room 308.

Course Outline and Readings

The course text is Andrew Sancton's *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011). Any supplemental readings will be distributed electronically.

Readings **must** be completed before the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed.

Copies of lecture slides will be distributed electronically at least 24 hours in advance of class.

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- Feb 28 (am): **Introductions, Definitions, and Systems of Local Government**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapter 1 & 2
- Feb 28 (pm): **Intergovernmental Relations and Special Purpose Bodies**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapter 3 & 4
- March 14 (am): **Local Government Structures**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapters 5 & 6
- March 14 (pm): **Local Government Structures**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapters 7 & 8
- March 28 (am) **Political and Administrative Structures**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapters 9, 10 & 11
- March 28 (pm) **Political and Administrative Structures**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapter 12
- April 4 (am) **Local Government Budgeting and Finance**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapter 13
- April 4 (pm) **Local Government Budgeting and Finance**
 Readings:
 Sancton, Chapters 14 & 15
- April 11 (am) **TEST**
- April 11 (pm) **Discussion: Research Papers**

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Assignments

Test (40 %)

A two-hour test will be held on the morning of Friday, April 10th. The test will consist of short answer and essay questions, and will be based on both assigned readings and lectures.

Research Paper (40 %)

Students must submit a formal essay of approximately 2500 words (12-15 type-written pages, double-spaced) on a topic of their choice related to any of the material covered during the course. The paper must be submitted to the instructor by May 2, 2014.

Papers submitted after this date without prior approval from the instructor will be penalized one mark (out of 40) each day that the paper is late.

Further guidance and instruction will be given in the afternoon session of the final class.

Participation (20%)

You will be assigned a grade out of 20 on the basis of the quantity and quality of your overall contributions to class discussions and seminar activities.