

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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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:

The main textbook is: Leslie A. Pal, *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issue Management in Turbulent Times*, 4th edition (Toronto: Nelson, 2010)

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**

Readings: Pal, *Beyond Policy Analysis* ch. 1-2

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

Daniel Henstra, "Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis," *Canadian Public Administration*, 53-2 (2010), 241-58Pamela Blais, *Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy, and Urban Sprawl* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2010), ch.1-3Sarah Pralle, "The 'Mouse That Roared': Agenda Setting in Canadian Pesticides Politics," *Policy Studies Journal*, 34-2 (2006), 171-94Robert Young and Kelly McCarthy, "Why Do Municipal Policy Issues," *Canadian Public Administration*, 52-3 (2009), 347-70Mario Polese, "Urban-Development Legends," *City Journal*, 21-4 (Autumn 2011) http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_4_urban-development.html

Feb. 1

Policy Communities and Networks

Readings:

Pal, ch.6

Ruth Bernice McKay, "Groupthink in Municipal Infrastructure Planning: Decision Making Behind the proposed Red Hill Creek Expressway," *Environments* 29-2 (2001), 1-20

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.6Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, pp.171-9

Feb. 15

"The City as a Growth Machine"

Readings:

Harvey Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine," *American Journal of Sociology*, 82-2 (1976), 309-30Aaron Moore, "Passing the Buck: The Ontario Municipal Board and Local Politicians in Toronto, 2000-2006," paper delivered to the Annual Conference of the Canadian political Science Association, May 2009 <http://www.cpsa-acsp.ca/papers-2009/Moore.pdf>Mississauga Judicial Inquiry, *Updating the Ethical Infrastructure* (2011) http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/campb

[el106/online_rep/V4Cover.html](#) Read: “Phase II: City Centre Land and World Class Developments”

Sancton, ch.10

Vanessa Parlette and Deborah Cowen, “Dead Malls: Suburban Activism, Local Spaces, Global Logistics,” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35-4 (2011), 794-811

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

Timothy Cobban, “The political economy of urban development: Downtown revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993-2002,” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12-2 (Winter 2003), 231-49

Christopher Leo, Are there urban regimes in Canada? Reply to Timothy Cobban,” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12-2 (Winter 2003), 344-8.

Timothy Cobban, “Reply to Christopher Leo,” *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12-2 (Winter 2003), 349-53.

Kristin Good, *Municipalities and Multiculturalism: The Politics of Immigration in Toronto and Vancouver* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009) ch.2

Sancton, pp.226-41.

March 6

Policy Instruments and Design

Readings:

Pal, ch.4

Prasha Ranasinghe and Mariana Valverde, “Governing Homelessness Through Land-use: A Sociological Study of the Toronto Shelter Zoning By-law,” *Canadian Journal of Sociology* 31-3 (2006), 325-49

Sancton, pp.250-3

March 13

Service Review and the Municipal Budget: The Toronto Case, 2011-12

Readings:

Sancton, pp.271-76

Toronto material: <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
 Tom Urbaniak, *Her Worship: Hazel McCallion and the Development of Mississauga* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009) pp.99-106
 Ontario, The SARS Commission, Volume 4 of the Final Report (First Interim Report), *SARS and Public Health in Ontario* (2004)
 http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/pub/ministry_reports/campbell06/online_rep/V4Cover.html
- April 4 **Intergovernmental Aspects of Municipal Policy-Making**
 Readings:
 Greg Flynn, “Court Decisions, NIMBY Claims and the Siting of Unwanted Facilities: Policy Frames and the Impact of Judicialization in Locating a Landfill for Toronto’s Solid Waste,” *Canadian Public Policy* 37-3 (2011), 382-93
 Daiva Stasiulis, Christine Hughes, and Zainab Amery, “From Government to Multilevel Governance of Immigrant Settlement in Ontario’s City-Regions” in Erin Tolley and Robert Young, eds., *Immigrant Settlement Policy in Canadian Municipalities* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2011), 73-147
- 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%