

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
**The Policy Process in Local Government**  
Public Administration 4902/9902b-Political Science 9524b  
Winter 2014

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

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Office Hours: 4133 Social Science Centre; 1:30-3:30 Mondays  
2:30-4:30 Wednesdays  
or by chance or appointment

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to explore the unique features of policy-making in Canadian local governments.

Organization:

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

Class Schedule and Readings:

**Students should have their own copy of the following (paperback) book:**

**Aaron A. Moore, *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013)**

All other readings – including draft chapters for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edn of Sancton, *Canadian Local Government* – will be available electronically through Western Libraries or will be available on the course website (OWL).

Jan. 8           **Introduction**  
                    Readings:     Sancton, new policy ch for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (OWL),

Jan. 15          **Local Parties and Elections**  
                    **Readings:**  
                    Sancton, revised ch.9 for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (OWL)

J. Eric Oliver, *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-scale Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012), especially Introduction, ch.1 and 6. (available online through the Weldon Library)

**Guest: Connie Wheeler, Program Manager, Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative**

Readings: Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI) website:  
<http://www.ombi.ca/>

Jan. 22 **Local Political Economy**

Readings:

Sancton, revised ch.10 for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (OWL)

Moore, Ch. 1 and 2

Jan.29 **Institutions and Processes for Planning: The Toronto Case**

Readings:

Moore, ch.3-7

Feb. 5 **Responding to Federal and Provincial Initiatives**

Readings:

Sancton, new policy ch for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (OWL), pp.4-7.

Daniel Henstra, ed., *Multilevel Governance and Emergency Management in Canadian Municipalities* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), ch. 1 and 6 (OWL)

Christopher Sanderson and Pierre Filion, 'The Development of the Toronto Waterfront: Federal Presence, Institutional Complexity, and Planning Outcomes', in Michael C. Ircha and Robert Young, eds. *Federal Property in Canadian Municipalities* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), ch.5

Feb.12 **Policy-making for Local Economic Growth**

Readings:

Mario Polèse, "Urban-Development Legends," *City Journal*, 21-4 (Autumn 2011) [http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21\\_4\\_urban-development.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_4_urban-development.html)

Timothy W. Cobban, *Cities of Oil: Municipalities and petroleum Manufacturing in Southern Ontario, 1860-1960* (Toronto; University of Toronto Press, 2013), ch.1 and 5 (OWL)

- Feb. 26      **Agenda-Setting Diffusion and Participation**  
 Readings:  
 Sancton, new policy ch for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (OWL), pp. 11-15  
 Daniel Henstra, “Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis, *Canadian Public Administration*, 53-2 (2010), 241-58  
 Charles R. Shipan and Craig Volden, “Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners,” *Public Administration Review* 72-6 (December 2012), 788-96.  
 Brianna Heinrichs, “The Consulter’s Conceit: How Phony Public Consultations Undermine Democracy and the Market”, Manning Foundation for Democratic Participation, ( 2013)  
<http://www.manningfoundation.org/Docs/Consulters-Conceit.pdf>
- March 5      **Symbolic policy-making, including frameworks for future policy actions**  
 Readings: new policy ch for 2<sup>nd</sup> edn (OWL), pp. 15-16.  
 Angela Macleod Irons, *Noble Frustrations*: “The many practical problems with municipal poverty initiatives” Manning Foundation for Democratic Education (2013) <http://www.manningfoundation.org/Docs/Noble-Frustrations.pdf>  
 Martin Horak and Marilyn Dantico, “The Limits of Local Redistribution: Neighbourhood Regeneration Initiatives in Toronto and Phoenix”, forthcoming publication (OWL)  
 Martin Horak and Aaron A. Moore, “Policy Shift without Institutional Change: The Precarious Place of Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto” forthcoming publication (OWL)
- March 12      **Implementation**  
 Readings:  
 Mariana Valverde, *Everyday Life on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012) ch.4 (available online through the Weldon library)
- March 19      **OMBI presentations**
- March 26      **OMBI (and possibly miscellaneous presentations)**

April 2            **Conclusion**  
Readings:  
                    Sancton, draft concluding ch. (16) for 2<sup>nd</sup> ed

### **Course Requirements and Responsibilities**

By January 22, all students must have chosen a local policy issue or an issue to analyze using OMBI data. By January 29 a schedule of oral presentations will be prepared by the instructor. The basic requirements will be as follows:

- Essay outline – 20%  
    A brief outline (approximately 500 words) of the proposed essay together with a listing of the main sources. **Due January 22**
  
- Oral presentation – 10%  
    Each student will be required to make a presentation based on their essay topic. Students scheduled earlier in the term will not be expected to have completed their research.
  
- Essay – 50%  
    An essay of about 3000 words containing a comprehensive treatment of the policy issue or OMBI data-set chosen. **Due April 2**
  
- Overall Participation – 20%