

Western University
Department of Political Science
Advanced Local Government
PA 9901
Summer 2021

May 10-14
Daily Zoom meetings from 10:30am-2:30pm

Instructor: Joe Lyons
E-mail: jlyons7@uwo.ca

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 to the rest of the program. Students will gain 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, student presentations, class discussions, and case studies. Lectures will be available in advance of each synchronous session and can be accessed through the 'Lessons' tab on the course's OWL site. Synchronous meetings will occur each day between 10:30am and 2:30pm (ET). Links for all class meetings will be available on OWL – via the 'Zoom' tab.

Readings and Materials

Required Textbooks:

Sancton, Andrew. 2021. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 3rd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

Spicer, Zachary, Joseph Lyons, and Kate Graham. 2020. *Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy*. Toronto: Emond.

Both textbooks are available in hard copy or e-book format through the Campus Bookstore:

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=22021&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/PAD9901.

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 for each topic). Each reading response should be as close to **1,000 words** as possible. Your 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.

Reading responses are to be submitted as Word documents via the ‘Assignments’ tab on OWL. Your first reading response is due by Friday, May 14th at 5pm. Your second response is due by Tuesday, May 18th at 5pm. *Late papers will not be accepted.* There is no need to formally cite course readings in your reading responses. If you are using an idea presented in one of the assigned readings, give acknowledgement by saying something like, “as Sancton argues, ...”. If you decide you need to incorporate an external source to help get a point across – which is not a requirement – cite it according to the ASA style guide (parenthetical notes and reference list). You will be asked to present one of these responses to the class (see Class Participation).

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

a. **Attendance and Participation.** You must keep up with the readings, 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 5pm the day before your topic is to be discussed. 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.

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 26th** at the latest. You will be informed of the assigned topic for your reading response presentation by Wednesday, April 28th. 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).

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 through the ‘Tests & Quizzes’ tab OWL. All quizzes must be completed by 10:30am on Friday, May 14th.

4. *Final Assignment: Case Analysis and Activities.* Students must submit a 2,000-word paper based on one of the assigned case studies from Spicer et al. 2020. The final assignment is due by 11:55pm on Tuesday, May 25th. 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 Responses: 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.

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

May 10 (Zoom meeting from 10:30am-2:30pm)

Topic 1 Orientation, Introduction, and Organization

Topic 2 The What and Why of Local Government

Readings: Sancton, chs. 1, 2, and 6.
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>.

Topic 3 Internal Municipal Structures

Readings: Sancton, pp. 171-175; 179-185; 212-217; 256-260; 266-273.
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."

May 11 (Zoom meeting from 10:30am-2:30pm)

Topic 4 Municipal Elections

- Readings: Sancton, pp. 165-171; 175-179; 185-189.
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* 53: 461-475.
- Case Studies: Spicer et al., "Online and Telephone Voting" and "Electoral Boundaries."

Topic 5 Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations I: Federal-Provincial-Local Relations

- Readings: Sancton, chs. 3 and 4
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."

May 12 (Zoom meeting from 10:30am-2:30pm)

Topic 6 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.”

Topic 7 Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing

Readings: Sancton, pp. 277- 286; 261-266.
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* 43 (2): 236-250.

Case Study: Spicer et al., “Balancing the Budget.”

May 13 (Zoom meeting from 10:30am-2:30pm)

Topic 8 Municipal Finance II: Municipal Revenue Sources

Readings: Sancton, ch. 16 and pp. 286-297; 190-194.
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.”

Topic 9 Urban Governance I: Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regionalism?

Readings: Sancton, pp. 109-113.
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.

<p><i>Class Exercise:</i> Decide on the most appropriate governing arrangement for a fictional metropolitan area.</p>
--

May 14 (Zoom Meeting from 10:30am-2:30pm)

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

Readings: Sancton, chs. 5 and 7, pp. 113-133, and ch. 9 (a lot of this can be skimmed).
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.

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

<p>Class Exercise: In groups, use the 'Governance Assessment Tool' to assess the democratic performance of a Canadian special-purpose body.</p>
--

Topic 11 Urban Governance III: 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."