

Economics and Policy Analysis | Local Government 9913
Masters of Public Administration Program
Winter 2020

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Dates: January 10-11; February 28-29; March 27-28, 2020
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.

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 original research 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; and
- Have produced a piece of original research, as a single-community case.

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 |
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| 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 28, 2020 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 29, 2020 |
| 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 27 and Saturday, March 28, 2020 |
| 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, April 3, 2020 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 28, 2020 at 3pm.

Group Presentation (15%):

In Module 2 (February 28-29, 2020), 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 29, 2020

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. The presentation should, however, focus on one "promising practice" being championed by the municipality for the purposes of economic development. During Module 3 (March 27-28, 2020), students will make a brief presentation (5-7 minutes, followed by 3-5 minutes for questions) about their case study investigation.

Written Case Study (30%):

Students will prepare a written case study on their assigned Canadian community. The case study should briefly identify governance arrangements; defined strategies and articulate priorities; current projects aimed to promote economic growth; and, emerging challenges and opportunities facing the community. The case study should then situate the one "promising practice" within the dominant theories and contemporary debates discussed in Module 1 (January 10-11, 2020), examining the underlying assumptions evident in the practice and politics of local economic development. The written case is due via OWL on Friday, April 3, 2020 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 (Jan. 10-11, 2020)

| FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2020 | | |
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| Time | Topic | Readings & Notes |
| 3:00 – 3:30pm | Welcome Introductions Course overview | 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: UTP. |
| 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)</i> : 209-220. [Available on OWL] |

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| 6:30 – 7:00pm | Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion | |
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| SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 | | |
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| 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 | |
| 3:30 – 4:00pm | Wrap Up Summary of learning Preparation for next class | |

Module #2: The Practice of Local Economic Development (February 28-29, 2020)

| FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020 | | |
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| 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 29, 2020 | | |
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| 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] |

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| 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 | 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 27-28, 2020)

| FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020 | | |
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| 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] |

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| 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 28, 2020 | | |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 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 | |