The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
The Policy Process in Local Government  
Public Administration 9902b/Political Science 9524b  
Winter 2012  

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30  
Room 4255, Social Science Centre  

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Office Hours: 4133 Social Science Centre; 2:30-4:30 on Wednesdays  

Purpose:  
The purpose of this course is to explore the unique features of policy-making in Canadian local governments.  

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

Class Schedule and Readings:  

Students also should have a copy of Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011).  

All other readings will be available electronically through Western Libraries or will be available on the course website (OWL/WebCT).  

Jan. 11  
**Introduction**  

Jan. 18  
**Discussion of Local Policy Issues**  
Every student must come to class with a list of at least two local policy issues that they might be interested in following or exploring during the course. In the class we shall discuss how these issues can be studied and when brief presentations will be scheduled.
Jan. 25  
**Problem Definition and Agenda-Setting**  
Readings:  
Pal, ch.3  

Feb. 1  
**Policy Communities and Networks**  
Readings:  
Pal, ch.6  

Feb. 8  
**City Limits and the Analysis of Urban Politics**  
Readings:  
Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981), pp.3-6, 17-46, and ch.6  
Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, pp.171-9

Feb. 15  
**“The City as a Growth Machine”**  
Readings:  
Mississauga Judicial Inquiry, *Updating the Ethical Infrastructure* (2011)  
Feb. 29  **Urban Regimes**  
Readings:  
Clarence N. Stone, *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1964-1988*  
(Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 1989), pp.ix-xii, 3-12, & 234-45  
Sancton, pp.226-41.  

March 6  **Policy Instruments and Design**  
Readings:  
Pal, ch.4  
Sancton, pp.250-3  

March 13  **Service Review and the Municipal Budget: The Toronto Case, 2011-2012**  
Readings:  
Sancton, pp.271-76  
Toronto material: [http://www.toronto.ca/torontoservicereview/index.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/torontoservicereview/index.htm)
March 20  **Implementation**  
Readings:
  Pal, ch.5  
  Sancton, pp.243-50  

March 27  **Risks and Emergencies**  
Readings:
  Pal, ch.8  

April 4  **Intergovernmental Aspects of Municipal Policy-Making**  
Readings:

April 11  **Conclusion**  
Readings:
  Pal, ch.9  
  Sancton, ch.15

**Course Requirements and Responsibilities**

On January 18 we shall have a full class discussion about choosing policy issues and about the details of the requirements outlined below. Such details will be subject to change as the course progresses. The fundamental problem is that we want to address real policy processes and issues
at the same time as we examine different analytical phases of the processes and different theoretical frameworks for understanding them. However we end up proceeding, the basic requirements will be as follows:

- **Oral presentation – 10%**
  Each student will be required to make a presentation on the appropriate date about one aspect (e.g. policy instruments, implementation, etc) of the policy issue they are following.

- **First written submission – 20%**
  A brief (1000-1500 word) based on the oral presentation. It must be submitted within one week of the oral presentation.

- **Essay – 50%**
  An essay of about 2500-3000 words containing a comprehensive treatment of the policy issue chosen. Students will be allowed to “recycle” material from the first submission if they wish. **Due April 18**

- **Overall Participation – 20%**