

Economics and Policy Analysis | Local Government 9913
Masters of Public Administration Program
Winter 2019

Kate Graham, PhD

Political Science Department
University of Western Ontario
Email: kgraha@uwo.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Dates: January 11-12; February 1-2; March 1-2, 2019
Location: Social Sciences Building, Room SC 4255

Course Overview:

Canadian municipalities today exist in a challenging economic environment. The concurrent forces of globalization, urbanization, industrialization, and rapid technological development have produced new economic realities for Canadian communities. How are Canadian municipalities responding to these changes? What governance structures, strategies, projects, and priorities are being pursued to support local economic development - and have these models and approaches translated into positive outcomes? What are the emerging trends and patterns that local policy-makers should be paying attention to?

This course takes a unique approach to the study of local economics and policy analysis: it is organized as a collective investigation into the practice and politics of local economic development in Canadian municipalities. Students will first be introduced to dominant theories of local economic development, while engaging in contemporary debates and issues. The focus will then turn to an applied case study investigation. Each student will examine the current practice and politics of economic development in one mid-sized Canadian community. Each student's investigation will result in a presentation and written case study. Collectively, the class will identify emerging patterns and trends, and analyze the underlying theoretical assumptions in common strategies pursued in practice. The products of this work will be published as a report, tentatively titled *The Practice & Politics of Local Economic Development in Mid-sized Communities in Canada*, presented and distributed by the Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance Western University. Each student's written case study will feature as a chapter in this publication.

In sum, this course offers students a unique opportunity to learn about local economic development, challenge their own assumptions and beliefs about the role of local government in shaping economic conditions, and contribute to an original research volume on an important and timely topic.

Learning Objectives:

By the conclusion of this course, students will:

- Be familiar with key terms, concepts and definitions;
- Have been exposed to multiple theoretical frames through which to examine local economic development strategies and policy decisions;
- Have engaged with contemporary debates about local economic development, while engaging with high-profile, real-life contemporary cases;
- Have experience producing and reviewing community-level economic analysis;
- Have produced a piece of original research, as a single-community case; and
- Have authored a chapter in a published volume.

This Course Is:

- An opportunity to engage with multiple dominant theories of local economic development, and contemporary debates;
- An applied investigation into several contemporary cases of economic development policy making, as well as into the current practices and politics in Canadian municipalities;
- Intended to be helpful and practically relevant for students who currently hold or aspire to leadership positions in local government, where decision making involving local economic conditions is a part of nearly every role; and
- Designed to provide students with a more critical lens for when they are in those leadership roles and decisions must be made which have significant economic implications, in order to better understand the underlying values and assumptions behind policy options presented (read: this class may make you a more disruptive, more challenging, and also more effective local government leader).

This Course Is Not:

- About macro or micro economics, or classic economic theories;
- About the policy process itself (as this is covered in PA9902, The Policy Process in Local Government), rather the focus will be on analysis of the policy process with respect to local economic development and local economic conditions;
- About how to evaluate local government policy or practices (as this is covered in PA9915, Program Evaluation); and
- Boring, dry, or other adjectives some may traditionally associate with a course with the words “economics” and “policy” in the title.

Evaluation:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Analytical Paper: An analysis of two theoretical approaches and one major economic development decision in a Canadian municipality (8-10 pages)	25%	Due on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 3pm*
Group Presentation: Conducting a community economic profile and analysis of the economic development strategy in a major Canadian city	15%	Group presentations on Saturday, February 2, 2019
Case Study Presentation: Descriptive and analytical examinations into the practice and politics of local economic development in small and mid-sized communities in Canada (one community per student, to be assigned in class)	15%	Individual presentations on Friday, March 1 and Saturday, March 2, 2019
Written Case Study: Descriptive and analytical examinations into the practice and politics of local economic development in small and mid-sized communities in Canada (one community per student, to be assigned in class)	30%	Due on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 5pm*
Class Participation	15%	Ongoing – marks will be submitted via OWL after each module (5% each)

**Note on late penalties: assignments submitted past the due date will be deducted by 3% per day, up to a maximum of 10 days at which time the assignment mark will be 0%.*

Analytical Paper (25%):

In Module 1, students will engage with multiple dominant theories related to local economic development. Students will select two of these theories through which to analyze one major economic development policy decision in a Canadian municipality of their choice. The paper will examine the applicability and explanatory power of the two selected theories for understanding the policy outcomes in their chosen case. The paper should be no longer than 10 double-spaced pages and should be well cited with academic references. The paper is due via OWL on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 3pm.

Group Presentation (15%):

In Module 2 (February 1-2, 2019), students will work in groups to develop a community economic profile and analysis of the economic development strategy of a Canadian municipality of their choice. A list of potential options will be provided in class; or, groups may select their own example. The presentation will include, at minimum: (1) an economic profile of the community; (2) an examination of the governance arrangements in the community with respect to economic development; (3) a review of the community's economic strategy; (4) an overview of priority projects; and, (5) a discussion of the effectiveness of the municipality's economic strategy to pursue current opportunities and address challenges facing the community. Groups will present their work during the afternoon of Saturday, February 2, 2019.

Case Study Presentation (15%):

In Module 2, each student in the course will be assigned one Canadian small or mid-sized community (selected from a defined list). Students will investigate the current economic landscape in their assigned community: the present governance arrangements; defined strategies and articulate priorities; current projects aimed to promote economic growth; and, emerging challenges and opportunities facing the community. This investigation will include a review of data and documentation available online, as well as at least 3 interviews conducted with individuals engaged in local economic development in the community. During Module 3 (March 1-2, 2019), students will make a brief presentation (5-7 minutes, followed by 3-5 minutes for questions) about their case study investigation. The presentation will include an examination of their case study in light of the dominant theories and contemporary debates discussed in Module 1 (January 11-12, 2019), examining the underlying assumptions evident in the practice and politics of local economic development in their community.

Written Case Study (30%):

Students will prepare a written case study on their assigned Canadian community. The class will collectively define the format of the cases after hearing the case study presentations; and, will identify the overarching findings, themes and patterns emerging from the collection of cases. The cases will be published as a report, tentatively titled *The Practice & Politics of Local Economic Development in Mid-sized Communities in Canada*. The written case is due via OWL on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 5pm. Students' marks will reflect the caliber of their research efforts and written product, and their contributions to the project as a whole.

Class Participation (15%):

Students are expected to attend and fully participate in all class discussions. This course is an intensive investigation into a large and complex topic, and successful completion of the assignments requires both attention and engagement in class. Any absences should be communicated to Dr. Graham, in advance where possible.

Course Reading:

There is no textbook for this course. Most of the readings are journal articles and will be made available on OWL under “Resources.” However, we will be drawing upon one book more frequently, and students may wish to acquire a copy:

Wolfe, David A., and Meric S. Gertler, eds. 2016. *Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canada's City-Regions*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

SCHEDULE

Module #1: Theories of Economics & Policy Analysis at the Local Level (January 11-12, 2019)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
3:00 – 3:30pm	Welcome Introductions Course overview Questions & discussion	Read the course outline carefully.
3:30 – 4:45pm	The Big Picture (Fun!) Quiz Local economics 101 Terms & definitions Central concepts	Blair, John P and Michel C. Carroll. 2009. “Chapter 1: Local Economic Development in a Global Market.” <i>Local Economic Development: Analysis, Practices and Globalization</i> . Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications. [Available on OWL]
4:45 – 5:00pm	Current Landscape Global shifts, local impacts Putting Canada’s communities in context	Wolfe, David A., and Meric S. Gertler, eds. 2016. “Chapter 1: Innovation, Creativity and Governance in Canadian City-Regions.” <i>Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canada's City-Regions</i> . Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
5:00 – 5:20pm	Break	
5:20 – 6:30pm	Case Study: Calgary Olympics (case to be provided in class)	Malfas, M., E. Theodoraki and B. Houlihan. 2004. “Impacts of the Olympic Games as Mega-Events.” <i>Municipal Engineer 157(ME3): 209-220</i> . [Available on OWL]

6:30 – 7:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion	
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
9:00 – 10:30am	The Dynamics of Local Economics	Harvey, David. 1989. "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism." <i>Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography</i> , 71(1): 3-17. [Available on OWL]
10:30 – 10:45am	Break	
10:45 – 12:00pm	Dominant Theoretical Approaches	Peterson, Paul E. 2007. "The Interests of the Limited City." In E. A. Strom & J. H. Mollenkopf, eds. <i>Urban Politics Reader</i> . New York: Routledge. [Available on OWL] Florida, Richard. 2003. "Cities and the Creative Class." <i>City and Community</i> 2(1): 3-19. [Available on OWL]
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:30pm	Case Study: Amazon HQ2	Case to be provided in class.
2:30 – 2:45pm	Break	
2:45 – 3:15pm	Contemporary Debates	Gertler, Meric S. "Urban Economy and Society in Canada: Flows of People, Capital and Ideas." <i>Isuma: The Canadian Journal of Policy Research</i> 2:3 (Autumn 2001), 119-130. [Available on OWL]
3:15 – 3:30pm	Analytical Report Overview of assignment Questions and discussion	
3:30 – 4:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learning Preparation for next class	

Module #2: The Practice of Local Economic Development (February 1-2, 2019)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2019		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
3:00 – 3:30pm	Welcome Back Overview of module Check in on papers	
3:30 – 4:30pm	Local Economic Development Theory vs practice Governance and organization Strategies Priorities and projects	Pikes, Andy, Andres Rodriguez-Pose and John Tomaney, eds. 2011. Handbook of Local and Regional Development. London: Routledge. [Available on OWL] -- ** Read Chapter 20, by Bob Jessop (pg. 239-248); and, Chapter 25, by Colin Crouch (pg. 295-305).
4:30 – 5:00pm	Exercise: A Tale of Three Cities (as told on Youtube)	
5:00 – 5:20pm	Break	
5:20 – 6:30pm	Group Project Begins Review assignment Form groups Select communities to study Begin group work	
6:45 – 7:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion	

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2019		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
9:00 – 10:30am	'Shifting Paradigms' of Economic Governance Competition Collaboration New models	Bradford, Neil. 2003. "Public-Private Partnership? Shifting Paradigms of Economic Governance in Ontario," Canadian Journal of Political Science 36(1): 1005-1033. [Available on OWL]
10:30 – 10:45am	Break	

10:45 – 12:00pm	Case Study: Smart Cities Challenge	Case to be provided in class.
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:00pm	Group Presentations	
3:00 – 3:15pm	Break	
3:15 – 3:30pm	Our Class Project: The Practice & Politics of Local Economic Development in Mid-sized Communities in Canada Shared objectives Central research questions Format of cases	Skim entire book & read one chapter in: Wolfe, David A., and Meric S. Gertler, eds. 2016. Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canada's City-Regions. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
3:30 – 3:45pm	Selecting Cases Selection of cases Discussion on next steps	
3:30 – 4:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learning Overview: analytical report Preparation for next class	

Module #3: The Politics of Local Economic Development (March 1-2, 2019)

FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
3:00 – 3:15pm	Welcome Back	
3:30 – 4:45pm	The Politics of Local Economic Development Scale politics Structure vs. agency	Wolman, Harold. 1996. "The Politics of Local Economic Development." Economic Development Quarterly. [Available on OWL] Donald, Betsy. 2005. "The Politics of Local Economic Development in Canada's City-Regions: New Dependencies, New Deals, and New Politics of Scale." Space and Polity 9(3): 261-281. [Available on OWL]

4:45 – 5:00pm	Our Class Project Considerations as we receive the case study presentations	Review Wolfe & Gertler; and, any other edited volume comparing multiple cities – see suggestions on OWL
5:00 – 5:20pm	Break	
5:20 – 6:40pm	Case Study Presentations (8)	
6:40 – 7:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion	

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
9:00 – 10:40am	Case Study Presentations (10)	
10:40 – 10:50am	Break	
10:50 – 12:30pm	Case Study Presentations (10)	
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 2:45pm	Workshop: Themes from the cases (in small groups)	
2:45 – 3:00pm	Break	
3:00 – 3:45pm	Discussion Core findings Emerging patterns	
3:30 – 4:00pm	Wrap Up	