

Western University
Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
Public Administration 9901
Fall 2014

Wednesdays 4:30-6:30 pm
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons
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Course Information

Course Objectives: This course provides 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.

Course Organization: The course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, and student presentations.

Readings and Materials

Required Textbook: Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011) – copies are available in the UWO bookstore.

All other assigned readings will be available electronically, either through the course's OWL site or on-line. Assigned reading should be done **Before** the class in which it is to be discussed.

Requirements:

1. *Two Short Reading Responses.* Every student is required to submit a short reaction paper to the assigned readings for two classes (beginning Sept 24th). These papers should be no more two pages single-spaced and should speak to the main themes and issues raised in the readings. You have some freedom in how you want to approach these responses, but they are **NOT** intended to be summaries. You are encouraged to reflect on any ideas or approaches covered in the readings that you agree or disagree with, to develop an argument that ties some or all of the readings together, and to incorporate your own personal experiences. You will be asked to present one of these responses to the class (see *Class Participation*). You should be prepared to help lead class discussions for each of the sessions that you prepare a response for, and especially during the class in which you present. Responses are to be submitted at the start of the class which is covering the readings that you have responded to. *Late Papers will not be accepted.*

2. *Class Participation*. Two items make up the class participation grade:

a. Attendance and Participation. You must attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate during discussions. If you are unable to attend a particular class, you should advise the instructor in advance.

b. Reading Response Presentation. You will be required to present one of your reading responses to the class. The presentation schedule will be determined during the first class. These presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length. Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations.

3. *Final Essay*. In consultation with the instructor, students should choose an essay topic related to any of the subjects covered above, preferably one on which they are making their oral presentation. The essay should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length and must be submitted by **December 3rd at the latest**. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late.

Evaluation:

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|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Two Short Reading Responses | 10% each = 20% |
| 2. Participation | 30% |
| 3. Final Essay | 50% |

Note on academic offences and plagiarism:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Note for students with disabilities:

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.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Sept. 10 **Organization and Introduction**

Sept. 17 **The What and Why of Local Government**

Readings: Sancton, Chs. 1 and 2
Magnusson, Warren. 1983. "Introduction: The Development of Canadian Urban Government." Pp. 3-57 in *City Politics in Canada*, edited by Warren Magnusson and Andrew Sancton. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Sept. 24 **Central-Local Relations**

Readings: Sancton, Ch. 3
Magnusson, Warren. 2005. "Are Municipalities Creatures of the Province?"

Journal of Canadian Studies 39(2): 5-29.

Garcea, Joseph. 2014. "The Empowerment of Canadian Cities: Classic Canadian Compromise." *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49: 81-104.

Mendelson, Rachel. 2014. "The law said that we could think big. So why didn't we?" *The Toronto Star*, available at http://www.thestar.com/bigideas/2014/03/02/the_law_said_we_could_think_big_so_why_didnt_we.html

Oct. 1 **Central-Local Relations Cont'd: the OMB and Multilevel Governance**

Readings: Moore, Aaron. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 37-52.
Leo, Christopher. 2006. "Deep Federalism: Respecting Community Difference in National Policy." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 39(3): 481-506.
Horak, Martin. 2012. "Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Success and Failure in Canada's Largest City." Pp. 228-262 in *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*, edited by Martin Horak and Robert Young. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.

Oct. 8 **Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regionalism?**

Readings: Sancton, pp. 109-114
Savitch, Hank and Ron Vogel. 2009. "Regionalism and Urban Politics." Pp 106-124 in *Theories of Urban Politics*, 2nd edition, edited by Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
Horak, Martin. 2013. "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto." *Urban Research and Practice* 6(3): 311-328.

Oct. 15 **Special Purpose Bodies**

Readings: Sancton, Ch. 4
Lucas, Jack. 2013. "Hidden in Plain View: Local Agencies, Boards, and Commissions in Canada." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 4, available at http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/253/imfg_1453hiddeninplainview_final_web.pdf
Eidelman, Gabriel. 2013. *Three's Company: A Review of Waterfront Toronto's Tri-government Approach to Revitalization*. Toronto: The Mowat Centre, available at <http://mowatcentre.ca/threes-company/>

Oct. 22 **Responses to Urbanization: Annexation**

Readings: Sancton, Chs. 5 and 6
Taylor, Zack, Marcy Burchfield, and Anna Kramer. 2014. "Alberta Cities at the Crossroads: Urban Development Challenges and Opportunities in Historical and Comparative Perspective." *University of Calgary SPP Research Papers* 7(2), available at <http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/?q=content/alberta-cities->

[crossroads-urban-development-challenges-and-opportunities-historical-and-comp](#)

Oct. 29 **Metropolitan Governance: Two-Tier Systems**

- Readings: Sancton, Ch. 7
Frisken, Francis. 2001. "The Toronto Story: Sober Reflections on Fifty Years of Experiments with Regional Governance." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 23(5): 513-541.
Bish, Robert. 2001. Local Government Amalgamations: Discredited Nineteenth-Century Ideals Alive in the Twenty-First. *C.D. Howe Institute Commentary* No. 150, available at www.cdhowe.org/pdf/bish.pdf

Nov. 5 **Metropolitan Governance: Amalgamations and De-amalgamations**

- Readings: Sancton, Ch. 8
Slack, Enid and Richard Bird. 2013. "Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?" *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 14, available at http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg_no_14_slack_birdr3_online_final.pdf
Kushner, Joseph and David Siegel. 2005. "Are Services Delivered More Efficiently After Municipal Amalgamations?" *Canadian Public Administration* 48(2): 251-267.

Nov. 12 **Internal Municipal Structures and Municipal Politicians**

- Readings: Sancton, Ch. 9
Urbaniak, Tom. 2014. "Studying Mayoral Leadership in Canada and the United States." *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49: 205-227.
Siegel, David. 1987. "City Hall Doesn't Need Parties." *Policy Options* 8(5): 26-27.
Lightbody, James. 1999. "Finding the Trolls under Your Bridge: The New Case for Political Parties in Canadian Cities." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 34(1): 172-183.

Nov. 19 **Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing**

- Readings: Sancton, Ch. 13
Dachis, Benjamin and William B.P. Robson. 2014. "Baffling Budgets: Canada's Cities Need Better Financial Reporting." *C.D. Howe Institute Commentary* No. 397, available at www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_397.pdf
Hanniman, Kyle. 2013. "Borrowing Today for the City of Tomorrow? Municipal Debt and Alternative Financing." *IMFG Forum* No. 3, available at <http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/new-imfg-forum-paper-borrowing-today-for-the-city-of-tomorrow/>

Nov. 26 **Municipal Finance II: Property Taxes, Development Charges, and User-Fees**

Readings: Sancton, pp.199-203 and Ch. 14

Bird, Richard, Enid Slack, and Almos Tassonyi. 2012. *A Tale of Two Taxes: Property Tax Reform in Ontario*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Chs. 1 and 9.

Mintz, Jack M. and Tom Roberts. 2006. "Running on Empty: A Proposal to Improve City Finances." *C.D. Howe Institute Commentary* No. 226, available at http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/commentary_226.pdf

Tomalty, Ray and Andrejs Skaburskis. 2003. "Development Charges and City Planning Objectives." *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12(1): 142-61.