

Department of Political Science
University of Western Ontario
Local Government Program
Fall Term 2011
Course Outline

Municipal Law - Public Administration 9911a

Office: Social Science Centre 4226A

Art Zuidema

Jyoti V. Zuidema

Classroom: 4255 SSC

Weekend #1 Introduction
Course Format and Grading Scheme
Introduction to Law
Ontario Municipal Board Rules and Legislation
Niagara Escarpment Commission
Expropriations
Legal Research Law Library Tour
Witness Tips
Overview of Project Expectations

Suggested Readings: Introduction to Law in Canada Chapters 1 to 4 inclusive
Introduction to Law in Canada Chapter 5 (skim only)
Case Study (to be distributed)

Optional Readings: *Ontario Municipal Board Act*
Ontario Municipal Board Rules of Procedure
Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act
Niagara Escarpment Plan
Expropriation Act

Weekend #2 Conservation Authorities
Special Legislation Bodies
Judicial Review and Municipal Liability
Constitution / Charter
Heritage Act
Planning Law
Student Presentations

Suggested Readings: Introduction to Law in Canada Chapter 9
Introduction to Law in Canada Chapters 10 and 11 (skim only)

Optional Readings: *Conservation Authorities Act*
Planning Act
Heritage Act

Weekend #3 Freedom of Information
 Conflict of Interest
 Privilege and Confidentiality
 Inside / Outside Counsel
 Human Resources
 Review for Final Exam
 Final Exam

Suggested Readings: Introduction to Law Chapter 7 (skim only)

Optional Readings: *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Adjustments of time and date may be necessary for Guest Speakers. All legislation can be reviewed and/or downloaded from www.e-laws.gov.on.ca

Grading and Assignments for Course:

Student Presentation (50% of final grade allocated as follows:

presentation – 15%
executive summary – 15%
paper – 20%):

Students, in groups, will be required to present a topic related to municipal law that is not covered in this course. All members of a group will receive the same mark. The **presentation** should be no more than **15 minutes** in length. The presentation will be worth **15%**.

Each group is required to prepare an executive summary of their presentation for distribution to the class at the time of their presentation. The **executive summary** shall be no more than **3 pages** in length. The executive summary is worth **15%**. PowerPoint equipment will be available for the presentations. Students will be graded on the following:

- relevance of the presentation to municipal local government
- thoroughness and accuracy of the presentation

- insight and analysis of the topic chosen
- presentation and creativity of the subject matter

A **paper** from the group of no more than **10 pages** on the topic is to be provided 1 week following the presentation. The paper is worth **20%**.

The presentation, executive summary and paper must be provided, one week following the presentation, in electronic format on a CD **AND** two hard copies mailed to the instructors as noted in class. Upon receipt, a confirmation email will be sent to one member of the group advising that the materials have been received.

Final Exam (50% of final grade):

An in-class final exam will be held on **November 26, 2011 from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm**. The exam will test students on all material covered in the course including the student presentations and guest speakers. Students will be permitted to bring their legislation, class notes and handouts for reference. The exam will be “open-book.” The exam will consist of multiple choice, true or false, short answer and/or essay questions.

Suggested Readings and Optional Readings:

It is recommended that the suggested readings be completed in advance of class. Please note that the optional readings are meant to supplement the material and are not required. Each student can gauge the extent to which he or she wishes to review the optional materials.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar and also the UWO Registrar’s Website for further information). The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.