

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**Advanced Local Government**  
PA 9901  
Fall 2017

Wednesdays 4:30-6:30pm Room  
4112, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons  
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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, group work, and student presentations.

### **Readings and Materials**

Required Textbook: Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd edition (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015) – copies are available in the UWO bookstore.

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 Short Reading Responses.* Every student is required to submit a short (**ONE page, single-spaced**) reaction paper on the assigned readings for two non-consecutive classes (beginning Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>). These responses should speak to some of the main themes and issues raised in the readings, but they are **NOT** intended to be summaries. 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 of the readings together, and/or to incorporate your own personal experiences.

You will be responsible for presenting one of these responses to the class (see *Class Participation*). You should be prepared to help lead class discussions for both of the weeks that you prepare a response for, and especially during the class in which you present.

Responses are to be submitted at the start of the classes covering the readings that you have responded to. *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. If you are unable to attend a particular 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**. The presentation schedule will be determined during the first class. Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations.

3. *Research Project.* In consultation with the instructor, students should choose a research topic related to any of the topics covered below. Two items make up the research paper grade:

a. **Research Proposal.** Students will submit a 2-3 page (double-spaced) research proposal by **November 1<sup>st</sup>**. The aim of the research proposal is to focus your research question and develop a strategy for completing the rest of your project.

b. **Research Paper.** The paper should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length and must be submitted by **December 11<sup>th</sup> at the latest**. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late.

### **Evaluation**

- |                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Two Short Reading Responses: | 20% (10% each) |
| 2. Participation:               | 25%            |
| 3. Research Project:            |                |
| a. Proposal                     | 10%            |
| b. Paper                        | 45%            |

### **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](mailto: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**

Sept. 13      **Orientation, Introduction, and Organization**

Sept. 20      **The What and Why of Local Government**

Readings:    Sancton, Chs. 1, 2, and 5.

\*From 6-6:30, Jennifer Lajoie and Spencer Sandor, members of the Alumni Society's Executive Committee, will make a presentation to the class about the Alumni Society, its upcoming annual conference, and a new mentorship program for full-time MPA students.\*

Sept. 27      **Internal Municipal Structures**

- Readings:      Sancton, pp. 182-185; 190-197; 227-232.  
Siegel, David and Michael Fenn. 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\\_fen siegel\\_may\\_5\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/420/imfgpaper_no31_cao_fen siegel_may_5_2017.pdf).  
Sancton, Andrew. 2017. "Accountability Officers and Integrity in Canadian Municipal Government." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 17,  
[http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/388/imfgperspectives17\\_asan cton\\_mar\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/388/imfgperspectives17_asan cton_mar_2017.pdf).

***Class Exercise***

Read the following report: Eidelman, Gabriel and Brian Kelcey. 2017. *A Practical Blueprint for Change: Final Report of the City Hall Task Force*. Toronto: School of Public Policy and Governance, University of Toronto,  
<http://individual.utoronto.ca/eidelman/docs/City%20Hall%20Task%20Force%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

Instructions and discussion question(s) to be distributed in class.

Oct. 4      **Municipal Elections**

- Readings:      Sancton, pp. 173-181; 185-190; 197-201.  
Sayers, Anthony and Jack Lucas. 2017. "Policy Responsiveness and Political Accountability in City Politics." *University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Research Papers* 10 (4), <https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Policy-Responsiveness-Sayers-Lucas.pdf>.  
Taylor, Zack and Sandra McEleney. 2017. "Do Institutions and Rules Influence Electoral Accessibility and Competitiveness? Considering the 2014 Toronto Ward Elections." *Urban Affairs Review*, doi: 10.1177/1078087417703753.

Oct. 11      **Central-Local Relations I: Provincial Paternalism?**

- Readings:      Sancton, pp. 27-41.  
Sancton, Andrew. 2016. "The False Panacea of City Charters: The Case of Toronto." *University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Research Papers* 9 (3), <http://www.policyschool.ca/publications/false-panacea-city-charters-political-perspective-case-toronto-0/>.

Moore, Aaron. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*, pp. 37-52. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.  
Pagliaro, Jennifer. 2016. "Province Plans to Overhaul OMB and Give More Power to Cities and Citizens." *Toronto Star*, May 16, [https://www.thestar.com/news/city\\_hall/2017/05/16/province-plans-to-overhaul-omb-and-give-more-power-to-cities-and-citizens.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2017/05/16/province-plans-to-overhaul-omb-and-give-more-power-to-cities-and-citizens.html).

Oct. 18           **Central-Local Relations II: Municipal Autonomy?**

Readings:       Sancton, pp. 41-45.  
Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. 2015. "The New Localism: Canadian Urban Governance in the Twenty-First Century." In *Canadian Cities in Transition: Perspectives for an Urban Age*, 5th edition, edited by Pierre Filion et al., pp. 194-208. Toronto: Oxford University Press.  
Shott, Allison. 2017. "The Composition of Municipal Associations and Policy Requests to Provincial Governments: Selected Cases." *Canadian Public Administration*, 60 (1): 111-34.  
Slack, Enid. 2017. "How Much Local Fiscal Autonomy Do Cities Have? A Comparison of Eight Cities around the World." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 19, [http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/432/imfg\\_perspectives\\_local\\_fiscal\\_autonomy\\_enidslack\\_july\\_25\\_2017.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/432/imfg_perspectives_local_fiscal_autonomy_enidslack_july_25_2017.pdf).

Oct. 25           **Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing**

Readings:       Sancton, pp. 289-301.  
Tassonyi, Almos and Brian Conger. "An Exploration into the Municipal Capacity to Finance Capital Infrastructure." *University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Research Papers* 8 (38), <https://www.policyschool.ca/wp.../municipal-capital-infrastructure-tassonyi-conger.pdf>.  
And one of:     Slack, Enid and André Côté. 2014. "Is Toronto Fiscally Healthy? A Check-up on the City's Finances." *IMFG Perspectives: The Pre-election Series*, No. 7, <http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/288/1581fiscallyhealthy5final.pdf>.  
Tassonyi, Almos. 2017. "The Context and Challenges for Canada's Mid-sized Cities." *University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Research Papers* 10 (9), <https://www.policyschool.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Mid-Sized-Cities-Tassonyi.pdf>.

Nov. 1           **Municipal Finance II: Property Taxes, User-Fees, and Development Charges**  
                          \*Research Proposal Due\*

Readings:       Sancton, Ch. 15 and pp. 301-312; 202-207.  
Bird, Richard, Enid Slack, and Almos Tassonyi. 2012. *A Tale of Two Taxes:*

*Property Tax Reform in Ontario*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Chs. 1 (**skim**) and 9.

Clayton, Frank. 2017. *Toronto has Plenty of Room for Increasing Residential Property Taxes*. Toronto: Ryerson Centre for Urban Research and Land Development,  
[www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/cur/pdfs/Projects/propertytaxesgtamunicipalities.pdf](http://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/cur/pdfs/Projects/propertytaxesgtamunicipalities.pdf).

Fowler, Kim. 2016. "Integrating Land Use Planning and Development Finance to Improve Local Government Sustainability." *Plan Canada* 56 (2): 42-46.

***Class Exercise***

Explore website and watch video (will be shown in class): <http://www.thelocalshare.ca/#contact>.

Instructions and discussions question(s) to be distributed in class.

Nov. 8           **Metropolitan 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.  
Hamilton, David K., David Y. Miller, and Jerry Paytas. 2004. "Exploring the Horizontal and Vertical Dimensions of the Governing of Metropolitan Regions." *Urban Affairs Review* 40 (2): **read only** 147-159.

***Class Exercise***

Decide on the most appropriate governing arrangement for a fictional metropolitan area.

Instructions and options to be distributed in class.

Nov. 15           **Metropolitan Governance II: Inter-Municipal Agreements, Special-Purpose Bodies, and Annexations**

Readings:       Sancton, Chs. 4 and 6.  
Lyons, Joseph and Zachary Spicer. Forthcoming. "Accountability and Local Collaborative Governance." In *Accountability and Responsiveness at the Municipal Level: Views from Canada*, edited by Sandra Breaux and Jérôme Couture, pp. 197-220.

Nov. 22           **Metropolitan 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](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg_no_14_slack_birdr3_online_final.pdf).

Wolman, Harold. 2017. "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*, doi: 10.1177/1078087416689824.

Nov. 29      **Metropolitan Governance IV: Multilevel 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*, ed. Martin Horak and Robert Young, 228-62. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.
- Horak, Martin. 2013. "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto." *Urban Research and Practice* 6 (3): 311-28.
- Eidelman, Gabriel. 2013. *Three's Company: A Review of Waterfront Toronto's Tri-government Approach to Revitalization*. Toronto: The Mowat Centre, available at <http://mowatcentre.ca/threes-company/>.