

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9917

Issues in Local Government

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Spring 2013

Course Dates and Times

The class will meet from 9:00am until 12:00 noon and 1:00pm until 4:30pm from Monday to Friday, June 10 to 14 inclusive in SSC 4255. Note, however, that **on Thursday June 13, we will start the afternoon class at 2pm** because I need to be present at the orientation for next year's MPA students.

We will take a 20-30 minute break each morning and afternoon.

Course Objectives

This is the 'capstone' course in the MPA program. The objectives are two-fold:

First, the course provides a venue for students to review and apply what they have learned in other courses, by discussing a selection of topics related to local government. A couple of these topical discussions will be introduced by the instructor. In addition, the course will feature four guest speakers, all seasoned local government professionals who will discuss issues in their area of expertise, drawing on their personal experience. Students will also apply what they have learned in the MPA program to a short written response to a recent book on local / urban issues (see below)

Second, the course provides a venue for students to get constructive critical feedback on their final MPA research projects. About ½ of the course time is devoted to hearing and discussing student presentations, and all students are expected to be active participants in critiquing and questioning the work of their peers.

Course Readings

The reading load for this course is kept to a minimum. The main reading assignment involves one book of your choice (see list below), to which you will write a short critical response paper, due one week after the end of class. Some of our guest speakers may also assign light background reading for their presentations. Any such reading will be posted in advance of the course on the OWL website. An announcement will be distributed once this reading is posted.

Course Evaluation

Your grade will be composed of the following:

Participation in class discussion:	20%
Presentation on research project (see below):	40%
Critical response assignment (see below):	40%

Presentation on research project:

Each of you will prepare a presentation of about 10 minutes on your final MPA research project. The main purpose of this presentation is to allow for constructive critical input on your MRP-in-progress from the instructor and your peers. I have scheduled the presentations as noted below, grouping the topics by theme where possible.

The content of your presentation will vary slightly depending on how well advanced your project is. In general, I expect you to: State the research question; briefly outline your research design; summarize what you have done and found so far, and what you still need to do; tell us about any challenges / issues / problems that you are facing.

Since a major purpose of the presentation is to allow for critical feedback, it is in your interest to acknowledge any significant challenges that you have faced in research design and/or data gathering. PowerPoint facilities will be available for your use if you so choose, but PowerPoint is not required.

We will have time for about 20 minutes of discussion after each presentation.

Critical response assignment:

You will write a brief (about 1500 words, or 4-5 pages) critical response to one of the books listed below. What did you learn that you did not know before? Which arguments made sense to you, and which did not? Why or why not? You can use material from other courses to support your arguments and positions if you like, but you need not do so.

I include a very brief annotation on each book below to help you make your choice.

Bird, Richard M., Enid Slack, and Almos Tassonyi. 2012. *A Tale of Two Taxes: Property Tax Reform in Ontario*. Cambridge, Mass.: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

The most comprehensive academic analysis around of Ontario's property tax system.

Blais, Pamela. 2011. *Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy and Urban Sprawl*. Vancouver; University of British Columbia Press.
An innovative Canadian book about how it takes more than zoning change to rein in sprawl.

Fainstein, Susan. 2011. *The Just City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
Combines political theory with evidence from New York, London and Amsterdam to discuss how cities can deal with social justice questions.

Kennedy, Christopher. 2011. *The Evolution of Great World Cities: Urban Wealth and Economic Growth*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
A sweeping global overview book written by a civil engineer, who argues that infrastructure is a vital driver of the prosperity of cities.

Moore, Aaron A. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
Important reading for those who are interested in the OMB, this book presents lots of data on how the Board shapes development in Toronto.

Urbaniak, Tom. 2009. *Her Worship: Hazel McCallion and the Development of Mississauga*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
For students of political leadership, a readable account of the Mississauga mayor's remarkable political career.

Valverde, Mariana. 2012. *Everyday Law on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
A law professor explores bylaw application on the ground in the City of Toronto in this study, based on participant-observation.

Many of these books are available at Weldon and other libraries, and all of them can be purchased for a reasonable price from major online booksellers such as Amazon.ca.

The critical response is due one week after the end of class, on **Friday, June 21**. You will be able to submit it electronically. I am, of course, happy to accept early submissions.

Course Schedule

Monday, June 10, Morning Session

Canadian Local Government in Comparative Perspective

Martin Horak What Can We Learn from a Comparative Approach?

Monday, June 10, Afternoon Session

Citizens and Local Government

Stephen Turner Effects of the 2003 Ward Boundary Realignment in London, Ontario

Lisa Kidd How Do Citizens Influence the Decision Making Process? A Case Study from a Small Midwest Town

Julien Patel E-Governance: E-Participation and Internal Municipal Factors

Spencer Sandor Online Citizen Engagement in Ontario

Morgan Poole Public Participation and Implementation of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

Jeff Brick Landowner Characteristics and Conservation Practices in the Upper Thames Watershed

Tuesday, June 11, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Guest Speaker*

Ashleigh Weeden (Communications & Accessibility Coordinator, Grey County)

Social Media as a Policy Question

11:00am – noon: *Issues in Housing and Homelessness*

Zoie Browne Mixed-Income Housing and Neighborhood Organizations in Toronto

Rhiannon Hayes Explaining Municipal Inaction on Homelessness in the City of Winnipeg

Tuesday, June 11, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 3:00pm: *Evaluating Local Policies and Institutions*

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| Noah Atlin | Best Practices in Service Delivery Review |
| John Riddell | Use of Quality Measurement Tools in Parks Departments |
| Peter Heywood | Measuring Performance Variation between Accredited and Non-Accredited Health Units in Ontario |
| Ashley Grigg | Municipal Election Compliance Audit Committees: A Review and Critical Analysis |

3:30pm – 4:30pm: *Provincial – Local Interaction*

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| Apoorva Kumar | Influence of Provincial Government on Local Public Health Services |
| Angela Ju | The Municipal Role in Ontario's Social Assistance System |

Wednesday, June 12, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Guest Speaker*

Sean Galloway (Manager of Urban Design, City of London)

Managing the ReThink London Process

11:00am – noon: *Strategic Planning*

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| Ben Puzanov | Why Municipalities Choose Not to Adopt Strategic Plans |
| Adam Mobbs | Departmental Strategic Planning |

Wednesday, June 12, Afternoon Session1:00pm – 3:00pm: *Cities, Provinces and the Federal Government*

Martin Horak Municipalities in a Multilevel Governance System

3:30pm – 4:30pm: *Issues in Human Resource Management: Policing*

Gary Conn Goal Setting in Performance Appraisals: The Chatham-Kent Police Experience

Jim McCaffery Niagara Police Domestic Violence Unit Workload Analysis

Thursday, June 13, Morning Session9:00am – 10:30am: *Guest Speaker*

Cathy Saunders (City Clerk, City of London)

Engaging the Community During a Municipal Election

11:00am – noon: *Issues in Human Resource Management: Advancement and Succession*

Mark Gilpin Ontario Upper Tier Municipality CAOs: Career Progression & Influencing Factors

Cheryl Frew Municipal Succession Planning: Hiring from Within

Thursday, June 13, Afternoon Session ** 2pm start time **2:00pm – 3:30pm: *Budgeting and Fiscal Management*

John Kazilis Municipal Budgeting Techniques and Financial Health

Kealy Dedman Infrastructure Asset Management in Ontario

Ben Perlman The Impact of Fiscal Restraint in Municipalities

3:30pm – 4:00pm: *Regional Governance of Transit*

Paul Szabo Public Transit in the Alberta Capital Region

Friday, June 14, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Guest Speaker*

Susanna Hubbard Krimmer (CEO & Chief Librarian, London Public Library)
with Josh Morgan (Chair, London Public Library Board)

Provincial Legislation and Library Board Governance

11:00am – noon: *The Public Sector and the Private Sector*

Sara Sun Public Recreation and External Resources

Brandon Csendes New Public Management in Higher Education: Contracting Out in
International Markets

Friday, June 14, Afternoon Session

Martin Horak Issues in MPA Research Reports: Review and Discussion