Western University
Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
PA 9901L – 001
Summer 2023

May 8-12, 9am-4pm daily
Room 7210, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons
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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 consists of a combination of readings, quizzes, lectures, class discussions, case studies, and class exercises. We will meet daily from 9am to 4pm in SSC 7210. Most days we will cover one topic in the morning and one in the afternoon. Morning and afternoon sessions will be structured similarly. We will begin with a short lecture before moving on to active-learning type activities such as case studies and class exercises. We will break for approximately 30 minutes in the morning, one hour for lunch, and 30 minutes in the afternoon.

Readings and Materials:

Required Textbooks


2. Advanced Local Government PA 9901. (This is a custom coursebook that includes all the case studies. Hereafter referred to as Spicer et al.)

Both textbooks are available through the Book Store: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=22023&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/PAD9901.

All other assigned readings will be available electronically, either through the course’s OWL site or online. Assigned reading should be done BEFORE the class in which it is to be discussed.
Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Participation.** You must keep up with the readings, attend all in-class sessions, and participate during discussions, case study-related activities, and class exercises. If you are unable to attend a class, you should advise the instructor in advance.

2. **Quizzes.** There will be a short quiz associated with each topic. These quizzes will be based on the assigned readings and lectures and will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, and/or true or false questions. They are designed to ensure that you have properly understood the material. The quizzes will be posted and completed through the ‘Tests & Quizzes’ tab on OWL. All quizzes must be completed by 5pm on Friday, May 12th.

3. **Case Studies Journal.** We will be working through case studies and discussion questions from the custom Spicer et al. textbook throughout the course. These case studies are intended to reinforce and complement material from the readings and lectures. As a form of active learning, they also encourage higher-order and critical thinking. For many of these case studies, you will be thrust into the role of an administrator or politician faced with a complex and complicated scenario for which there is often no single right answer or path.

   For the case studies journal, you must submit an independent collection of your written responses to one discussion question from five of the 10 case studies assigned from the Spicer et al. textbook (for a total of five entries). Journal entries must be clearly labelled and numbered (e.g., Balancing the Budget – Discussion Question 3), double-spaced, and written in 12-point font. You must also write in full sentences and paragraphs. Each entry should be approximately one page in length (2-3 paragraphs). External sources should be cited according to the ASA style guide. The journals are due by May 15th at 11:55pm. (You will be given class time to work on them.) They must be submitted as a single Word document through ‘Assignments’ tab on the course’s OWL site.

4. **Research Paper.** You must write and submit a research paper of approximately 2,000 words. This is an opportunity for you to further investigate some aspect of course material that you find particularly interesting. Your topic must be approved by the instructor before the end of class on Friday, May 12th. The research paper is due by 11:55pm on Tuesday, May 23rd. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late. More details to be provided during class and on OWL.

**Evaluation**

1. Attendance and Participation: 20%
2. Quizzes: 10%
3. Case Studies Journal: 30%
4. Research Paper: 40%

**Relevant University Policies**

**Enrollment Restrictions:**
Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in the Local Government Program, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student’s home program.

**Statement on Academic Offences:**
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [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)

**University Services**

**Accessible Education Western (AEW):**
Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

**Health/Wellness Services:**
Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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**Course Schedule and Required Readings**

*Monday, May 8*

**Morning**

**Topic 1**  
Orientation, Introduction, and Organization

**Topic 2**  
The What and Why of Local Government

Readings:  
Sancton, chs. 1, 2, and 6.  
Lucas, Jack and Alison Smith. 2019. “Which policy issues matter in
Canadian municipalities? A survey of municipal politicians.” *University of Calgary SPP Research Paper* 12 (8), http://dx.doi.org/10.11575/sppp.v12i0.56964.

Case Study: Spicer et al., “Blowing the Whistle.”

**Afternoon**

**Topic 3**  
**Internal Municipal Structures**


Case Study: Spicer et al., “Hiring a CAO.”

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**Tuesday, May 9**

**Morning**

**Topic 4**  
**Municipal Elections**


Case Studies: Spicer et al., “Introducing Online and Telephone Voting” and/or “Changing Municipal Electoral Boundaries.”

Guest Speaker: Christy Sich, Teaching and Learning Librarian, Western Libraries

**Afternoon**

**Topic 5**  
**Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations I: Federal-Provincial-Local Relations**


Case Study: Spicer et al., “Responding to the Recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”

**Wednesday, May 10**

**Morning**

**Topic 6** Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations II: Provincial-Local Relations

**Readings:**

Case Study: Spicer et al., “Applying for an Intergovernmental Grant.”

**Afternoon**

**Topic 7** Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing

**Readings:**
- Sancton, pp. 277-286; 261-266.

Case Study: Spicer et al., “Balancing the Budget.”

**Thursday, May 11**

**Morning**

**Topic 8** Municipal Finance II: Municipal Revenue Sources

**Readings:**
- Sancton, ch. 16 and pp. 286-297; 190-194.

Guest speaker: Paul Schmidt, Associate Director, Writing Support Centre

**Afternoon**

Topic 9  
**Urban Governance I: Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regionalism?**

Readings:  

**Class Exercise:** Decide on the most appropriate governing arrangement for a fictional metropolitan area.

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**Friday, May 12**

**Morning**

Topic 10  
**Urban Governance II: Inter-Municipal Cooperation, Special-Purpose Bodies, Municipal Restructuring, and Provincial Overlays**

Readings:  
Sancton, chs. 5 and 7, pp. 113-133, and ch. 9 (a lot of this can be skimmed).  

Case Study:  
Spicer et al., “Negotiating an Inter-Municipal Water Agreement.”

**Class Exercise:** In groups, use the ‘Governance Assessment Tool’ to assess the democratic performance of a Canadian special-purpose body.

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**Afternoon**

Topic 11  
**Urban Governance III: Multilevel and Collaborative Governance**

Readings:  

Case Study:  
Spicer et al., “Opening a Safe Injection Site.”