

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**Advanced Local Government**  
PA 9901  
Fall 2019

Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm  
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons  
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### **Course Information**

**Course Objectives:** This course provides an advanced overview of local government in Canada. It surveys the structures, functions, and financing of local governments, and examines their relations with federal and provincial governments. This course is also a gateway for the rest of the program. It will give students the foundational knowledge needed to understand many of the most important issues facing local governments in Canada.

**Course Organization:** The course will consist of a combination of lectures, class discussions, and case studies.

### **Readings and Materials**

Required Textbooks:

Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press. (Copies are available in the university bookstore.)

Spicer, Zachary, Joseph Lyons, and Kate Graham. 2019. *Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy, PA 9901 Custom Edition*. Toronto: Emond. (The URL for this custom e-book will be provided through OWL when it is available.)

All other 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. *Reading Response.* Every student is required to submit a reaction paper on the assigned readings for one session (beginning September 25<sup>th</sup>). This paper should be as close to two single-spaced pages as possible. It should speak to some of the main themes and issues raised in the readings but is **NOT** intended to be a summary. You are encouraged to reflect on any ideas or approaches that you agree or disagree with, to develop an argument that ties some or all the readings together, and/or incorporate your own personal experiences.

The reading response schedule will be determined during the first class. Responses are to be submitted at the start of the class on the day that they are due. You will be called upon to help lead the class discussion on your response's due date. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

2. *Attendance and Participation.* You must attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate during discussions and case-related activities. If you are unable to attend a class, you should advise the instructor in advance.

3. *Research Project.* In consultation with the instructor, students should choose a research topic related to any of the topics covered below. Two items make up the research paper grade:

a. **Research Proposal.** Students will submit a research proposal by **October 30<sup>th</sup>**. The aim of the research proposal is to help you focus your research question and develop a sound structural framework for your paper.

b. **Research Paper.** The paper should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length and must be submitted by **December 16<sup>th</sup> at the latest**. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late.

### **Evaluation**

1. Reading Response:	20%
2. Participation:	25%
3. Research Project:	
a. Proposal	10%
b. Paper	45%

### **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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/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.

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## **Course Schedule and Required Readings**

Sept. 11      **Orientation, Introduction, and Organization**

Sept. 18      **The What and Why of Local Government**

Readings:      Sancton, chs. 1, 2, and 5.

Lucas, Jack and Alison Smith. 2019. "Which Policy Issues Matter in Canadian Municipalities? A Survey of Municipal Politicians." *University of Calgary SPP Research Paper* 12 (8), <http://dx.doi.org/10.11575/sppp.v12i0.56964>.

Sept. 25      **Internal Municipal Structures**

- Readings:      Sancton, pp. 182-185; 190-197; 227-232; 270-71; 278-275.  
Michael Fenn and David Siegel. 2017. "The Evolving Role of City Managers and Chief Administrative Officers." *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 31,  
[http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/420/imfgpaper\\_no31\\_cao\\_fennsiegel\\_may\\_5\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/420/imfgpaper_no31_cao_fennsiegel_may_5_2017.pdf).  
Sancton, Andrew. 2017. "Accountability Officers and Integrity in Canadian Municipal Government." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 17,  
[http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/388/imfgperspectives17\\_a\\_sancton\\_mar\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/388/imfgperspectives17_a_sancton_mar_2017.pdf).
- Case Study:      Spicer et al., "Hiring a CAO."

Oct. 2      **Municipal Elections**

- Readings:      Sancton, pp. 173-181; 185-190; 197-201.  
Moore, Aaron. 2017. "The Potential and Consequences of Municipal Electoral Reform." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 20,  
[https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/78793/1/IMFG\\_perspectives\\_20\\_electoral\\_reform\\_AaronMoore\\_Oct\\_17\\_2017.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/78793/1/IMFG_perspectives_20_electoral_reform_AaronMoore_Oct_17_2017.pdf).  
Michael McGregor, Zac Spicer, and Christopher Alcantara. 2017. "Political Opportunity Structures and the Representation of Women and Visible Minorities in Municipal Elections." *Electoral Studies* 48: 10-18.
- Case Studies:      Spicer et al., "Online and Telephone Voting" and "Electoral Boundaries."

Oct. 9      **Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations I: Federal-Provincial-Local Relations**

- Readings:      Sancton, ch. 3.  
Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. Forthcoming. "Governing Canadian Cities." In *Canadian Cities in Transition: Perspectives for an Urban Age*, 6th edition, edited by Pierre Filion et al. Toronto: Oxford University Press.  
Fraser, Clara MacCallum and Leela Viswanathan. 2013. "The Crown Duty to Consult and Ontario Municipal-First Nations Relations: Lessons Learned from the Red Hill Valley Parkway Project." *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 22 (Supplement): 1-19.
- Case Study:      Spicer et al., "Meeting with the Premier."

Oct. 16      **Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations II: Provincial-Local Relations**

- Readings:      Smith, Alison and Zachary Spicer. 2018. "The Local Autonomy of Canada's Largest Cities." *Urban Affairs Review* 54 (5): 931-961.  
Moore, Aaron. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 37-52.

Shott, Allison. 2017. "The Composition of Municipal Associations and Policy Requests to Provincial Governments: Selected Cases." *Canadian Public Administration*, 60 (1): 111-34.

Case Study: Spicer et al., "Applying for an Intergovernmental Grant."

Oct. 23        **\*No Class\***

Oct. 30        **Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing**  
                  \*Research Proposal Due\*

Readings:     Sancton, excerpt from new addition (available on OWL).  
                  Hanniman, Kyle. 2013. "Borrowing Today for the City of Tomorrow? Municipal Debt and Alternative Financing." *IMFG Forum* No. 3, [http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg\\_1453borrowingtoday\\_final\\_web\\_sept\\_12.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg_1453borrowingtoday_final_web_sept_12.pdf).  
                  Siemiatycki, Matti. 2017. "Developing Homeless Shelters Through Public-Private Partnerships: The Case of the Red Door Family Shelter in Toronto." *Journal of Urban Affairs*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/07352166.2017.1368299>.

Case Study:    Spicer et al., "Balancing the Budget."

Nov. 6        **Municipal Finance II: Municipal Revenue Sources**

Readings:     Sancton, ch. 15 and pp. 301-312; 202-207.  
                  Dahlby, Bev and Melville McMillan. 2019. "The Right Tax for the Job: The Role of Property Taxes in Funding Cities." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 24, [https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/94835/1/imfgperspectives\\_no24\\_propertytax\\_dahlbyandmcmillan\\_may\\_6\\_2019.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/94835/1/imfgperspectives_no24_propertytax_dahlbyandmcmillan_may_6_2019.pdf).  
                  Slack, Enid and Almos Tassonyi. 2017. "Financing Urban Infrastructure in Canada: Who Should Pay?" *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 34, [https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/79554/1/imfgpaper\\_no34\\_financinginfrastructure\\_slack\\_tassonyi\\_Nov\\_9\\_2017.pdf](https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/79554/1/imfgpaper_no34_financinginfrastructure_slack_tassonyi_Nov_9_2017.pdf).

Case Studies: Spicer et al., "Increasing User Fees for Recreation" and "Subsidizing Transit Passes for Seniors."

Nov. 13        **Urban Governance I: Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regionalism?**

Readings:     Sancton, pp. 112-117.  
                  Savitch, Hank and Ron Vogel. 2009. "Regionalism and Urban Politics." In *Theories of Urban Politics*, 2nd edition, edited by Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio, pp. 106-124. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.  
                  Horak, Martin. 2013. "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto." *Urban Research and Practice* 6 (3): 311-28.

***Class Exercise***

Decide on the most appropriate governing arrangement for a fictional metropolitan area.

Nov. 20      **Urban Governance II: Inter-Municipal Agreements, Special-Purpose Bodies, and Annexations**

Readings:      Sancton, chs. 4 and 6.  
Lyons, Joseph and Zachary Spicer. 2018. "Accountability and Local Collaborative Governance." In *Accountability and Responsiveness at the Municipal Level: Views from Canada*, edited by Sandra Breaux and Jérôme Couture, pp. 177-199.

Case Study:    Spicer et al., "Negotiating an Inter-Municipal Water Agreement."

***Class Exercise***

In groups, use the 'Governance Assessment Tool' to assess the democratic performance of a Canadian special-purpose body.

Nov. 27      **Urban Governance III: Two-Tier Systems and Amalgamations**

Readings:      Sancton, pp. 117-137 and ch. 8.  
Slack, Enid and Richard Bird. 2013. "Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?" *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 14, [http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg\\_no\\_14\\_slack\\_birdr3\\_online\\_final.pdf](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg_no_14_slack_birdr3_online_final.pdf).  
Wolman, Harold. 2019. "Looking at Regional Governance Institutions in Other Countries as a Possible Model for US Metropolitan Areas: An Examination of Multipurpose Regional Service Delivery Districts in British Columbia." *Urban Affairs Review* 55 (1): 321-354.

Dec. 4        **Urban Governance IV: Multilevel and Network Governance**

Readings:      Horak, Martin. 2012. "Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Success and Failure in Canada's Largest City." In *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*, edited by Martin Horak and Robert Young, 228-62. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.  
Alcantara, Chris, Jörg Broschek, and Jen Nelles. 2016. "Rethinking Multilevel Governance as an Instance of Multilevel Politics: A Conceptual Strategy." *Territory, Politics, Governance* 4 (1): 33-51.  
Carey Doberstein. 2013. "Metagovernance of Urban Governance Networks in Canada: In Pursuit of Legitimacy and Accountability." *Canadian Public Administration* 56 (4): 584-609.

Case Study:    Spicer et al., "Opening a Safe Injection Site."