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 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.

Policy/Administrative Challenge: 75%
This course will examine ten policy and administrative challenges in the City of Sarnia. Students will work in groups to make informed recommendations on the following topics:
- Complaint tracking under Public Sector and MPP Accountability And Transparency Act
- Communications plan for internet/telephone voting
- Organization-wide review of records management practices
- Implementation of communications and engagement strategy
- Committee governance review
- Procedure by-law update and Deputy Mayor implementation
- Delegation of authority by-law review
- Meeting changes resulting from the Modernizing Ontario’s Municipal Legislation Act (2017)
- Noise by-law update
- Policy binder review

James Jenkins from the City of Sarnia will join us during our first class on January 11th to elaborate on the City’s interest in each area. During our first meeting you will also select your group members and topic. Students will compile and submit an initial brief of their topic, before handing in their final report and presentation, at which representatives from the City of Sarnia will provide each group with feedback. Presentation dates will be randomly assigned. The dates for each segment of this assignment are below:

January 11, 2018: Selection of Policy/Administrative Challenge
February 8, 2018: Initial Solution Brief (10%)
March 29, 2018 and April 5, 2018: Presentation (25%)
April 5, 2018: Final Report (40%)

More information on assignment requirements will be made available in class.

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND REQUIRED READINGS**

**January 11 – Course Introduction**
No Assigned Reading

**Special Guest: James Jenkins, City of Sarnia**

**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


*Initial Brief Due*

February 15 – Performance Management


February 22 – No Class

March 1 – Inter-Local Collaboration


March 8 – Contracting Out

March 15 – No Class

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

March 29 – Presentations

April 5 – Presentations