

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**Advanced Local Government**  
PA 9901  
Fall 2018

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

Instructor: Joe Lyons  
Office: 4162 SSC  
Office hours: Tuesdays 10am-12pm  
E-mail: [jlyons7@uwo.ca](mailto:jlyons7@uwo.ca)  
Phone: 519-661-2111, ext. 85168

---

### **Course Information**

**Course Objectives:** This course provides an advanced overview of local government in Canada. It surveys the structures, functions, and financing of local governments, and examines their relations with federal and provincial governments. This course is also a gateway for the rest of the program. It will give students the foundational knowledge needed to understand many of the most important issues facing local governments in Canada.

**Course Organization:** The course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, group work, and student presentations.

### **Readings and Materials**

Required Textbook: Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd edition (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015) – copies are available in the university bookstore.

All other assigned readings will be available electronically, either through the course's OWL site or on-line. Assigned reading should be done **Before** the class in which it is to be discussed.

### **Requirements:**

1. *Reading Response.* Every student is required to submit a reaction paper on the assigned readings for one session (beginning September 19<sup>th</sup>). This paper should be **no more than** two single-spaced pages. It should speak to some of the main themes and issues raised in the readings but is **NOT** intended to be a summary. You are encouraged to reflect on any ideas or approaches that you agree or disagree with, to develop an argument that ties some or all the readings together, and/or incorporate your own personal experiences.

You will present this response to the class (see *Class Participation*). You should also be prepared to help lead the class discussion that follows your presentation.

Responses are to be submitted at the start of the class on the day that they are due.  
*Late papers will not be accepted.*

2. *Class Participation.* Two items make up the class participation grade:

a. **Attendance and Participation.** You must attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate during discussions and group work. If you are unable to attend a class, you should advise the instructor in advance.

b. **Reading Response Presentation.** You will be required to present your reading response to the class. This presentation should be **approximately 5 minutes** long. The reading response/presentation schedule will be determined during the first class. Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations.

3. *Research Project.* In consultation with the instructor, students should choose a research topic related to any of the topics covered below. Two items make up the research paper grade:

a. **Research Proposal.** Students will submit a research proposal by **October 31<sup>st</sup>**, using a standardized form provided by the instructor. The aim of the research proposal is to help you focus your research question and develop a sound structural framework for your paper.

b. **Research Paper.** The paper should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length and must be submitted by **December 17<sup>th</sup> at the latest**. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late.

### **Evaluation**

1. Reading Response:	20%
2. Participation:	25%
3. Research Project:	
a. Proposal	10%
b. Paper	45%

### **Note on academic offences and plagiarism:**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf).

### **Note for students with disabilities:**

Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

---

### **Course Schedule and Required Readings**

Sept. 12      **Orientation, Introduction, and Organization**

Sept. 19      **The What and Why of Local Government**

Readings:    Sancton, chs. 1, 2, and 5.

Sept. 26      **Internal Municipal Structures**

Readings:    Sancton, pp. 182-185; 190-197; 227-232; 270-71; 278-275.  
Michael Fenn and David Siegel. 2017. "The Evolving Role of City Managers

and Chief Administrative Officers.” *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 31,  
[http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/420/imfgpaper\\_no31\\_cao\\_fennsiegel\\_may\\_5\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/420/imfgpaper_no31_cao_fennsiegel_may_5_2017.pdf).

Sancton, Andrew. 2017. “Accountability Officers and Integrity in Canadian Municipal Government.” *IMFG Perspectives* No. 17,  
[http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/388/imfgperspectives17\\_a\\_sancton\\_mar\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/388/imfgperspectives17_a_sancton_mar_2017.pdf).

### ***Class Exercise***

In groups, read the “Hiring a CAO” case study distributed by the instructor. The instructor will assign case activities/discussion questions to each group.

### **Oct. 3            Municipal Elections**

Readings:        Sancton, pp. 173-181; 185-190; 197-201.  
Sayers, Anthony and Jack Lucas. 2017. “Policy Responsiveness and Political Accountability in City Politics.” *University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Research Papers* 10 (4),  
<https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Policy-Responsiveness-Sayers-Lucas.pdf>.  
Moore, Aaron. 2017. “The Potential and Consequences of Municipal Electoral Reform.” *IMFG Perspectives* No. 20,  
[https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/78793/1/IMFG\\_perspectives\\_20\\_electoral\\_reform\\_AaronMoore\\_Oct\\_17\\_2017.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/78793/1/IMFG_perspectives_20_electoral_reform_AaronMoore_Oct_17_2017.pdf).

### **Oct. 10           Federal-Provincial-Local Relations**

Readings:        Sancton, ch. 3  
Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. Forthcoming. “Governing Canadian Cities.” In *Canadian Cities in Transition: Perspectives for an Urban Age*, 6th edition, edited by Pierre Filion et al. Toronto: Oxford University Press.  
Fraser, Clara MacCallum and Leela Viswanathan. 2013. “The Crown Duty to Consult and Ontario Municipal-First Nations Relations: Lessons Learned from the Red Hill Valley Parkway Project.” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 22 (Supplement): 1-19.

### **Oct. 17           Provincial-Local Relations**

Readings:        Spicer, Zachary. 2018. “Municipalities and Canadian Public Administration.” In *Issues in Canadian Governance*, edited by Jonathan Craft and Amanda Clarke. Toronto: Emond.  
Moore, Aaron. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*, pp. 37-52. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  
Shott, Allison. 2017. “The Composition of Municipal Associations and Policy Requests to Provincial Governments: Selected Cases.” *Canadian Public Administration*, 60 (1): 111-34.

Oct. 24        **\*No Class\***

Oct. 31        **Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing**  
                  \*Research Proposal Due\*

Readings:     Sancton, pp. 289-301.  
                  Hanniman, Kyle. 2013. "Borrowing Today for the City of Tomorrow?  
                  Municipal Debt and Alternative Financing." *IMFG Forum* No. 3,  
                  [http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg\\_1453borrowingtoday\\_final\\_web\\_sept\\_12.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg_1453borrowingtoday_final_web_sept_12.pdf).  
                  Siemiatycki, Matti. 2017. "Developing Homeless Shelters Through Public-Private Partnerships: The Case of the Red Door Family Shelter in Toronto." *Journal of Urban Affairs*, DOI: 10.1080/07352166.2017.1368299

***Class Exercise***

In groups, read the "Balancing the Budget" case study distributed by the instructor. The instructor will assign case activities/discussion questions to each group.

Nov. 7         **Municipal Finance II: Municipal Revenue Sources**

Readings:     Sancton, ch. 15 and pp. 301-312; 202-207.  
                  Slack, Enid. 2017. "How Much Local Autonomy do Cities Have? A Comparison of Eight Cities Around the World." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 19,  
                  [https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/432/imfg\\_perspectives\\_local\\_fiscal\\_autonomy\\_enidslack\\_july\\_25\\_2017.pdf](https://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/432/imfg_perspectives_local_fiscal_autonomy_enidslack_july_25_2017.pdf)  
                  Slack, Enid and Almos Tassonyi. 2017. "Financing Urban Infrastructure in Canada: Who Should Pay?" *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 34,  
                  [https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/79554/1/imfgpaper\\_no34\\_financinginfrastructure\\_slack\\_tassonyi\\_Nov\\_9\\_2017.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/79554/1/imfgpaper_no34_financinginfrastructure_slack_tassonyi_Nov_9_2017.pdf).

***Class Exercise***

In groups, read the "Subsidizing Transit Passes for Seniors" case study. The instructor will assign case activities/discussion questions to each group.

Nov. 14        **Urban Governance I: Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regionalism?**

Readings:     Sancton, pp. 112-117.  
                  Savitch, Hank and Ron Vogel. 2009. "Regionalism and Urban Politics." In *Theories of Urban Politics*, 2nd edition, edited by Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio, pp. 106-124. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.  
                  Horak, Martin. 2013. "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto." *Urban Research and Practice* 6 (3): 311-28.

***Class Exercise***

Decide on the most appropriate governing arrangement for a fictional metropolitan area.

Nov. 21      **Urban Governance II: Inter-Municipal Agreements, Special-Purpose Bodies, and Annexations**

Readings:      Sancton, chs. 4 and 6.  
Lyons, Joseph and Zachary Spicer. 2018. "Accountability and Local Collaborative Governance." In *Accountability and Responsiveness at the Municipal Level: Views from Canada*, edited by Sandra Breaux and Jérôme Couture, pp. 177-199.

***Class Exercise***

In groups, use the 'Governance Assessment Tool' to assess the democratic performance of a Canadian special-purpose body.

Nov. 28      **Urban Governance III: Two-Tier Systems and Amalgamations**

Readings:      Sancton, pp. 117-137 and Ch. 8.  
Slack, Enid and Richard Bird. 2013. "Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?" *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 14, [http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg\\_no\\_14\\_slack\\_birdr3\\_online\\_final.pdf](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg_no_14_slack_birdr3_online_final.pdf).  
Wolman, Harold. 2017. "Looking at Regional Governance Institutions in Other Countries as a Possible Model for US Metropolitan Areas: An Examination of Multipurpose Regional Service Delivery Districts in British Columbia." *Urban Affairs Review*, DOI: 10.1177/1078087416689824.

Dec. 5      **Urban Governance IV: Multilevel and Network Governance**

Readings:      Horak, Martin. 2012. "Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Success and Failure in Canada's Largest City." In *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*, edited by Martin Horak and Robert Young, 228-62. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.  
van Popering-Verkerk, Jitske and Arwin van Buuren. 2016. "Decision-Making Patterns in Multilevel Governance: The Contribution of Informal and Procedural Interactions to Significant Multilevel Decisions." *Public Management Review* 18 (7): 951-971 (skim pp. 957-964).  
Doberstein, Carey. 2016. "Designing Collaborative Governance Decision Making in Search of a Collaborative Advantage." *Public Management Review* 18 (6): 819-841.