

Western University
Department of Political Science
Issues in Local Government
Public Administration 9917L
Summer 2018

June 11-15: 9-12:00; 1-4:00
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

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Course Information

Course Objectives: This is the capstone course in the MPA program. The objectives are two-fold. First, the course provides a venue for students to review and apply what they have learned in other courses, by discussing a selection of topics related to local government. Second, the course allows students to get constructive critical feedback on their MPA research projects in progress.

Course Organization: The course will consist of a combination of short lectures, guest speakers, student presentations, and class discussions.

Readings: There is minimal reading in this course. Selected readings have been assigned to introduce topics covered by lectures and guest speakers. All assigned readings will be available through Western Libraries or the course's OWL site. Assigned reading should be done **before** the class in which it is to be discussed.

Requirements:

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

a. **Attendance and Participation.** You must attend all classes and participate during discussions. Students are expected to ask questions and provide feedback on their peers' presentations and to engage with the instructor and guest speakers. If you are unable to attend a class, you should advise the instructor in advance.

b. **Presentation Discussant.** Each student will be assigned as a discussant to a peer's presentation. In your role as discussant, you are expected to ask **two** thoughtful and helpful questions about the presenter's research project. Discussant assignments (names in brackets) are included in the presentation schedule below.

2. *Presentation on Research Project.* Students will prepare a short presentation – no more than 10 minutes – on their final research project. This presentation is an opportunity for you to receive constructive feedback on your research project from the instructor and your peers. It also gives you practice presenting research in a way that is interesting and engaging, which is a skill itself. The group benefits from learning about important and emerging issues in local government.

The content of your presentation will vary depending on how advanced your project is and when you plan to complete. In general, I expect you to: state your research question(s); briefly outline your research design; present a couple of highlights of what you have done so far and what you still need to do; and tell us about some challenges/issues/problems that you are facing.

Since a major purpose of the presentation is to allow for critical feedback, it is in your interest to acknowledge and discuss any significant challenges that you have faced. The goal is to get as many helpful comments and suggestions as possible. Others may have faced similar challenges, so the group is a good sounding board.

PowerPoint facilities will be available, but PowerPoint is not required (it's your choice).

3. *Reading Response on Favourite Reading.* Students must write a 2,500-word critical reflection piece on their favourite peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter from the program (i.e. not a newspaper article or book from a non-academic press). This paper due on Tuesday, July 3rd. Among other things, the reading response should: identify the course and topic for which the reading was assigned; outline and analyze its main assumptions, arguments, and findings; situate it within the broader academic literature on the topic and assess its contribution; identify how research on the topic has since progressed and where it is heading; explain why and how it is a useful resource for practitioners; and describe how it will help to guide your career moving forward. You are encouraged to share your own perspective and experiences, as they relate to this reading. You will also need to draw from related academic literature to properly evaluate the significance of its contribution and identify avenues of ongoing and future research.

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:

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| 1. Class Participation: | |
| Attendance and Participation | 20% |
| Presentation Discussant | 5% |
| 2. Presentation on Research Project: | 35% |
| 3. Reading Response on Favourite Reading: | 40% |

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

Monday, June 11, Morning Session

9-10:30	Introduction and Organization
10:30-noon	Local Administrative Leadership
Rob Tremblay	The Leadership Role of the CAO in Smaller Municipalities (David Arbuckle)
Simona Dinu	The Leadership Skills and Career Paths of Successful Public Library CEOs (Mollie Kuchma)

Monday, June 11, Afternoon Session

1-2:30	Indigenous-Municipal Partnerships
Guest Speaker:	Leslee White-Eye, former Chief, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation
Readings:	Nelles, Jen and Christopher Alcantara. 2014. Explaining the Emergence of Indigenous-Local Intergovernmental Relations in Settler Societies. <i>Urban Affairs Review</i> 50(5): 599-622.
2:30-4	Refugee Settlement
Henry Awere	Helping Syrian Assisted Refugees Transition into the Workforce in London, Ontario (Simona Dinu)
Victoria Parada	Syrians in London: A Road to Settling (Wendy Woods)

Tuesday, June 12, Morning Session

9-10:30	Comparative Local Politics
Readings:	Spink, Peter. 2005. The Inter-Municipal Consortia in Brazil: An Institutional Introduction. Paper presented at the X Congreso Internacional del CLAD sobre la Reforma del Estado y de la Administración Pública, Santiago, Chile, 18 – 21.
Guest Speaker:	Gabriel de Souza Barbosa, visiting PhD student
10:30-noon	Recruitment, Retention, and Job Satisfaction
Mollie Kuchma	Job Recruitment and Retention in Rural Ontario: A Model of Physician Recruitment Applied to the Recruitment of Local Government Professionals in Bruce County (Bipin Dhillon)
Wendy Woods	A Study to Examine Individual and Institutional Factors Influencing Region of Waterloo Community Services' Employees to Change Jobs (Zak Abdulle)

Tuesday, June 12, Afternoon Session

- 1-2:30 **Ranked-Ballot Elections: The Case of London**
- Megan Shannon Administering Ranked-Ballot Elections (Jason Cole)
Zakaria Abdulle Policy Innovation and Diffusion on Electoral Reform (Sylvia Do)
Eleanor Gebrou Reaching Hard-to-Reach Communities with Electoral Reform (Kristen
Pawelec)
- 2:30-4 **Public Service Motivation and Program Debrief**
- Readings: Perry, James and Annie Hondeghem, eds. 2008. *Motivation in Public
Management: The Call of Public Service*. Oxford: OUP, pp. 1-
9, chapter 13.

Wednesday, June 13, Morning Session

- 9-10:30 **Multilevel Governance**
- Jason Cole Multilevel Decision Making and its Influence on Wind Energy Policy
(Aaron Leduc)
Sylvia Do Transportation Infrastructure Planning in Toronto (Megan Shannon)
- 10:30-noon **OMB Reform: Motivations and Implications**
- Readings: Hansen, Leah. 2018. The Ontario Municipal Board Will Soon be No
More: Here's What that Means for You. *CBC News*, April 2.
[http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/omb-planning-appeal-
tribunal-development-1.4595608](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/omb-planning-appeal-tribunal-development-1.4595608).
- Guest Speaker: Jennifer Smout, Solicitor, City of London

Wednesday, June 13, Afternoon Session

- 1-2:30 **Local Policymaking and Implementation**
- Darlene Coke The Cost of Culture (Paul Wilton)
Ashley Young Safe Consumption Sites in London (Brian Kreps)
- 2:30-4 **Thinking and Acting Strategically**
- Bipin Dhillon Downtown Revitalization as a Strategic Alternative to Public-Private
Partnership Sporting Venues (Darlene Coke)
Kristen Pawelec Lessons Learned from the City of London's 2015-19 Strategic Planning
Process (Henry Awere)

Thursday, June 14, Morning Session

- 9-10:30 **Issues in the Fire Service**

Lydia Wilcox Hidden Hurdles: Barriers Women May Encounter When Applying to Ontario Fire Services (Ashley Young)
Ted Wieclawek Interest Arbitration in the Fire Services Sector (Elmond Bandauko)

10:30-noon **Accountability and Ethics I**

David Arbuckle Assessing Municipal Council Accountability (Victoria Parada)
Aaron Leduc Non-CPA Municipal Treasurers as Financial Controllers? (Rob Tremblay)

Thursday, June 14, Afternoon Session

1-3:30 **Accountability and Ethics II**

Readings: MacEwen, Philip. 2018. The Ethical Significance of Michael DiBiase v. City of Vaughan. *Canadian Public Administration* 61 (S1): 66-78.

Guest Speaker: Suzanne Craig, Integrity Commissioner, City of Vaughan, Toronto District School Board

3:30-5 Summer Social

Friday, June 15, Morning Session

9-10:30 **Voting and Participation**

Paul Wilton Ontario Municipal Voters List Reform Project (Ted Wieclawek)
Elmond Bandauko Stakeholder Engagement in Local Government Policy Processes: An Assessment of 'Rethink London' Using the Collaborative Planning Framework (Lydia Wilcox)

Brian Kreps Factors Influencing the Co-production of Services at the Municipal Level: A Case Study of the City of Hamilton's Neighbourhood Action Strategy (Eleanor Gebrou)

10:30-noon **Issues in MPA Research Reports: Review and Discussion**