

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science

Advanced Local Government

Public Administration 9901a/Political Science 9523a/Political Science 4901 – 004
Autumn 2012

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30
Room SSC 4255

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Office: 4218 Social Science Centre
Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00, or by appointment

Purpose:

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.

Organization:

The class will meet from 4:30-6:30.

Course Outline and Readings:

The primary text for this class is Andrew Sancton's *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011). This is available for purchase in the University Bookstore. All other assigned reading material will be available electronically through the course website on OWL. Readings must be completed before the class in which they are scheduled to be discussed.

Assignments:

Research Paper (70 %)

Students must submit a formal essay of approximately 2500 words (12-15 type-written pages, double-spaced) on a topic of their choice related to any of the material covered during the course. The paper must be submitted to the instructor by Dec. 5th. Papers submitted after this date without prior approval from the instructor will be penalized 10% each day that the paper is late.

Participation (30%)

You will be assigned a grade out of 30 on the basis of the quantity and quality of your overall contributions to seminar discussions and activities, which may include assigned presentations.

Topics and Readings

- Sept.12 Introduction, Organization
Sancton, "Introduction"
- Sept. 19 Definitions, Functions
Sancton, Ch. 1, 2.
- Sept. 26 Origins, Evolutions, and Legacies
W. Magnusson, "Introduction: The Development of Canadian Urban Government," In W. Magnusson and A. Sancton, (eds.), *City Politics in Canada* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1983), 3-57.
- Oct. 3 NO CLASS
- Oct. 10 Central-Local Relations
Sancton, Ch. 3
W. Magnusson, "Are Municipalities Creatures of the Province?" *Journal of Canadian Studies* 39:2 (2005), 5-29.
R. Young and C. Leuprecht, "Introduction," In R. Young and C. Leuprecht, (eds.), *Canada: The State of the Federation 2004* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2006).
- Oct.17 Special Purpose Bodies
Sancton, Ch. 4
Natalie Myhal, "Existing Rationales for Agencies, Boards, and Commissions," in Dale Richmond and David Siegel, eds., *Agencies, Boards, and Commissions in Canadian Local Government* (Toronto: Institute of Public Administration of Canada. 1994), ch.4.
- Oct.24 Responses to Urbanization: Annexation
Sancton, Ch. 5, 6
R.L. Bish, *Local Government Amalgamations: Discredited Nineteenth-Century Ideals Alive in the Twenty-First*, C.D Howe Institute Commentary No.150 (March 2001).
- Oct. 31 Regionalism vs. Public Choice
Sancton, Ch. 7
D. Cashaback, "Regional District Governance in British Columbia: A Case Study in Aggregation," Institute on Governance,

