

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
**The Policy Process in Local Government**  
Political Science 4902/Public Administration 9902b/Political Science 9524b  
Winter 2013

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

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Office Hours: 4133 Social Science Centre; 2:30-4:30 on Wednesdays

Purpose:

The purpose of this course is to explore the unique features of policy-making in Canadian local governments.

Organization:

The course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, and student presentations.

Class Schedule and Readings:

The main textbook is: Martin Horak and Robert Young, eds., *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2012)

Students also should have a copy of Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011).

All other readings will be available electronically on the web or through Western Libraries or will be available on the course website (OWL).

- Jan. 9      **Introduction**  
Readings:      Young in Young & Horak, eds., ch.1  
                         Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI) website:  
                         <http://www.ombi.ca/>
- Jan. 16      **Problem Definition and Agenda-Setting**  
Readings:  
                         Daniel Henstra, "Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams  
                         Analysis," *Canadian Public Administration*, 53-2 (2010), 241-58

- Pamela Blais, *Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy, and Urban Sprawl* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2010), ch.1-3
- Robert Young and Kelly McCarthy, "Why Do Municipal Policy Issues Rise on the Federal Policy Agenda in Canada?" *Canadian Public Administration*, 52-3 (2009), 347-70
- Mario Polese, "Urban-Development Legends," *City Journal*, 21-4 (Autumn 2011) [http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21\\_4\\_urban-development.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_4_urban-development.html)

Jan.23 **City Limits and the Analysis of Urban Politics**

Readings:

- Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981), pp.3-6, 17-46, and ch.6
- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, pp.171-9

Jan.30 **The City as a "Growth Machine"**

Readings:

- Harvey Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine," *American Journal of Sociology*, 82-2 (1976), 309-30
- Aaron Moore, "Passing the Buck: The Ontario Municipal Board and Local Politicians in Toronto, 2000-2006," paper delivered to the Annual Conference of the Canadian political Science Association, May 2009  
<http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2009/Moore.pdf>
- Mississauga Judicial Inquiry, *Updating the Ethical Infrastructure* (2011)  
[http://www.mississaugainquiry.ca/report/index\\_pdf.html](http://www.mississaugainquiry.ca/report/index_pdf.html) Read: "Phase II: City Centre Land and World Class Developments"
- Miller & Smart in Horak & Young, eds., pp.25-32 & 46-47.  
Sancton, ch.10

Feb.6 **Urban Regimes**

Readings:

- Clarence N. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1964-1988* (Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1989), pp.ix-xii, 3-12, & 234-45
- Timothy Cobban, "The political economy of urban development: Downtown revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993-2002," *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12-2 (Winter 2003), 231-49

Christopher Leo, Are there urban regimes in Canada? Reply to Timothy Cobban," *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12-2 (Winter 2003), 344-8.

Timothy Cobban, " Reply to Christopher Leo," *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12-2 (Winter 2003), 349-53.

Kristin Good, *Municipalities and Multiculturalism: The Politics of Immigration in Toronto and Vancouver* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009) ch.2

Sancton, pp.226-41.

Feb.13, Feb. 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27

**Student Presentations Municipal & Intergovernmental Policy Making and on the Ontario Benchmarking Initiative** (schedule to be determined in class)

Readings:

Horak & Young, eds, ch.2-11

April 3      **Guest speaker – TBA**

April 10      **Conclusion**

Readings:

Horak and Young, eds., Ch.12

Sancton, ch.15

### **Course Requirements and Responsibilities**

On January 9 we shall have a full class discussion about requirements, responsibilities, and scheduling. Guests representing the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI) will be present to outline the research and learning opportunities deriving from our Program's new partnership with OMBI (see "Written Assignment" below).

- Oral presentation – 20%  
Starting on February 13, each student will be required to make one oral presentation relating to the subject matter of their written assignment. Presentations relating to OMBI will be scheduled toward the end of the course. Dates for other

presentations will be assigned so as to match as closely as possible the assigned topic for a particular class session.

- Written assignment – 60%

An essay of about 2500-3000 words containing a comprehensive analysis of the policy process relating to a local decision or non-decision. The issue can be chosen by the student but must be approved by the instructor. Topics related to the six policy fields covered by Horak and Young in *Sites of Governance* are particularly encouraged. **OR**

A written submission relating to work connected with the partnership between our Local Government Program and the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI). The plan for this project must be approved by the instructor.

**Due April 10**

- Overall Participation – 20%