

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**Advanced Local Government**  
PA 9901  
Summer 2020  
May 4-8; 9am-4pm (meeting times will vary)

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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, <https://www.redshelf.com/book/526795/canadian-local-government-526795-9780199008100-andrew-sancton> (link to e-book)

Spicer, Zachary, Joseph Lyons, and Kate Graham. 2020. *Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy*. Toronto: Emond, <https://emond.ca/local-government-in-practice-cases-in-governance-planning-and-policy.html> (link to e-book and hard copy)

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. Two Reading Responses.* Every student is required to submit separate reaction papers on the assigned readings (excluding the case studies) for two topics (beginning with Topic 4 – see Course Schedule and Required Readings below for the assigned readings and cases for each topic). Each submission should be as close to two single-spaced pages as possible. The Reading Responses should speak to some of the main themes and issues raised in the readings but are

**NOT** intended to be summaries. They are a chance for you to demonstrate your grasp of the material, your creativity, and your critical thinking skills. 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. Examples are strongly encouraged, but they need to be well connected to the assigned readings.

You will be asked to present one of these responses to the class (see Class Participation). You should be prepared to help lead class discussions for each of the topics that you prepare a response for. Responses are to be submitted through OWL at the start of the relevant session. *Late Papers will not be accepted.*

2. *Class Participation.* Two items make up the class participation grade:

a. **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.

b. **Reading Response Presentation.** You will be required to present one of your reading responses to the class. These presentations should be **approximately 5 minutes** in length. Please email me a ranked list of the three topics (from Topics 4-11) that you are most interested in doing your Reading Response Presentation on **by Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>** at the latest. You will be informed of the assigned topic for your Reading Response Presentation by Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. You will obviously write one of your reading responses on this topic. Your other reading response can be on any other topic of your choosing (from Topics 4-11). Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations.

3. *Quizzes.* There will be a short quiz associated with each topic. These quizzes will be based on the assigned readings and will consist of multiple-choice, fill-in-the blank, and/or true or false questions. They are designed to ensure that students have properly understood the assigned readings. The Quizzes will be posted and completed on OWL. All Quizzes must be completed by 9am on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

4. *Final Assignment: Case Analysis and Activities.* Based on the assigned case studies from Spicer et al. 2020. Due Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late. More details to be provided during class and on OWL.

### **Evaluation**

1. Reading Response:	40% (20% each)
2. Participation:	20%
3. Quizzes	10%
4. Final Assignment	30%

### **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

May 4 (Zoom meeting from 10am-12pm)

### Topic 1 Orientation, Introduction, and Organization

### Topic 2 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>.

### Topic 3 Internal Municipal Structures

Readings: Sancton, pp. 182-185; 190-197; 227-232; 270-71; 278-285.  
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).

Case Study: Spicer et al., "Hiring a CAO."

May 5 (Zoom meeting from 11am-12pm and 1-3pm)

### Topic 4 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).  
Breux, Sandra, Jerome Couture, and Royce Koop. 2019. "Influences on the Number and Gender of Candidates in Canadian Local Elections." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 52 (1): 163-181.

Case Studies: Spicer et al., "Online and Telephone Voting" and "Electoral Boundaries."

### Topic 5 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations

- Readings: Sancton, ch. 3 and ch. 4 from new edition (available on OWL)  
 Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. Forthcoming. "Governing Canadian Cities."  
 In *Canadian Cities in Transition: Understanding Contemporary Urbanism*, 6th edition, edited by Markus Moos et al. Toronto: Oxford University Press, pp. 33-50.  
 Good, Kristen. 2019. "Municipalities Deserve More Autonomy and Respect."  
*Policy Options*, <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/november-2019/municipalities-deserve-more-autonomy-and-respect/>.  
 Moore, Aaron. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 37-52.
- Case Studies: Spicer et al., "Meeting with the Premier" and "Applying for an Intergovernmental Grant."

*May 6 (Zoom meeting from 1-3pm)*

## **Topic 6 Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing**

- Readings: Sancton, ch. 15 from new edition (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."

## **Topic 7 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."

May 7 (Zoom meeting from 11am-12pm and 1-3pm)

**Topic 9 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.

**Topic 10 Urban Governance II: Inter-Municipal Cooperation, Special-Purpose Bodies, and Municipal Restructuring**

Readings: Sancton, chs. 4, 6, 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, <https://doi-org.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/10.1177/1078087416689824>.

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.

May 8 (Zoom Meeting from 10am-12pm)

**Topic 11 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.

Doberstein, Carey. 2016. “Designing Collaborative Governance Decision Making in Search of a Collaborative Advantage.” *Public Management Review* 18 (6): 819-841.

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