PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9904B
LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT

Instructor: Dr. Zachary Spicer
Classroom: Committee Room 4, London City Hall
Thursdays: 11:30am – 1:30pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drawing upon theories and research findings in public administration and management, this course examines administrative approaches, issues and debates arising in local governments in a changing environment. Students will learn how the complex and unstable environment of public sector organizations produces both challenges and opportunities for public sector managers, and will work through case material that requires them to apply insights from management and public administration literature to real-world local government settings.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Assigned readings are listed below, in our meeting schedule. All of these readings will be available on the course website. If you are unable to locate any of these readings, please inform the instructor as soon as possible.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation: 25%
This class is designed as a seminar. As such, each student must come prepared and participate regularly. Students will be graded based upon their attendance, understanding of reading material and quality of participation.

Case Study Responses: 75% (3 x 25%)
Students will complete three case study assignments throughout the term. The due dates for each are below:

Case 1: February 8, 2018
Case 2: March 8, 2018
Case 3: March 29, 2018

Students will select their case studies from six available options: student housing regulations, graffiti removal, statutory holiday retail hours, ridesharing regulations, police salaries, and professional sports development. These are not specific problems to one place, but generalized examples. Each case presents a
unique policy issue with an accompanying management challenge. Students will analyze the case and provide a workable solution to the problem, based upon their understanding of good management practices. The cases, along with further details about the assignment, are available on the course website.

Responses should be no more than 8 pages in length. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends. Extensions will only be granted in the event that written confirmation of any extenuating circumstances is provided.

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS**

January 11 – Course Introduction
No Assigned Reading

January 18 – Thinking About Public Sector Management

January 25 – Leadership in the Public Sector
Reed, George. 2014. “Expressing Loyal Dissent: Moral Considerations from Literature on Followership.” Public Integrity 17(1): 5-18

February 1 – The Role of the CAO and Council-Staff Relations
February 8 – Community and Citizen Engagement

*Case Study 1 Due*

February 15 – Performance Management

February 22 – No Class

March 1 – Inter-Local Collaboration

March 8 – Contracting Out

*Case Study 2 Due*
March 15 – No Class

March 22 – Select Topics: Managing Technological and Policy Disruption
Söderström, Ola, Till Paasche and Francisco Klauser. 2014. “Smart Cities as Corporate Storytelling.” City 18(3): 307-320

March 29 – Select Topics: Election Management and the 2018 Election

*Case Study 3 Due*

April 5 – Select Topics: New Models for Funding Local Government?