

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Political Science
The Policy Process in Local Government
Political Science 4902b/Public Administration 9902b
Intersession/Summer 2013

May 15-19, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Professor: Andrew Sancton
Phone: 519-850-2985
E-mail: asancton@uwo.ca

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 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 13 a.m. **Stages of the policy-making process**
Classifying municipal public policy

Readings:

Leslie A. Pal, *Beyond Policy Analysis*, 5th edn. (Toronto: Nelson, 2014,
pp.1-25 (course website – OWL)

May 13 p.m. **Policy Instruments and Design**

Readings:

Pal, Figure 4-1, p.135 (course website – OWL)
Sancton, pp.250-3

May 14 a.m. **Responding to federal and provincial initiatives**

Readings:

Daniel Henstra, "Evaluating and Explaining Municipal Emergency Management Programs in Ontario" University of Western Ontario PhD thesis, Political Science, 2007, ch.5 (available online through the Weldon library)

May 14 p.m. **Responding to objective indicators of need**

Readings:

Pal, pp. 101-5 (course website – OWL)

May 15 a.m. **The Politics of Land Development**

Readings:

Sancton, ch.10

Aaron A. Moore, *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013) ch.1, 3, & 9 (course website - OWL)

May 15 p.m. **Economic promotion and development**

Readings:

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

May 16 a.m. **Test**

May 16 p.m. **Policy diffusion and locally-developed community programs and regulations**

Readings:

Charles R. Shipan and Craig Volden, "Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners," *Public Administration Review* 72-6 (December 2012), 788-96 (available online through the Weldon library)

May 17 a.m. **Symbolic policy-making, including frameworks for future policy actions**

Readings:

Warren Magnusson, *The Search for Political Space: Globalization, Social Movements, and the Urban Political Experience* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996), ch.11(course website – OWL)

May 17 p.m. **Implementation and Conclusion**

Readings:

Mariana Valverde, *Everyday Life on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012) ch.4
(available online through the Weldon library)
Sancton, ch.15

Course Requirements and Responsibilities

By Thursday, May 9 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) and/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 13.

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 16, covering the material discussed between May 13-15 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 27**