

The University of Western Ontario
 Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
 Political Science 4901a/Public Administration 9901a
 Intersession/Summer 2016

May 9-13, 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)

Presentations (1:00 – 4:00 p.m., May 12)	20%
Essay	60%
Participation	20%

Text:

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* Second edition (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015)

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

Topics and Readings

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

May 9 **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]
 Andrew Sancton, “The False Panacea of City Charters: The Case of Toronto”, paper for University of Calgary School of Public Policy, University of Calgary School of Public Policy Papers, Volume 9, Issue 3, January 2016, available at:
http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/research/false-panacea-city-charters-sancton_0.pdf
- 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>

May 10 **Special-purpose Bodies
 Urban and Rural**

- Readings: Sancton, ch. 4-5
 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 11 **Annexations, Two-tier-Systems, Amalgamations, and De-amalgamations**

- Reading: Sancton, ch.6-8
 Zachary Spicer, *Cooperation and Capacity: Inter-Municipal Agreements in Canada*, IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance, No. 19 (2015), available at:
http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/318/1623_imfg_no.19_spicer_online.pdf
 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/lgl/pdf/RSCQuestions.pdf>

May 12 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Internal Structures of Municipal Governments**

Reading: Sancton, ch. 9, pp. 227-32, and ch.13
David Siegel, "The 'Public Service Bargain' in Local Government: A New Way of Looking at Relations between Municipal Councils and CAOs," *Canadian Public Administration* 58-3 (September 2015), 406-25 [online at Weldon]

Websites: International City Management Association:

<http://icma.org/en/icma/home>

Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators:

<http://www.camacam.ca/en/>

May 12 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **PRESENTATIONS**

During the first day of classes, students will be organized into groups to make presentations relating to their own personal experiences with issues, problems, and opportunities caused by the following structural factors that will be discussed in the first four days of the class. Examples of such factors are:

- Special-purpose bodies
- The territorial boundaries of municipalities
- Jurisdictional issues relating to two tiers
- Internal political structures of municipal governments
- Contracting out

Other factors can be chosen depending on the make-up of the class.

As much as will be possible, class time will be made available for groups to organize their presentations.

May 13 **Municipal Finances**
Conclusion

- Readings: Sancton, pp. 203-7 and ch.14-16
 Benjamin Dachlis and William B.P. Robson, *Building Better Budgets: Canada's Cities Should Clean Up their Financial Reporting* C.D. Howe Institute Commentary 439, November 2015: <https://www.cdhowe.org/building-better-budgets-canada%E2%80%99s-cities-should-clean-their-financial-reporting>
- Enid Slack and Richard M. Bird, *How to Reform the Property Tax: Lessons from around the World*, Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto, IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance, No. 21 (2015), available at: http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/325/1689_imfg_no.21_online_final.pdf
- Kyle Hanniman, *A Good Crisis: Canadian Municipal Credit Conditions after the Lehman Brothers Bankruptcy* IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance, No. 22 (2015), available at: http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/326/1694_imfg_no_22_online_final_sept.2.pdf
- Melville McMillan and Bev Dahlby, *Do Local Governments Need Alternative Sources of Tax Revenues: An Assessment of the Options for Alberta's Cities*, University of Calgary School of Public Policy, SPP Research Papers 7-26 (Sept.2014): <http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/research/mcmillan-dahlby.pdf>

Essay

To be submitted by e-mail by **4:00 p.m., Friday, May 27, 2016:**

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.