

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9917

Issues in Local Government

Martin Horak
e-mail: mhorak@uwo.ca
tel: 519-661-2111 x. 85002
office: SSC 4142

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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 9 to 13 inclusive in SSC 4255. We will take one 20-30 minute break each morning and afternoon.

Schedule exceptions: On Thursday June 12, we will end the class at 3:00pm so that those who are interested can join next year's MPA students at the Grad Club for the orientation social event. On Friday June 13, I anticipate that we will break early for lunch and then reconvene for an abbreviated afternoon session.

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 short presentation (no more than 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; present a couple of highlights of what you have done 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 2000 words, or 5-7 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 reading material from other courses to support your arguments and positions if you like, but you need not do so.

The critical response will be worth 40% of your course grade. It will be due on Monday, June 23 (ten days after the last class of the course).

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

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 book about how it takes more than zoning change to rein in sprawl.

Bradford, Neil and Alison Bramwell, eds. 2014. *Governing Urban Economies: Innovation and Inclusion in Canadian City-Regions*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

A wide-ranging edited volume that examines how local governments in a number of Canadian cities connect to community actors and to other levels of government in order to address economic challenges.

Cobban, Tim. 2013. *Cities of Oil: Municipalities and Petroleum Manufacturing in Southern Ontario, 1860-1960*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

A fascinating historical look at the pivotal role that municipalities played in the rise of the petroleum industry in southwestern Ontario.

Henstra, Daniel, ed. 2013. *Multilevel Governance and Emergency Management in Canadian Municipalities*. Montreal: McGill – Queens University Press.

A strong new edited volume in the series that has come out of Bob Young's MCRI project on multilevel governance and public policy in Canadian municipalities.

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.

Oliver, J. Eric. 2013. *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-Scale Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

An antidote to the central-city focus of local politics scholarship in the US, this book looks at smaller municipalities in America and argues that local democracy is in pretty good shape.

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.

Course Schedule

Monday, June 9, Morning Session

Martin Horak Canadian Local Government in Comparative Perspective

Monday, June 9, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm: *Guest Speaker*

Hugh John Cook (former city councilor, Thunder Bay, and former CAO, St. Catharines)

Local Politics and Administration: Then and Now

3:00pm – 4:30pm: *Strategic Planning and Human Resources Planning*

Brent Kittmer Strategic Asset Management in Hamilton and Calgary

Zoja Holman Planning for Human Capital in a Context of Fiscal Constraint

Chris Gauthier Why are Some Municipal Succession Plans Better than Others?

Tuesday, June 10, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:00am: *Elections and Political Representation*

Andrew Renick The Mayoral Role in City Diplomacy: Seattle and Vancouver

Guhad Hersi The 'Other' Visible Minorities: Individual Characteristics and Electoral Success in GTA Municipalities

10:30am – noon: *Guest Speaker*

Cathy Saunders (City Clerk, City of London)

The City Clerk's Balancing Act: Legislative Responsibilities and Candidate Assistance During an Election Year

Tuesday, June 10, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 3:00pm: *Public Engagement and Open Government*

Marcy Puzanov	Public Engagement in Southwestern Ontario Municipalities
Rob Bryce	Referendums in Ontario Municipalities
Melihate Limani	Deliberative Democracy: Participatory Budgeting in Ontario
Susan Chase	Ethical Considerations Regarding Open Data and Big Data
3:30pm – 4:30pm:	<i>Police Financing</i>
Michael Touw	Police Funding in Ontario
Adam Payler	Police Interest Arbitration and the Municipality's Ability to Pay

Wednesday, June 11, Morning Session

9:00am – noon:	<i>Planning and Economic Development</i>
Doug Herron	Impact of Legislated Growth Restrictions on Municipal Finances
Natalie Stopar	The New Development Permit System in Municipal Planning
Catalina Hernandez	The Process of Assigning Section 37 Benefits in Toronto
Brittney Yeats	Satellite Campus Developments in Ontario Municipalities
Jillene Bellchamber	Determinants of Regional Economic Development Efforts

Wednesday, June 11, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm	<i>Guest Speaker</i>
Josh Morgan	(former Chair of London Public Library Board, current Council candidate for Ward 7 in London)
	Library Board Governance: Administrative and Political Perspectives
3:00pm – 4:30pm	<i>Human Resources Management</i>
Tami Kitay	Motivating and Engaging Employees in a Small Suburban Municipality
Dave Bush	Job Evaluation: The Benefits to the Municipal Sector

Samantha Lawson Emotional Intelligence and Performance Management

Thursday, June 12, Morning Session

9:00am – 11:00am:

Martin Horak Globalization and Cities: Causes and Consequences

11:30am – noon:

Dave Salter Topic TBA

Thursday, June 12, Afternoon Session ** 3:00pm end time **

1:00pm – 3:00pm *Challenges in Program Delivery*

Amanda Circelli Cheque Cashing Alternatives for Social Assistance Recipients

Jerad Henderson Rural Municipalities and the Provision of Recreation Services

Dimitra Kasimos IMS and Emergency Preparedness in Ontario Health Units

Brian Arnold Institutional Collective Action in Ontario's Fire Service:
Eliminating Barriers to Improved Fire Safety

Friday, June 13, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Guest Speaker*

Ashleigh Weeden (Communications Officer, Grey County)

Diatribes to Dialogue: Digital Engagement & Having the
Conversation You Want to Have

10:30am - 12:30pm Early lunch break (schedule to be adjusted if necessary)

Friday, June 13, Afternoon Session ** early end time anticipated **

Martin Horak Issues in MPA Research Reports: Review and Discussion