

Western University
Department of Political Science
The Policy Process in Local Government
Public Administration 9902
Spring 2022

Instructor: David Arbuckle (Dave)
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Dates: May 16th – 20th, 2022
Times: 9:00am – 4:00pm
Location: 4255 SSC

Course Description:

Building on PA9901, this course introduces students to selected aspects of the academic literature on public policy processes and applies these in the Canadian municipal context, with particular emphasis on Ontario applications and examples. Topics include: How the distinct features of local government shape municipal policymaking; how policy problems are framed and how they emerge on municipal agendas; policy innovation and diffusion; policy leadership and the role of public engagement; and policy instruments and implementation.

Enrollment Restrictions:

Enrollment in PA 9902 is restricted to graduate students in the Local Government Program, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

Format:

The format for each day will vary slightly depending on the content however you can expect most days to go as follows:

- 9:00am-10:15am – Lecture/Discussion
- 10:15am-10:45am – Break
- 10:45am-12:00pm – Case Study/Discussion
- 12:00pm- 1:00pm – Lunch
- 1:00pm-2:15pm – Lecture/Discussion
- 2:15pm-2:45pm – Break
- 2:45pm-4:00pm – Case Study/Discussion

Course Website:

The course OWL site will be the central venue for delivery. The syllabus, assignments, and non-textbook readings (see below) will be posted on OWL. Written assignments will be accepted by OWL only. Announcements will be made using the OWL system, which links to students' UWO e-mail addresses, so please make sure to check your UWO e-mail regularly.

Reading Materials:

There are two required textbooks for the course:

B. Guy Peters. 2021. Advanced Introduction to Public Policy. 2nd Edition. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

This textbook is available in e-format through various sellers and from the Western Bookstore; the cheapest option I have found is Google Play books.

Zachary Spicer, Joseph Lyons, and Kate Graham. 2019. Local Government in Practice. Toronto: Emond.

Available in e-format for Adobe software (either one-year or lifetime access; I recommend the former), directly from Emond: <https://emond.ca/localgovernment-in-practice-cases-in-governance-planning-and-policy.html>

NOTE: The Spicer et al. text will be used for in-class group exercises. You must read the relevant cases in advance of each session, but you do not need to read the case exercises and discussion questions that go with them in advance, since we will not necessarily use all of these in class.

For the case study work, groups will be randomly selected each day. Groups will work together for 30-40 minutes to discuss each case and respond to identified questions. The class will come back together to discuss your group's analysis.

All other readings will be posted in the "Resources" section of the OWL website.

Advance Preparation:

All readings should be completed in advance of each class. The week is intensive, so I recommend getting a start on readings beforehand. However, I do NOT recommend completing all the reading in advance, since it will be difficult to absorb all the concepts and ideas without the benefit of class discussion.

I will post Word versions of the PowerPoint slides in OWL so you can download those and use them to take notes on the lecture if you like.

Since a portion of the evaluation is participation based, I encourage all students to come prepared with questions based on the course material or its relevance/applicability to municipal administration

Course Evaluation:

Participation – 20%

This course demands active, thoughtful participation by students in class discussion and in-class work. You will be assessed on your engagement in both large-group discussion and small-group case exercises.

Quizzes – 20%

You will take a short (approx. 15 minute) multiple-choice quiz at the end of each day of the course. These will be posted under "Quizzes" on OWL and will test basic understanding of the material covered

that day. Each quiz will be worth 4% of your course grade. All quizzes must be complete no later than the end of the day on Friday, May 20th.

Strategic Framing Assignment – 15% Due on OWL May 27th

You will select a case of a contested municipal policy problem / issue and develop a brief (about 1,000 words maximum) analysis of alternative definitions / framings of the problem advanced by various actors in the case in their effort to secure support for their position on the issue. Detailed guidelines will be posted on the OWL site by Friday, May 20th.

Policy Analysis Assignment – 45% Due on OWL June 10th

You will choose a real-world case of either a municipal policy process, or an intergovernmental policy process involving municipalities. You will write a paper of about 2,500 words that analyzes key aspects of this policy process using concepts and theories discussed in the course. Detailed guidelines will be posted on the OWL site by Friday, May 20th.

If needed, I will be available for one-on-one consultation sessions (over MS Teams/Zoom) with students during the week of May 23rd to discuss their plans for the project.

Course Policies:

Late Penalties: All written assignments must be submitted on the due date. Unexcused late assignments are subject to a penalty of 2% per day off the assignment mark, weekends included. If you anticipate having trouble meeting a deadline, please speak with me in advance.

Academic integrity: Scholastic offences are taken seriously. Students are directed to read the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Schedule and Required Readings

Notes:

- All readings not from textbooks are posted in the “Resources” folder on the OWL site.

Monday, May 16

Session 1: Introduction to the course

We will discuss the purpose of the course and review the syllabus, and you can ask any questions you have about it. We will also start to get to know each other.

Session 2: Public Policy: What is it? Why do we need it?

Readings: Peters, Chs. 1 and 2

NOTE: We are planning to be joined by a guest speaker at some point during the May 16 sessions.

Tuesday, May 17

Session 3: The local policy context in Canada

Readings: Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, pp. 249-267.

McGregor, Michael and Zachary Spicer. 2016. "The Canadian Homevoter: Property Values and Municipal Politics in Canada". *Journal of Urban Affairs* 38(1): 123-39.

Case Study: Spicer et al., Ch. 11, "New Condo Development"

Session 4: Models of the policy process

Readings: Peters, Ch. 3

Henstra, Daniel. 2010. "Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis". *Canadian Public Administration* 53(2): 241 – 258.

Case Studies: Spicer et al., Ch. 22, "Water Fluoridation"

Spicer et al., Ch. 24, "Crafting an Arts and Culture Strategy"

Wednesday, May 18

Session 5: Agenda Setting and Framing

Readings: Peters, Ch. 4

Pralle, Sarah. 2006. "The "Mouse That Roared": Agenda Setting in Canadian Pesticides Politics". *Policy Studies Journal* 34: 171–194.

Case Studies: Spicer et al., Ch. 21, "Creating a new noise bylaw"

Spicer et al., Ch. 13, "Constructing a complete street downtown"

Session 6: Policy Diffusion and Policy Innovation

Readings: Shipan, Charles R. and Craig Volden. 2012. "Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners." *Public Administration Review* 72(6): 788–796.

Potts, Jason. 2009. "The Innovation Deficit in Public Services: The Curious Problem of Too Much Efficiency and Not Enough Waste and Failure." *Innovation: Management, Policy, & Practice* 11(1): 34–43.

Case Study: Spicer et al., Ch. 23, "Banning Plastic Bags"

Thursday, May 19

Session 7: Leadership in the Policy Process

Readings: Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press, pp. 232-248.

Siegel, David. 2010. "The leadership role of the municipal chief administrative officer", *Canadian Public Administration*, 53(2): 139-161.

Case Study: Small group exercise on effective policy leadership posted to OWL in Resources

Session 8: Engaging the Public

Readings: Fung, Archon. 2006. "Varieties of Participation in Complex Governance." *Public Administration Review* 66(1): 66–75.

Baker, William H., H. Lon Addams, and Brian Davis. 2005. "Critical Factors for Enhancing Municipal Public Hearings." *Public Administration Review* 65(4), pp.490–99.

Case Study: Spicer et al., Ch. 12, "Redeveloping an Old Industrial Area"

Friday, May 20

Session 9 Policy Instruments and Implementation

Readings: Peters, Chs. 5 and 6

Pal, Leslie A. 2014. Figure 4.1. In *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times* (5th ed.). Toronto: Nelson Education, p. 135.

Case Study: Spicer et al., Ch. 10, "Debating Privatization"

Session 10: What Is a Successful Policy?

Readings: Peters, Ch. 7

Horak, Martin and Aaron A. Moore. 2015. "Policy Shift without Institutional Change: The Precarious Place of Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto". In: Clarence Stone, Robert Stoker et al. *Urban Neighborhoods in a New Era: Revitalization Politics in the Postindustrial City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 182-208

Health/Wellness Services

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accessible Education Western (AEW)

Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.