

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science
The Policy Process in Local Government
Public Administration 4902/9902b-Political Science 9524b
Winter 2015

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 2nd edn of Sancton, *Canadian Local Government* – will be available electronically through Western Libraries or will be available on the course website (OWL).

Jan. 7 **Introduction**

Readings: Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd 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. 14 **Local Political Economy**

Readings:

Sancton, 1st edn., pp.211-19.
 Moore, ch. 1 and 2

Jan.21 **Institutions and Processes for Planning: The Toronto Case**

Readings:

Moore, ch.3-7

Jan. 28 **The Politics of Urban development in London ON**

Readings:

Sancton, 1st edn., pp.203-11
 Timothy Cobban, 'The Political Economy of Urban Development: Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993–2002', *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12, 2 (2003): 231–48 [online at Weldon]
 Christopher Leo, "Are There Urban Regimes in Canada? Comment on: Timothy Cobban's "The Political Economy of Urban Development: Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993–2002"", *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12, 2 (2003): 344–8.[online at Weldon]
 Timothy Cobban, 'Timothy Cobban's Reply to Christopher Leo's Comment "Are There Urban Regimes in Canada?"', *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12, 2 (2003): 349–52.

Feb. 4 **Responding to Federal and Provincial Initiatives**

Readings:

Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp.4-7. [check page numbers]
 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)
 Eric Champagne 'Tracking the Growth of the Federal Municipal Infrastructure Program under Different Federal Regimes', in Katherine A.H. Graham and Caroline Andrew, eds., *Canada in Cities: The*

Politics and Policy of Federal-Local Governance (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014), ch.7 (OWL)

Feb. 11 **Transit Policy-making in Toronto**

Readings:

Metrolinx: <http://www.metrolinx.com/en/>

Michael, Schabas, *Review of Metrolinx's Big Move* (Toronto, Neptis Foundation, 2013)

<http://www.neptis.org/publications/review-metrolinxs-big-move>

Feb. 25 **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

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)

March 4 **Agenda-Setting Diffusion and Participation**

Readings:

Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd 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 11 **Symbolic policy-making, including frameworks for future policy actions**

Readings: new policy ch for 2nd 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”, *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49 (2014): 135-58 (online at Weldon)

Martin Horak and Aaron A. Moore, “Policy Shift without Institutional Change: The Precarious Place of Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto” forthcoming publication (OWL)

March 18 **Policy Instruments and Implementation**

Readings:

Christopher Hood and Helen Magetts, *The Tools of Government in the Digital Age* (Houndsmills, Basingstoke, England:Palgrave macmillan, 2007), pp.1-20 (OWL)

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)

Ontario, *Report of the Elliott Lake Commission of Inquiry*, Part One *The Events Leading to the Collapse of the Algo Centre Mall*, pp.246-54, available at:

http://www.elliottlakeinquiry.ca/report/Vol1_E/ELI_Vol1_Ch06_E.pdf

and pp. 598-99, available at:

http://www.elliottlakeinquiry.ca/report/Vol1_E/ELI_Vol1_Ch13_E.pdf

March 25 **OMBI presentations**

April 1 **OMBI (and possibly miscellaneous presentations)**

April 8 **Conclusion**

Readings:

Sancton, concluding ch. For 2nd edn (OWL)

Course Requirements and Responsibilities

By January 21, all students must have chosen a local policy issue or an issue to analyze using OMBI data. By January 28 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 21**
- 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 8**
- Overall Participation – 20%