

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Political Science  
**The Policy Process in Local Government**  
Political Science 4902b/Public Administration 9902b  
Intersession/Summer 2012

May 14-18, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00  
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Professor: Andrew Sancton  
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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*, 4<sup>th</sup> 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).

May 14 a.m. **Introduction, Problem Definition and Agenda Setting**

Readings:

Pal, *Beyond Policy Analysis* ch. 1-3

Daniel Henstra, "Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis," *Canadian Public Administration*, 53-2 (2010), 241-58

Pamela Blais, *Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy, and Urban Sprawl* (Vancouver, UBC Press, 2010), ch.1-3

Mario Polese, "Urban-Development Legends," *City Journal*, 21-4 (Autumn 2011) [http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21\\_4\\_urban-development.html](http://www.city-journal.org/2011/21_4_urban-development.html)

May 14 p.m. **Policy Communities and Networks**

Readings:

Pal, ch.6

May 15 a.m. **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

May 15 p.m. **The Politics of Development**

Readings:

Aaron 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.mississaugainquiry.ca/report/index\\_pdf.html](http://www.mississaugainquiry.ca/report/index_pdf.html) Read: "Phase

II: City Centre Land and World Class Developments"

Sancton, ch.10

May 16 a.m. **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.

Sancton, pp.226-41.

May 16 p.m. **Policy Instruments and Design**

Readings:

Pal, ch.4

Sancton, pp.250-3

May 17 a.m. **Test**

May 17 p.m. **Service Reviews and the Municipal Budget: The Toronto Case, 2011-12**

Readings:

Sancton, pp.271-76

Toronto material: <http://www.toronto.ca/torontoservicereview/index.htm>

May 18 a.m. **Implementation**

Readings:

Pal, ch.5

Sancton, pp.243-50

May 18 p.m. **Risks and Emergencies; Conclusion**

Readings:

Pal, ch.8-9

Tom Urbaniak, *Her Worship: Hazel McCallion and the Development of Mississauga* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009) pp.99-106

Sancton, ch.15

### **Course Requirements and Responsibilities**

**By Thursday, May 10 at the latest**, all students should submit to me a short description (maximum one page) of any decision taken by a municipal council (or local special-purpose body) or by its senior management that constitutes “a course of action or inaction chosen by public authorities to address a given problem or set of problems (Pal, p.2).” Students will be required to make a short (probably about 10 minutes) oral presentation in class about this policy decision. Scheduling of the presentations – and more details about what they should cover – will be discussed on the morning of May 18.

Grading will be as follows

- Oral presentation – 10%

As indicated above, each student will be required to make a presentation about one aspect (e.g. policy instruments, implementation, etc) of the policy issue they are following.

- Test – 30%  
To be conducted for 2 hours on the morning of May 17, covering the material discussed between May 14-16 inclusive.
- Overall Class Participation – 20%
- Essay – 40%  
An essay of about 2500-3000 words containing a comprehensive treatment of the policy issue chosen (or a different one, if approved by the instructor). Students will be allowed to “recycle” material from their oral presentation if they wish. **Due May 28**