

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
 Political Science 4901a/Public Administration 9901a
 Intersession/Summer 2015

May 4-8, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
 Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Professor: Andrew Sancton
 Phone: 519-850-2985
 E-mail: asancton@uwo.ca

Subject matter

The course examines the main issues associated with the structures, functions, and financing of Canadian local government.

Marks (for details see end of outline)

Test (9:00 – 11:00 a.m., May 7)	30%
Essay	50%
Participation	20%

Text:

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* Second edition (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015)

Other reading referred to below will be available online on or on the course website (OWL-Sakai).

Topics and Readings

Assigned reading should be done **BEFORE** the class in which it is to be discussed.

May 5 **Organization and Introduction**
 Why Local Government?
 Central Governments and Intergovernmental Relations

- Reading: Sancton, ch1-3
 Aaron A. Moore, *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013), pp.37-52 [available on OWL]
 Andrew Sancton, “The False Panacea of City Charters: The Case of Toronto”, paper for University of Calgary School of Public Policy, June 2015 [available on OWL]
- Websites: Association of Municipalities of Ontario:
<https://www.amo.on.ca/default.aspx>
 Federation of Canadian Municipalities:
<http://www.fcm.ca/home.htm>
 Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page11.aspx>

May6 **Special-purpose Bodies
 Urban and Rural**

- Readings: Sancton, ch. 4-5
- Websites: Waterfront Toronto: <http://www.waterfronttoronto.ca/>
 Metrolinx: <http://www.metrolinx.com/en/>
 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards:
<http://www.oapsb.ca/>
 Statistics Canada, 2011 Census:
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>

May 7 **Annexations, Two-tier-Systems, Amalgamations, and De-amalgamations**

- Reading: Sancton, ch.6-8
 Enid Slack and Richard M. Bird, ‘Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?’ Chapter 4 in Anti Mossio, ed., *Rethinking Local Government: Essays on Municipal Reform* (Helsinki: VATT Publications, 2012),
http://www.vatt.fi/file/vatt_publication_pdf/j61.pdf
- Websites: Metro Vancouver:
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/Pages/default.aspx>
 New Brunswick’s Regional Services Commissions:
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/lgl/pdf/RSCQuestions.pdf>

May 8 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – **TEST**

May 8 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Internal Structures of Municipal Governments**

Reading: Sancton, ch. 9, pp. 227-32, and ch.13

Websites: International City Management Association:

<http://icma.org/en/icma/home>

Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators:

<http://www.camacam.ca/en/>

May 9 **Municipal Finances
Conclusion**

Readings:

Sancton, ch.14-16

Benjamin Dachis and William B.P. Robson, *Baffling Budgets: Canada's Cities Need Better Financial Reporting*, C.D. Howe Institute Commentary No.397 (January 2014), available at :

http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_397.pdf

Kyle Hanniman, *Borrowing Today for the City of Tomorrow: Municipal Debt and Alternative Financing* Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the University of Toronto (2013), available at

http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg_1453borrowingtoday_final_web_sept_12.pdf

Richard M. Bird, Enid Slack, and Almos Tassonyi, *A Tale of Two Taxes: Property Tax Reform in Ontario* (Cambridge MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2012), ch. 1 and 9 [available on OWL]

Essay

To be submitted by e-mail by **4:00 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2015:**

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. Topics should be approved by the instructor. Papers submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor are subject to a penalty of one mark (out of 50) each day that the paper is late.

Participation

Students are expected to contribute to the class discussion, based on their own reading and

experience. Asking questions counts as participation. There are no stupid questions, unless the answer is glaringly obvious to anyone who has even leafed through the assigned reading. Participation grades will be based on the thoughtfulness and relevance of oral contributions, not on their frequency or length.