

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science
The Policy Process in Local Government
Public Administration 9902B / Political Science 4902B
May 16-20, 2011

Professor: Dan Henstra
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Course website: www.dmrg.org/policy
Login instructions will be sent by email.

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

PURPOSE

This course examines the public policy-making process in Canadian local governments. It aims to equip students with an analytical framework to understand how ideas, actors and interests interact at various stages, and to explain the factors that influence local policy choices.

ORGANIZATION

The class will meet from 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-4:30 in Room 4255, Social Science Centre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation [20%]

Participation will be assessed based on contributions to class discussions and exercises.

2. Final Exam [35%]

A final exam will be held on the afternoon of **Friday, May 20 from 1:00-3:00pm**, which will consist of short essay questions drawn from the lectures and assigned readings.

3. Research Paper [45%] Due Friday, June 17, by 4:00pm.

Students will submit a 12-15 page research paper that analyzes the politics surrounding a contemporary municipal policy issue, drawing on the concepts and approaches addressed in the course. Further specifications will be provided in class. Papers submitted after June 17 without prior approval will be penalized two marks (out of 100) for each day they are late.

COURSE MATERIALS

The readings for this course include a collection of articles, book chapters and other papers, which will be available on the course website or emailed to students.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS

Monday, May 16

Part A: Local Public Policy

- Read:
- Lightbody, “The Policy-making System of the Canadian City”, 63-89.
 - Theodoulou, “How Public Policy is Made”.

Part B: The Contemporary Policy Environment

- Read:
- Fowler and Siegel, “Urban Public Policy at the Turn of the Century”.
 - Tindal and Tindal, “Municipal Policy Making”.

Tuesday, May 17

Part A: Problem Definition and Issue Framing

- Read:
- Pal, “Problem Definition in Policy Analysis”, 107-125.
 - Carstairs, “Cities Without Cavities”.

Part B: Agenda Setting

- Read:
- Birkland, “Agenda Setting in Public Policy”.
 - Pralle, “The Mouse that Roared”.

Wednesday, May 18

Part A: Policy Formulation

- Read:
- Howlett and Ramesh, “Policy Formulation”.
 - Goetz and Sidney, “Local Policy Subsystems and Issue Definition”.
 - Graham et al., “Interest Groups and Public Participation”.

Part B: Policy Instruments

- Read:
- Pal, “Policy Instruments and Design”, 147-171.

Thursday, May 19

Part A: Policy Adoption (Decision-Making)

- Read:
- Howlett and Ramesh, “Public Policy Decision-Making”.
 - Sutcliffe, “Public Participation in Local Politics”.
 - Irvin and Stansbury, “Citizen Participation in Decision Making: Is It Worth the Effort?”.

Part B: The Multiple Streams Framework

- Read:
- Henstra, “Explaining Local Policy Choices”.

Friday, May 20

Part A: Policy Implementation

- Read:
- Robinson and Gore, “Barriers to Canadian Municipal Response to Climate Change”.
 - Mendes, “Implementing Social and Environmental Policies in Cities”.

Part B: Final Exam