Advanced Local Government
Public Administration 9901a/Political Science 9523a/Political Science 4901 – 004
Autumn 2012

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30
Room SSC 4255

Professor: Tim Cobban
Phone: 661-2111, ext. 84929
E-mail: tcobban@uwo.ca
Office: 4218 Social Science Centre
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00, or by appointment

Purpose:
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.

Organization:
The class will meet from 4:30-6:30.

Course Outline and Readings:
The primary text for this class is Andrew Sancton’s *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011). This is available for purchase in the University Bookstore. All other assigned reading material will be available electronically through the course website on OWL. Readings must be completed before the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed.

Assignments:

Research Paper (70 %)
Students must submit a formal essay of approximately 2500 words (12-15 type-written pages, double-spaced) on a topic of their choice related to any of the material covered during the course. The paper must be submitted to the instructor by Dec. 5th. Papers submitted after this date without prior approval from the instructor will be penalized 10% each day that the paper is late.

Participation (30%)
You will be assigned a grade out of 30 on the basis of the quantity and quality of your overall contributions to seminar discussions and activities, which may include assigned presentations.
Topics and Readings

Sept. 12  Introduction, Organization
          Sancton, “Introduction”

Sept. 19  Definitions, Functions
          Sancton, Ch. 1, 2.

Sept. 26  Origins, Evolutions, and Legacies
          W. Magnusson, “Introduction: The Development of Canadian
          Urban Government,” In W. Magnusson and A. Sancton,
          (eds.), City Politics in Canada (Toronto: University of

Oct. 3    NO CLASS

Oct. 10  Central-Local Relations
          Sancton, Ch. 3
          W. Magnusson, “Are Municipalities Creatures of the Province?”
          Leuprecht, (eds.), Canada: The State of the Federation
          2004 (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University
          Press, 2006).

Oct. 17  Special Purpose Bodies
          Sancton, Ch. 4
          Natalie Myhal, "Existing Rationales for Agencies, Boards, and
          Commissions," in Dale Richmond and David Siegel, eds.,
          Agencies, Boards, and Commissions in Canadian Local
          Government (Toronto: Institute of Public Administration of
          Canada. 1994), ch.4.

Oct. 24  Responses to Urbanization: Annexation
          Sancton, Ch. 5, 6
          R.L. Bish, Local Government Amalgamations: Discredited
          Nineteenth-Century Ideals Alive in the Twenty-First, C.D
          Howe Institute Commentary No.150 (March 2001).

Oct. 31  Regionalism vs. Public Choice
          Sancton, Ch. 7
          D. Cashaback, “Regional District Governance in British Columbia:
          A Case Study in Aggregation,” Institute on Governance,
Nov. 7 Amalgamations and De-Amalgamations
Sancton, Ch. 8

Nov. 14 Internal structures: Mayors, Councillors, and Politics
Sancton, Ch. 9, 10, 11

Nov. 21 Administration and Management
Sancton, Ch. 12

Nov. 28 Finance I: Budgets and Revenues
Sancton, Ch. 13

Dec. 5 Finance II: Property Tax
Sancton, Ch. 14

Simon Fraser University, June 2001.