

**Economics and Policy Analysis | Local Government 9913**  
Masters of Public Administration Program  
Winter 2021

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Office Hours: By appointment

Dates: January 22-23, February 19-20, March 12-13, April 2-3  
Times: Fridays from 5-7pm; Saturdays from 10am-2pm  
Location: Online – details on OWL site

**Course Overview:**

Canadian municipalities 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. Most recently, the COVID pandemic has created fiscal pressures for municipalities amid a period of high unemployment and economic struggle. 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? Are municipalities equipped to deal with the economic challenges associated with COVID?

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. In sum, this course offers students an 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 to the field of 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 community-level economic analysis; and
- Be familiar with how COVID is affecting the economic realities for Canadian municipalities.

## **This Course Is:**

- An opportunity to engage with multiple dominant theories of local economic development, and contemporary debates;
- An applied investigation into 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.

## Readings:

The main textbook for this course (and also a required reading in Advanced Local Government) is a collection of case studies which will be used throughout the class:

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

Additional readings, videos and more will be posted in OWL throughout the course.

## Course Structure in Online Environment:

This course includes four modules:

- **Module #1 (January 22, 23): Theories of Local Economic Development**
- **Module #2 (February 19, 20): The Practice of Local Economic Development**
- **Module #3 (March 12, 13): The Politics of Local Economic Development**
- **Module #4 (April 2, 3): Crisis & Economic Resiliency**

Every effort is being made to ensure the delivery of the course is engaging, interesting and compelling. Therefore, lecture time has been minimized and numerous case studies in small groups have been built into the itinerary. Each weekend will roughly follow this agenda:

- **Friday (5-7pm):** a 1-hr lecture and discussion, followed by a 40-min group activity in breakout rooms, returning to the full class for the final 20-min of the class
- **Saturday (10-2pm):** a 45-min lecture and discussion, followed by a 2-hr small group case study exercise (worth 30% of mark) and some time for a lunch break, returning to the full group for a lecture and wrap up for the final 45-min of class

As such, the written requirements of this course have been reduced and class participation in discussions and group work on case studies is weighted heavily in the evaluation.

## Evaluation:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
<b>Analytical Paper:</b> An analysis of two theoretical approaches and one major economic development decision in a Canadian municipality (8-10 pages)	25%	Due on Friday, February 25, 2021 at 3pm*
<b>Case Study Group Projects:</b> Completed during class time on Saturdays during Module 1, 2 and 3 (marked as a group)	30%	Saturdays in Modules 1, 2 and 3 (January 23, February 20, March 13)
<b>Class Participation:</b> Participation in class discussions and individual exercises as assigned in class community per student	20%	Ongoing – marks will be submitted via OWL after each module (5% each)
<b>Final Exam:</b> An open book final exam completed during the final class on Saturday, April 3, 2021	25%	Due on Friday, March 29, 2019 at 5pm*

*\*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 25, 2021 at 3pm.

### **Case Study Group Projects (30%):**

On the first three Saturdays of the course, students will be put into small groups to examine cases in the course textbook, *Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy*. As groups, students will report back through OWL and/or to the class. Unless otherwise requested, all students in each group will receive the same mark worth 10% of the course grade for each week.

**Class Participation (20%):**

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. A participation mark worth 5% of the course grade will be provided after each module, including both class discussions as well as online activities as required. Any absences should be communicated to Dr. Graham, in advance where possible.

**Final Exam (25%):**

An open book final exam will be administered via OWL on the final day of class, Saturday April 3, 2021. Details will be provided in class.

**SCHEDULE*****Module #1: Theories of Economics & Policy Analysis at the Local Level (January 22 and 23, 2021)***

<b>FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2021 @ 5-7pm</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Notes</b>
5:00 – 5:20pm	Lecture & Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• Course overview</li> </ul>	Please review course outline carefully.
5:20 – 6:00pm	Local Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terms and definitions</li> <li>• Core concepts</li> <li>• Contemporary context</li> <li>• Theory vs practice</li> </ul>	Blair, John P and Michel C. Carroll. 2009. "Chapter 1: Local Economic Development in a Global Market." Local Economic Development: Analysis, Practices and Globalization. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications. [Available on OWL]
6:00 – 6:40pm	Small Group Activity	Details provided in class
6:40 – 7:00pm	Class Wrap Up	

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2021 @ 10am-2pm		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
10:00-10:45am	Theories of Economics & Policy Analysis at Local Level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traditional approaches</li> <li>• Place-based approaches</li> <li>• Clusters</li> <li>• Other approaches</li> </ul>	<p>Spicer et al (2020). "Part III Introduction: Cases in Planning &amp; Economic Development." <i>Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy</i>. Toronto: Emond. (pgs. 139-146).</p> <p>Peterson, Paul E. 2007. "The Interests of the Limited City." In E. A. Strom &amp; J. H. Mollenkopf, eds. <i>Urban Politics Reader</i>. New York: Routledge. [Available on OWL]</p> <p>Florida, Richard. 2003. "Cities and the Creative Class." <i>City and Community</i> 2(1): 3-19. [Available on OWL]</p> <p>Gertler, Meric S. "Urban Economy and Society in Canada: Flows of People, Capital and Ideas." <i>Isma: The Canadian Journal of Policy Research</i> 2:3 (Autumn 2001), 119-130. [Available on OWL]</p>
10:45am – 1:15pm	Case Study Group Project	<p>Spicer et al (2020). "Chapter 14: Building a Professional Sports Stadium." <i>Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy</i>. Toronto: Emond. (pgs. 171-178).</p> <p>Malfas, M., E. Theodoraki and B. Houlihan. 2004. "Impacts of the</p>

		Olympic Games as Mega-Events.” Municipal Engineer 157(ME3): 209-220. [Available on OWL]
1:15 – 2:00pm	Lecture & Class Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contemporary debates</li> <li>• Analytical paper instructions</li> </ul>	

**Module #2: The Practice of LED (February 12 and 13, 2021)**

<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2021 @ 5-7pm</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Notes</b>
5:00 – 6:00pm	Lecture & Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shifting paradigms</li> <li>• Approaches to the practice of LED</li> </ul>	Harvey, David. 1989. “From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism.” Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography, 71(1): 3-17. [Available on OWL]  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]
6:00 – 6:40pm	Small Group Activity	Details provided in class
6:40 – 7:00pm	Class Wrap Up	

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2021 @ 10am-2pm		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
10:00-11:00am	<p>Moderated Panel Discussion on the Practice of Local Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kapil Lakhota, President &amp; CEO, London Economic Development Corporation</li> <li>• Ashleigh Weeden, PhD candidate at University of Guelph studying future-oriented rural economic resiliency</li> <li>• John Fleming, former City Planner for City of London &amp; designer of the LEDC model in London</li> </ul>	<p>Stephen Thompson (2010). "Delivery models of local economic development: An analysis of internal and external models in Ontario." <i>Papers in Canadian Economic Development</i>. [Available on OWL]</p> <p>Joseph Lyons (2015). "Local government structure and co-ordination of economic development policy." <i>Canadian Political Science Association</i>. [Available on OWL].</p>
11:00am – 1:15pm	Case Study Group Project	<p>Spicer et al (2020). "Chapter 15: Organizational Structure and the Competition for. Economic Development." <i>Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy</i>. Toronto: Emond. (pgs. 171-178).</p>
1:15 – 2:00pm	<p>Lecture &amp; Class Wrap Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contemporary debates</li> <li>• Analytical paper – check in before due on Friday, February 25, 2021 at 3pm</li> </ul>	



**Module #3: The Politics of Local Economic Development (March 12 and 13, 2021)**

<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 @ 5-7pm</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Notes</b>
5:00 – 6:00pm	Lecture & Discussion	<p>Wolman, Harold. 1996. "The Politics of Local Economic Development." <i>Economic Development Quarterly</i>. [Available on OWL]</p> <p>Donald, Betsy. 2005. "The Politics of Local Economic Development in Canada's City-Regions: New Dependencies, New Deals, and New Politics of Scale." <i>Space and Polity</i> 9(3): 261-281. [Available on OWL]</p>
6:00 – 6:40pm	Small Group Activity	Details provided in class
6:40 – 7:00pm	Class Wrap Up	

<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2021 @ 10am-2pm</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Notes</b>
10:00-10:45am	Lecture & Discussion	<p>Adams B. Nager, Allison S. Lowe Reed, W. Scott Langford (2019). "Catching the Whale: A comparison of place promotion strategies through the lens of Amazon HQ2." <i>Geography Compass</i>. [Available on OWL]</p>
10:45am – 1:15pm	Case Study Group Project: Amazon HQ2	Details & materials provided in class
1:15 – 2:00pm	Lecture & Class Wrap Up	

**Module #4: Crisis and Economic Resiliency (April 2 and 3, 2021)**

<b>FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021 @ 5-7pm</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Notes</b>
5:00 – 6:00pm	Panel Discussion: COVID & Canada's Local Economies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speakers TBD</li> </ul>	Readings to be assigned closer to date to be as timely as possible
6:00 – 6:40pm	Lecture: Crisis & Economic Resiliency	Darrin H. E. Wilson, Brad Johnson, Eric Stokan and Michael Overton (2020). "Institutional Collective Action during COVID-19: Lessons in Local Economic Development." <i>Public Administration Review</i> . [Available on OWL].
6:40 – 7:00pm	Class Wrap Up	

<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 3, 2021 @ 10am-2pm</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings &amp; Notes</b>
10:00 – 10:30am	Class Wrap Up	None
10:30 – 1:30pm	Final Exam (Open Book)	None