

Western University
Department of Political Science
The Policy Process in Local Government
Political Science 4902a/Public Administration 9902L
Summer 2014

May 12-16, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons
Office: 4226A SSC (in the MLG library)
Office hours: by appointment
E-mail: jlyons7@uwo.ca

Course Information:

Calendar Description: This course introduces students to selected aspects of the academic literature on the making of public policy. Students will learn how to apply theories and concepts from the public policy literature to Canadian local governments. Using case studies, students will learn how to determine the main factors that cause different kinds of local public policy outcomes in different circumstances.

Course Objectives: The purpose of this course is to explore the policy process from a local government perspective.

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

Readings and Materials: All of the assigned readings will be available electronically, either through the course's OWL site or on-line. Assigned reading should be done **Before** the class in which it is to be discussed.

Requirements:

1. *Oral Presentation.* Each student will be required to make a presentation about one aspect (e.g. agenda setting, policy instruments, implementation, etc.) of the policy issue that they are following.

Note: As per the announcement on the OWL site, choose a policy decision that has been made by a municipal council or a local special purpose body - a policy decision is a course of action or inaction chosen to address a given problem or set of problems – that interests you. A short description of your chosen policy issue (maximum one page single-spaced) is due by **Thursday, May 8th** at the latest. I need these before class starts, so that I can slot people in based upon how their topic fits with what we are discussing during a particular session. More details about scheduling and what these presentations should cover will be discussed in class on the morning of May 12th.

2. *Class Participation.* You must attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate during discussions. If you are unable to attend a particular day or session, you should advise the instructor in advance.

3. *Test.* To be conducted for two hours **on the morning of Friday, May 16th**, covering all of the material discussed from May 12-15th.

4. *Essay.* The final course requirement is an essay of about 2,500-3,000 words in length that is **due Friday, May 30th**. This essay may be related to any topic covered during the course. Students are free to write about the same policy decision that they presented on. Further instructions and guidance will be given during class.

Note: Overdue submissions will be penalized **one percent of the final course grade** for each day that the paper is late. Extensions will be granted only in the event that written confirmation of any extenuating circumstances is provided.

Evaluation:

1. Oral Presentation	10%
2. Participation	20%
3. Test	30%
4. Essay	40%

Note on academic offences and plagiarism:

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence, at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf.

Note for students with disabilities: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

Course Schedule and Required Readings:

May 12 a.m. **Introduction, Policy Analysis, and the Stages of the Policy-Making Process**

Readings: Pal, Leslie. 2014. *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issues Management in Turbulent Times*, 5th ed. Toronto: Nelson, pp. 1-25.
Sabatier, Paul. 2007. The Need for Better Theories. In Paul A. Sabatier, ed. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 3-17

May 12 p.m. **The Policy Process in Canadian Municipalities and Agenda Setting**

Readings: Sancton, Andrew. 2014. New Policy Chapter for 2nd ed.
Henstra, Dan. 2010. Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis of Municipal Emergency Management. *Canadian Public*

Administration 53(2), pp. 241-58.

May 13 a.m. **Diffusion and Non-Decision Making**

- Readings: Shipan, Charles and Craig Volden. 2012. Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners. *Public Administration Review* 72(6), pp. 789-96.
- Crenson, Matthew. 1971. *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution: A Study of Non-Decisionmaking in the Cities*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins Press, pp. 1-34

May 13 p.m. **Policy Instruments and Design, and Implementation**

- Readings: Hood, Christopher and Helen Margetts. 2007. *The Tools of Government in the Digital Age*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-20.
- Sabatier, Paul and Daniel Mazmanian. 1981. The Implementation of Public Policy. In Mazmanian and Sabatier, eds. *Effective Policy Implementation*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, pp. 3-35.

May 14 a.m. **Local Political Economy**

- Readings: Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limits*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, pp. 17-38.
- Stone, Clarence. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988*. Lawrence, KS: Univ. of Kansas Press, 3-12, 234-45.
- Fischel, William. 2001. *The Homevoter Hypothesis*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, 72-97.

May 14 p.m. **Local Decision Makers**

- Readings: Oliver, Eric. 2012. *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-Scale Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Introduction, chs. 1 and 6 (skim for main arguments and findings).
- Sancton, Andrew and Paul Woolner. 1990. Full-Time Municipal Councillors: A Strategic Challenge for Canadian Urban Government. *Canadian Public Administration* 33(4), pp. 482-505.
- Siegel, David. 2010. The Leadership Role of the Chief Administrative Officer. *Canadian Public Administration* 53(2), pp. 139-61.

May 15 a.m. **Multilevel Governance: The Case of Toronto**

- Readings: Horak, Martin. 2012. Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Success and Failure in Canada's Largest City. In Horak and Robert Young, eds. *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP, pp. 228-62.
- Sanderson, Christopher and Pierre Filion. 2013. The Development of the Toronto

Waterfront: Federal Presence, Institutional Complexity, and Planning Outcomes. In Michael Irca and Robert Young, eds. *Federal Property Policy in Canadian Municipalities*. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP, pp. 110-57.

May 15 p.m. **The Politics of Land Development and Economic Development Policy**

Readings: Moore, Aaron. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, chs. 1, 3, and 9.
Polese, Mario. 2011. Urban Development Legends. *City Journal* 21(4):
http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_4_urban-development.html

May 16 a.m. **Test**

May 16 p.m. **Wrap-up and Essay Questions**