

Western University
Department of Politics Science
The Policy Process in Local Government
Public Administration 4902/9902
Political Science 9524
Winter 2016

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 4–5pm, or by appointment

Time and Location: Wednesdays, 4:30–6:30pm, SSC 4255

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the scope and potential of Canadian municipal policymaking. We begin by examining the structural and institutional constraints on local policymaking before moving on to matters of process: how policy problems are identified, where solutions come from, how the public is engaged, and how policies are implemented and evaluated. These issues will be explored through case studies.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Class 1	Jan. 6	Municipal public policy design
Class 2	Jan. 13	The macroeconomic, intergovernmental, and normative contexts of local policymaking
Class 3	Jan. 20	The municipal institutional context of local policymaking
Class 4	Jan. 27	Defining policy problems <i>Introduce assignment</i>
Class 5	Feb. 3	Models of policymaking process
Class 6	Feb. 10	Agenda-setting, framing, and policy diffusion <i>Outline due</i>
 <i>*** Feb. 15–19 is Family Day and Reading Week ***</i>		
Class 7	Feb. 24	Public engagement: From consultation to visioning
Class 8	Mar. 2	Instruments and implementation
Class 9	Mar. 9	Evaluation
 <i>*** Mar. 14–18 is March Break ***</i>		
	Mar. 16	<i>Draft paper due</i> <i>Anonymized papers distributed for peer review</i>
Class 10	Mar. 23	Presentations I <i>Return peer reviews</i>
Class 11	Mar. 30	Presentations II
Class 12	Apr. 6	Conclusion <i>Final paper due</i>

Note that in recognition of the family responsibilities of many of our mature students, we will skip class on March 16 and extend the term to April 6.

COURSE WEBSITE

This course makes use of OWL. Please refer to the course website regularly for announcements and course information: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>.

COURSE MATERIALS

We will use a modestly priced textbook that can be purchased at the campus bookstore, or from popular on-line book retailers:

Peters, B. Guy. *Advanced Introduction to Public Policy*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2015.

All readings from the Peters book are marked with a **T** in the reading schedule. Readings to be retrieved from publicly available websites are marked with a **W**. Readings marked with an **E** are electronic journal articles that can be retrieved through the Western Library website. All other readings are made available as PDFs on the course website. The reading load will average approximately 60 pages per week.

EVALUATION

Evaluation	Due Date	Value
Policy Analysis Assignment		
Outline	Feb. 10	15%
Oral presentation	Mar. 16/23	15%
Draft paper	Mar. 16	—
Anonymous peer review	Mar. 23	10%
Final paper	Apr. 6	40%
Overall Participation		20%

Policy Analysis Assignment (80%):

- *Option 1: Municipal policy case study:* Analyze a specific municipal policymaking process using theoretical perspectives on policymaking discussed in class. Working professionals are encouraged to draw on their own experience and access to information and data. For example, you could apply the multiple-streams model to the City of Toronto's adoption of the plastic bag fee, or the construction of border infrastructure in Windsor.
- *Option 2: Intergovernmental policy case study:* Analyze and evaluate the implementation or impact of a specific federal-municipal or provincial-municipal policy within a municipality of your choice. For example, you could examine how a municipality has made choices in the context of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review, the Federal Gas Tax transfer, or in the context of mandates and regulations.

Participation (20%): Preparedness and active contribution to weekly class discussion.

COURSE POLICIES

Electronic devices: Research shows that levels of student performance and participation are lower when computers, tablets, smartphones, and other devices are present in the classroom. In order to create a pleasant environment conducive to everyone's learning and free from distractions, please refrain from using phones for texting or any other purposes during classes. The use of laptops and tablets is allowed for course-related activities and note taking only.

E-mail policy: All Western University students are required to have an @uwo.ca e-mail account. The instructor will *only* respond to e-mails sent from a Western University account, that clearly identify the sender, and have "PA4902" in the subject line. The instructor will **not** accept assignments by e-mail.

Submitting assignments: All assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class on the due date.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). **Note that you will be able to view your Turnitin Originality Report after submitting. You may resubmit at any time before the deadline.**

Late assignments: The penalty for late assignments is two percentage points per day (including weekend days). A grade of 80% on an assignment therefore becomes 72% in four days. Assignments more than 10 days late will not be accepted. Extensions due to illness require a medical certificate. If you foresee problems meeting submission deadlines please consult the instructor early; accommodations can always be made with adequate advance notice. This means *at least one week before the deadline*, not the night before the work is due! The last day for submission of term assignments is Monday, April 7, after which they cannot be accepted.

Academic integrity: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

ASSISTANCE

If you are having trouble with the course material or are falling behind in your work, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. We can only help you if the lines of communication are open.

Help with writing: Learning to express ideas clearly is a central goal of the university experience. If academic writing does not come easily to you, you are strongly encouraged to make use of the Writing Support Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.

Accommodations on medical grounds: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Please refer to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and download a Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/> under the Medical Documentation heading. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accommodations on religious grounds: Every effort has been made to avoid scheduling assignment due dates on religious holidays. Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the course if you will be unable to attend class for reason of religious observance.

READING SCHEDULE

Class 1 Jan. 6 Municipal public policy design

Wolman, Harold, assisted by Robert McManmon. 2012. Ch. 21, “What Cities Do: How Much Does Urban Policy Matter?” In Karen Mossberger, Susan E. Clarke, and Peter John, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Politics*. Toronto: Oxford UP. pp. 415–441.

T Chapter 1, “Public Policy: A Design Perspective.”

E Howlett, Michael and Ishani Mukherjee. 2014. “Policy Design and Non-Design: Towards a Spectrum of Policy Formulation Types.” *Politics and Governance* 2(2): 57–71.

Class 2 Jan. 13 The macroeconomic, intergovernmental, and normative contexts of local policymaking

Peterson, Paul E. 2007 [1981]. “The Interests of the Limited City.” In Elizabeth A. Strøm and John H. Mollenkopf, eds., *Urban Politics Reader*. New York: Routledge. pp. 120–129.

Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. 2015. Ch. 11, “The New Localism: Canadian Urban Governance in the 21st Century.” In Pierre Filion et al., eds., *Canadian Cities in Transition*, 5th ed. Toronto: Oxford UP. pp. 194–208.

E Box, Richard C. 1999. “Running Government Like a Business: Implications for Public Administration Theory and Practice.” *American Review of Public Administration* 29(1): 19–43.

Class 3 Jan. 20 The municipal institutional context of local policymaking

Kjaer, Anne Mette. 2009. Ch. 9, “Governance and the Urban Bureaucracy.” In Jonathan S. Davies and David L. Imbroscio, eds., *Theories of Urban Politics*, 2nd ed. pp. 137–152. Los Angeles: Sage.

E Siegel, David. 2010. “The leadership role of the municipal chief administrative officer.” *Canadian Public Administration* 53(2): 139–61.

Class 4 Jan. 27 Defining policy problems

T Chapter 2, “Policy Problems.”

E Rittel, Horst W.J. and Melvin M. Webber. 1973. “Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning.” *Policy Sciences* 4(2): 155–169.

Case Study: Municipal Responses to Climate Change

E Robinson, Pamela J. and Christopher D. Gore. “Barriers to Canadian Municipal Response to Climate Change.” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 14(1), Supplement pp. 102–120.

Class 5 Feb. 3 Models of policymaking process

T Chapter 3, “Models of Policymaking.”

Case Study: Emergency management in Sarnia

E Henstra, Daniel. 2010. “Explaining local policy choices: A multiple streams analysis of emergency management.” *Canadian Public Administration* 53(2): 241–58.

Case Study: Tower Renewal Program in Toronto

Spears, John. 2007. “Apartments ‘energy hogs’.” *Toronto Star*. 29 May.

Hume, Christopher. 2009. “To rebuild a tower, first tear down a silo.” *Toronto Star*. 14 Feb.

W “Mayor’s Tower Renewal.” Mayor’s Report to Executive Committee, City of Toronto, 19 August 2008. <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2008/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-14989.pdf>

Class 6 Feb. 10 Agenda-setting, framing, and policy diffusion

T Chapter 4, “Agendas, Agenda-setting, and Framing.”

E Shipan, Charles R. and Craig Volden. 2012. “Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners.” *Public Administration Review* 72(6): 788–796.

Case Study: Water system privatization in Hamilton

E Ohemeng, Frank K. & John K Grant. 2008. “When markets fail to deliver: An examination of the privatization and de-privatization of water and wastewater services delivery in Hamilton, Canada.” *Canadian Public Administration* 51(3): 475–99.

Class 7 Feb. 24 Public engagement: From consultation to visioning

W Arnstein, Sherry R. 1969. “A Ladder of Citizen Participation,” *Journal of the American Institute of Planners* 35(4), pp. 216–24. Available on-line at: <http://lithgow-schmidt.dk/sherry-arnstein/ladder-of-citizen-participation.html>

E Shipley, Robert. 2002. “Visioning in planning: Is the practice based on sound theory?” *Environment and Planning A* 34(1): 7–22.

E Baker, William H., H. Lon Addams, and Brian Davis. 2005. “Critical Factors for Enhancing Municipal Public Hearings. *Public Administration Review* 65(4): 490–99.

Case Study: The Toronto Transit Commission’s Second Exit Project

W Office of the Ombudsman, City of Toronto. “Tunnel Vision: An Investigation into the Toronto Transit Commission Second Exit Project at Donlands and Greenwood Stations.”

Excerpt: Executive Summary (pp. 4–6).

<http://ombudstoronto.ca/sites/default/files/Final%20Report.pdf>

Case package distributed in class.

Class 8 Mar. 2 Instruments and Implementation

T Chapter 5, “Designing Intervention and Implementation.”

T Chapter 6, “Policy Instruments.”

Case Study: Regulating plastic bags

E Murdoch, Maggie. 2010. “The Road to Zero Waste: A Study of the Seattle Green Fee on Disposable Bags.” *Environmental Practice* 12(1): 66–75.

Case package on the City of Toronto’s plastic bag fee distributed in class.

Case Study: Solid waste collection

E McDavid, James C. 2001. “Solid-waste contracting-out, competition, and bidding practices among Canadian local governments.” *Canadian Public Administration* 44(1): 1–25.

Case package on the City of Toronto’s waste collection contracting out distributed in class.

Class 9 Mar. 9 Evaluation

T Chapter 7, “Evaluating Public Policy: An Introduction.”

T Chapter 8, “Evaluating Public Policy: The Utilitarian Dimension.”

T Chapter 9 “Normative and Ethical Analysis of Public Policy.”

Case Study: Performance measurement in Ontario — OMBI and FIRS/MPMP

E Pollanen, Raili M. 2011. “Relative Performance Benchmarking of Local Governments: Case of Ontario Municipalities.” *International Journal of Business and Public Administration* 8(1): 19–33.

Class 12 Apr. 6 Conclusion

T Chapter 10, “Conclusion: Policy Success and Failure.”