

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
**The Policy Process in Local Government**  
Public Administration 9902b/Political Science 9524b  
Winter 2011  
Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30  
Room 4255 SSC

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Purpose:

This course introduces students to the policy process in Canadian local governments. Basic models of policy analysis and the policy process are examined and then applied to the local government setting. The focus is Canadian and municipal, but special purpose bodies and other systems of local government (especially American) are also analyzed.

Readings and Materials:

The readings are a collection of scholarly papers and book chapters that will be distributed electronically to students. Suitable local policy documents may also be distributed from time to time.

Assignments:

The major assignment is a research paper of about 3000 words on a topic related to any of those covered during the course. The paper is worth **50 percent** of the final course grade and is due, in class, on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Overdue submissions will be penalized one percent of the final course grade for each day that the paper is late. Students will also give a short, 15 minute presentation of their papers during one of the three final seminars. The order of the presentations over those three classes will be set in early March. The presentation is worth **10 percent** of the final course grade.

The secondary assignment is a critical analysis of a local government policy. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed at the end of January. The analysis should be about 1200 words and is worth **20 percent** of the final course. It is due, in class, on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Seminar participation is worth **20 percent** of the final course grade. This will be based on overall contributions to seminar discussion and participation in any group activities that occur during the term.

## Topics and Readings

- January 5      Course Organization
- January 12     Policy Analysis: Approaches  
C. E. Lindblom, "Muddling Through," *Public Administration Review* 19:2 (1959), 79-88.  
L. A. Pal, *Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Toronto: Nelson Canada, 1992), 1-37.  
P. A. Sabatier, "The Need for Better Theories," In P. A. Sabatier (ed.), *Theories of the Policy Process* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1999), 3-17.
- January 19     Local Context and Constraints  
C. R. Tindal and S. N. Tindal, *Local Government in Canada*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Toronto: Thomson Nelson, 2009), 57-81, 361-391.  
B. Jacob et al., "Re-Thinking Local Autonomy: Perceptions from Four Rural Municipalities," *Canadian Public Administration* 51:3 (2008), 407-427.
- January 26     Local Actors and Interests  
R. MacDermid, "Campaign Finance and Campaign Success in Municipal Elections in the Toronto Region," Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, Saskatoon, 2007.  
A. Sancton and P. Woolner, "Full-Time Municipal Councillors: A Strategic Challenge for Canadian Urban Government," *Canadian Public Administration* 33:4 (1990), 482-505.
- February 2     Local Political Imperatives  
P. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981), 17-38.  
C. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1989), 3-12, 234-245.  
W. Fischel, *The Homevoter Hypothesis* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2001), 72-97.
- February 9     Agenda Setting and Non-Decisions  
P. Bachrach and M. S. Baratz, "Two Faces of Power," *American Political Science Review*, 56:4 (1962), 947-952.  
M. A. Crenson, *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution: A Study of Non-Decisionmaking in the Cities* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press), 1-34.

- February 16 Agenda Setting and Issue Framing  
 F. R. Baumgartner and B. D. Jones, *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009), 124-150.  
 R. Young and K. McCarthy, "Why Do Municipal Issues Rise on the Federal Policy Agenda in Canada?" *Canadian Public Administration* 52:3 (2009), 347-370.  
 S. Pralle, "The "Mouse that Roared": Agenda Setting in Canadian Pesticides Politics," *The Policy Studies Journal* 34:2 (2006), 171-194.
- February 23 NO CLASS
- March 2 Policy Design and Instruments  
 C. Hood and H. Margetts, *The Tools of Government in the Digital Age* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 1-117.
- March 9 Implementation  
 P. A. Sabatier and D. A. Mazmanian, "The Implementation of Public Policy," In D. A. Mazmanian and P. A. Sabatier (eds.), *Effective Policy Implementation* (Lexington, Mass. : Lexington Books, 1981.), 3-35.  
 P. Robinson and C. D. Gore, "Barriers to Canadian Municipal Response to Climate Change," *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*, 14:1 (2005), 102-120.
- March 16 Participation  
 A. Fung, *Empowered Participation: Reinventing Urban Democracy* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004), 99-128.  
 P. John, "Can Citizen Governance Redress the Representative Bias of Political Participation?" *Public Administration Review* 69:3 (2009), 494-503.
- March 23 Paper presentations
- March 30 Paper presentations
- April 6 Paper presentations