

Economics and Policy Analysis | Local Government 9913

Master of Public Administration Program

Winter 2023

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Local Government Program

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Office Hours: HC-H114, email for appointment OR [book a time here](#)

Dates: January 20-21; February 10-11; March 31-April 1

Times: Friday 4-7pm; Saturdays 9-4pm

Location: Social Sciences Building, Room SSC 7210

Course Overview:

Canadian municipalities today 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. 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 policymakers should be paying attention to?

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. Each student will examine the current practice and politics of economic development in one mid-sized Canadian community. Each student's investigation will result in a presentation and written case study. Collectively, the class will identify emerging patterns and trends, and analyze the underlying theoretical assumptions in common strategies pursued in practice. In sum, this course offers students a unique opportunity to learn about local economic development, challenge their own assumptions and beliefs about the role of local government in shaping economic conditions.

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
- Have produced a piece of original research, as a single-community case.

This Course Is:

- An opportunity to engage with multiple dominant theories of local economic development, and contemporary debates;
- An applied investigation into several contemporary cases of economic development policy making, as well as into the 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.

Evaluation:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date
Analytical Paper: An analysis of two theoretical approaches and one major economic development decision in a Canadian municipality (7-8 pages, double spaced)	25%	Due on Friday, February 3, 2023 at 3pm*
Group Presentation: Conducting a community economic profile and analysis of the economic development strategy in a Canadian community	15%	Group presentations on Saturday, February 11, 2023
Written Case Study: Descriptive and analytical examinations into the practice of local economic development in communities in Canada (8-10 pages, double spaced)	25%	Due on Friday, March 24, 2023 at 3pm*
Final Exam: A final exam on the concepts, materials and topics covered throughout the course, to be completed in class on the final afternoon	20%	To be completed in class on the afternoon of Saturday, April 1, 2023
Class Participation	15%	Ongoing – marks will be submitted via OWL after each module (5% each)

**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 eight double-spaced pages and should be well cited with academic references. The paper is due via OWL on Friday, February 3, 2023 at 3pm.

Group Presentation (15%):

In Module 2, students will work in groups to develop a community economic profile and analysis of the economic development strategy of a Canadian municipality of their choice. A list of potential options will be provided in class; or, groups may select their own example. The presentation will include, at minimum: (1) an economic profile of the community; (2) an examination of the governance arrangements in the community with respect to economic development; (3) a review of the community's economic strategy; (4) an overview of priority projects; and, (5) a discussion of the effectiveness of the municipality's economic strategy to pursue current opportunities and address challenges facing the community. Groups will present their work during the afternoon of Saturday, February 11, 2023.

Written Case Study (25%):

Students will prepare a written case study on a Canadian community. This case study should examine an innovative economic development strategy or intervention in a Canadian community, and prepare the case as a learning tool for other municipalities. Specific instructions will be provided in class. The written case is due via OWL on Friday, March 24, 2023 at 3pm.

Final Exam (20%):

Students will write a final exam on the concepts, materials and topics covered throughout the course, to be completed in class on the afternoon of Saturday, April 1, 2022. The exam will include multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions.

Class Participation (15%):

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. Any absences should be communicated to Dr. Graham, in advance where possible.

Course Reading:

There is no textbook for this course. Most of the readings are journal articles and will be made available on OWL under "Resources." However, we will be drawing upon one book more frequently and students may wish to acquire a copy:

- Wolfe, David A., and Meric S. Gertler, eds. 2016. *Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canada's City-Regions*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

SCHEDULE

Module #1: Theories of Economics & Policy Analysis at the Local Level

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
4:00 – 4:20pm	Welcome Introductions Course overview Questions & discussion	Read the course outline carefully.
4:20 – 5:00pm	The Big Picture Local economics 101 Terms & definitions Central concepts	Blair, John P and Michel C. Carroll. 2009. "Chapter 1: Local Economic Development in a Global Market." <i>Local Economic Development: Analysis, Practices and Globalization</i> . Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications. [Available on OWL]
5:00 – 5:20pm	Current Landscape Global shifts, local impacts Putting Canada's communities in context	Wolfe, David A., and Meric S. Gertler, eds. 2016. "Chapter 1: Innovation, Creativity and Governance in Canadian City-Regions." <i>Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canada's City-Regions</i> . Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
5:20 – 5:40pm	Break	
5:40 – 6:30pm	Case Study: Calgary Olympics (case to be provided in class)	Malfas, M., E. Theodoraki and B. Houlihan. 2004. "Impacts of the Olympic Games as Mega-Events." <i>Municipal Engineer</i> 157(ME3): 209-220. [Available on OWL]

6:30 – 7:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion	
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SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2022		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
9:00 – 10:30am	The Dynamics of Local Economics	Harvey, David. 1989. "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism." <i>Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography</i> , 71(1): 3-17. [Available on OWL]
10:30 – 10:45am	Break	
10:45 – 12:00pm	Dominant Theoretical Approaches	Peterson, Paul E. 2007. "The Interests of the Limited City." In E. A. Strom & J. H. Mollenkopf, eds. <i>Urban Politics Reader</i> . New York: Routledge. [Available on OWL] Florida, Richard. 2003. "Cities and the Creative Class." <i>City and Community</i> 2(1): 3-19. [Available on OWL]
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:30pm	Case Study: Amazon HQ2	Case to be provided in class.
2:30 – 2:45pm	Break	
2:45 – 3:15pm	Contemporary Debates	Gertler, Meric S. "Urban Economy and Society in Canada: Flows of People, Capital and Ideas." <i>Isuma: The Canadian</i>

		Journal of Policy Research 2:3 (Autumn 2001), 119-130. [Available on OWL]
3:15 – 3:30pm	Analytical Report Overview of assignment Questions and discussion	
3:30 – 4:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learning Preparation for next class	

Module #2: The Practice of Local Economic Development

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2023		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
4:00 – 4:30pm	Welcome Back Overview of module Check in on papers	
4:30 – 5:20pm	Local Economic Development Theory vs practice Governance and organization Strategies Priorities and projects	Pikes, Andy, Andres Rodriguez-Pose and John Tomaney, eds. 2011. Handbook of Local and Regional Development. London: Routledge. [Available on OWL] -- ** Read Chapter 20, by Bob Jessop (pg. 239-248); and, Chapter 25, by Colin Crouch (pg. 295-305).
5:20 – 5:40pm	Break	
5:40 – 6:30pm	Group Project Begins Review assignment Form groups Select communities to study	Skim entire book & read one chapter in: Wolfe, David A., and Meric S. Gertler, eds. 2016. Growing Urban Economies: Innovation, Creativity, and Governance in Canada's City-Regions. Toronto:

	Begin group work	University of Toronto Press.
6:45 – 7:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion	

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
9:00 – 10:30am	'Shifting Paradigms' of Economic Governance Competition Collaboration New models	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]
10:30 – 10:45am	Break	
10:45 – 12:00pm	Case Study: Smart Cities Challenge	Case to be provided in class.
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:00pm	Group Presentations	
3:00 – 3:15pm	Break	
3:15 – 3:30pm	Group Presentations	
3:30 – 4:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learning Overview: case study assignment Preparation for next class	

Module #3: The Politics of Local Economic Development

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
4:00 – 4:15pm	Welcome Back	
4:30 – 5:15pm	The Politics of Local Economic Development Structure vs. agency	Wolman, Harold. 1996. "The Politics of Local Economic Development." Economic Development Quarterly. [Available on OWL]
5:15 – 5:30pm	Break	
5:20 – 6:40pm	The Politics of Local Economic Development Scale politics	Donald, Betsy. 2005. "The Politics of Local Economic Development in Canada's City-Regions: New Dependencies, New Deals, and New Politics of Scale." Space and Polity 9(3): 261-281. [Available on OWL]
6:40 – 7:00pm	Wrap Up Summary of learnings Preparation for tomorrow Questions & discussion	

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023		
Time	Topic	Readings & Notes
9:00 – 10:40am	Guest Speaker Panel – TBD	
10:40 – 10:50am	Break	
10:50 – 12:30pm	Wrap Up Lecture – Theories, Politics & Practice	
12:30 – 1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30 – 3:30pm	Final Exam	