

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
 Political Science 4901a/Public Administration 9901a
 Intersession/Summer 2014

May 5-9, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
 Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Professor: Andrew Sancton
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Subject matter

The course examines the main issues associated with the structures, functions, and financing of Canadian local government.

Marks (for details see end of outline)

Test (9:00 – 11:00, May 8)	30%
Essay	50%
Participation	20%

Text:

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011)

Other reading referred to below will be available online on or on the course website (OWL-Sakai).

Topics and Readings

Assigned reading should be done **BEFORE** the class in which it is to be discussed.

May 5 **Organization and Introduction**
 Why Local Government?
 Central Governments and Intergovernmental Relations

- Reading: Sancton, ch1-3
 Aaron A. Moore, *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013), pp.37-52 [available on OWL]
- Websites: Association of Municipalities of Ontario:
<https://www.amo.on.ca/default.aspx>
 Federation of Canadian Municipalities:
<http://www.fcm.ca/home.htm>
 Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing:
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page11.aspx>

May6 **Special-purpose Bodies
 Urban and Rural**

- Readings: Sancton, ch. 4-5
 Gabriel Eidelman, “Who’s in Charge? Jurisdictional Gridlock and the Genesis of Waterfront Toronto” in Gene Desfor and Jennifer Laidley, eds. *Reshaping Toronto’s Waterfront* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011), ch.11 – available on OWL)
- Websites: Waterfront Toronto: <http://www.waterfronttoronto.ca/>
 Metrolinx: <http://www.metrolinx.com/en/>
 Ontario Association of Police Services Boards:
<http://www.oapsb.ca/>
 Statistics Canada, 2011 Census:
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/index-eng.cfm>

May 7 **Annexations, Two-tier-Systems, Amalgamations, and De-amalgamations**

- Reading: Sancton, ch.6-8
 Enid Slack and Richard M. Bird, ‘Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?’ Chapter 4 in Anti Mossio, ed., *Rethinking Local Government: Essays on Municipal Reform* (Helsinki: VATT Publications, 2012),
http://www.vatt.fi/file/vatt_publication_pdf/j61.pdf
- Websites: Metro Vancouver:
<http://www.metrovancouver.org/Pages/default.aspx>
 New Brunswick’s Regional Services Commissions:
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/lg->

[gl/pdf/RSCQuestions.pdf](#)

May 8 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – **TEST**

May 8 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **Internal Structures of Municipal Governments**

- Reading: Sancton, pp. 174-6, 179-92, 221-6, ch.12
 Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board, [2011 decision re. wards in Halifax Regional Municipality]:
<http://www.canlii.org/en/ns/nsuarb/doc/2011/2011nsuarb119/2011nsuarb119.html>
 Robert Williams, "...we think it is the last time", *Municipal World* 122:11 (November, 2012), 39-41 [available on the OWL]
- Websites: International City Management Association:
<http://icma.org/en/icma/home>
 Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators:
<http://www.camacam.ca/en/>

May 9 **Municipal Finances
 Conclusion**

- Readings: Sancton, ch.13-15
 Benjamin Dachis and William B.P. Robson, *Baffling Budgets: Canada's Cities Need Better Financial Reporting*, C.D. Howe Institute Commentary No.397 (January 2014), available at :
http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Commentary_397.pdf
 Kyle Hanniman, *Borrowing Today for the City of Tomorrow: Municipal Debt and Alternative Financing* Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance at the University of Toronto (2013), available at
http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg_1453borrowingtoday_final_web_sept_12.pdf
 Richard M. Bird, Enid Slack, and Almos Tassonyi, *A Tale of Two Taxes: Property Tax Reform in Ontario* (Cambridge MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, 2012), ch. 1 and 9 [available on OWL]

Essay

To be submitted by e-mail by **4:00 p.m., Friday, May 23, 2014:**

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. Topics should be approved by the instructor. Papers submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor are subject to a penalty of one mark (out of 50) each day that the paper is late.

Participation

Students are expected to contribute to the class discussion, based on their own reading and experience. Asking questions counts as participation. There are no stupid questions, unless the answer is glaringly obvious to anyone who has even leafed through the assigned reading. Participation grades will be based on the thoughtfulness and relevance of oral contributions, not on their frequency or length.