

Western University
Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
PA 9901 – 651
Fall 2020

Thursdays 4:30-6:30pm
Online via Zoom

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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 includes both synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (on your own time) elements. It will consist of a combination of readings, pre-recorded lectures, online discussion forums, student presentations, class discussions, and case studies. Lectures will be available in advance of each class and can be accessed through the ‘Lessons’ tab on the course’s OWL site. Synchronous meetings will occur on Thursdays from 4:30-6:30pm (ET). Links for all class meetings will also be available on OWL – via the ‘Zoom’ tab.

Readings and Materials

Required Textbooks:

Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press, <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/canadian-local-government-an-urban-perspective-andrew-sancton-v9780199008100> (link to e-book; 180-day digital rental is recommended)

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. *Reading Response.* Every student is required to submit a reaction paper on the assigned readings for one of the weekly class topics (beginning September 23rd). Your reading response should speak to some of the main themes and issues raised in the readings but is **NOT** intended to be a summary. This is an opportunity 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. Reading responses should be as close to **two single-spaced pages** as possible.

You will be asked to pre-record a presentation on aspects of your reading response and to help lead the class discussion during the relevant synchronous class session (see *Class Participation*). The reading response schedule will be determined during the first class. Responses are to be submitted via the “Assignment” tab on OWL prior to the start of the relevant synchronous session. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

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

a. **Attendance and Participation.** You must keep up with the readings and lectures, attend all synchronous class sessions, 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 submit a pre-recorded audio presentation on your reading response to the instructor via email by 9am the Wednesday before your reading response is due. These will be uploaded by the instructor to OWL, so that everyone has a chance to listen to your presentation before class. These presentations should be **approximately 2.5 minutes** in length. The point of these presentations is to highlight your main points and to stimulate class discussion.

c. **Small Group Discussion Board Participation.** At the start of each pre-recorded lecture, the instructor will pose several questions for discussion. Each student will be assigned as either a discussant or respondent to these questions on a rotating basis. The discussion board schedule will be determined early in the term.

3. *Quizzes.* There will be a short quiz associated with each topic. These quizzes will be based on the assigned readings and pre-recorded lectures 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 prior to the start of the relevant synchronous class session.

4. *Final Assignment.* Students must submit a 2,000-word paper by Monday, December 14th. You must choose one of the following options. (More details to be provided during class and on OWL.)

a. Under **option one**, students complete an analysis of one of the assigned case studies from Spicer et al. 2020.

b. Under **option two**, students complete a municipal profile and some accompanying analysis as part of the Centre for Urban Policy and Local Governance’s Municipal Inventory Project.

Note: Overdue submissions will be penalized **two percentage points** for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late. Extensions will be granted only if written confirmation of any extenuating circumstances is provided.

Evaluation

1. Reading Response:	30%
2. Class Participation:	
Attendance and Participation	15%
Reading Response Presentation	5%
Discussion Board Participation	10%
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.

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.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Sept. 10 **Orientation, Introduction, and Organization**

Sept. 17 **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/spp.v12i0.56964>.

Sept. 24 **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.

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

Oct. 1 **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.
Davidson, Adrienne, Michael McGregor, and Myer Siemiatycky. 2020. "Gender, Race and Political Ambition: The Case of Ontario School Board Elections." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0008423919001057>.

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

Oct. 8 **Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations I: Federal-Provincial-Local Relations**

- Readings: Sancton, ch. 3 and ch. 4 from new edition (available on OWL)
Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. 2020. "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.
Graham, Kate, Neil Bradford, and Gabriel Eidelman. 2020. "Time to Take Urban Policy Seriously." *Hill Times*, July 13, p. 28.
Alcantara, Christopher and Ian Kalman. 2019. "Diversifying Methodologies: A Haudenosaunee/Settler Approach for Measuring Indigenous-Local Intergovernmental Success." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 52 (1): 21-38.

Case Study: Spicer et al., "Meeting with the Premier."

Oct. 15 * No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday Week *

Oct. 22 **Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations II: Provincial-Local Relations**

- Readings: 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.
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. 29 **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.
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. 5 **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.
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.
- Case Studies: Spicer et al., "Increasing User Fees for Recreation" and "Subsidizing Transit Passes for Seniors."

Nov. 12 **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. 19 **Urban Governance II: Inter-Municipal Agreements, Special-Purpose Bodies, and Annexations**

- Readings: Sancton, chs. 4 and 6.
 Côté, André, Gabriel Eidelman, and Michael Fenn. 2020. "A Playbook for Voluntary Regional Governance in Greater Toronto." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 28, <https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/100862/1/Perspectives-28-Playbook-Regional-Governance-Toronto.pdf>.
 Lyons, Joseph. 2020. "The Democratic Dimensions of Specialized Governments." In *What is Democracy and How Do We Study It?*, edited by Cameron Anderson and Laura Stephenson. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- 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. 26 **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.
 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. 3 **Urban Governance IV: Multilevel and Collaborative 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."