

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**The Policy Process in Local Government**  
Public Administration 9902L/ Political Science 4902a  
Summer 2015

May 11-15, 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00  
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons  
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Office hours: by appointment  
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### **Course Information:**

**Calendar Description:** This course introduces students to selected aspects of the academic literature on the making of public policy. Students will learn how to apply theories and concepts from the public policy literature to Canadian local governments. Using case studies, students will learn how to determine the main factors that cause different kinds of local public policy outcomes in different circumstances.

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this course is to explore the policy process from a local government perspective.

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

**Readings and Materials:** All of the assigned readings will be available through Western Libraries or the course's OWL site. Assigned reading should be done **Before** the class in which it is to be discussed. (Optional readings have been included for a couple of sessions. These are not required, but students are encouraged to read them if interested.)

### **Requirements:**

1. *Oral Presentation.* Each student will be required to make a presentation about one aspect (e.g. agenda setting, policy instrument, implementation, etc.) of a recent policy decision that they are interested in. These presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length. Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations

**Note:** You can choose any local policy decision that interests you - a policy decision is a course of action or inaction chosen to address a given problem or set of problems (Pal 2014) – provided that it was **made by a municipal council or local special purpose body** (the more noteworthy the decision the better). In many cases, the policy decision will have been made through a local government by-law. A short description of your chosen policy issue (**maximum** one page single-spaced) is due by **Thursday, May 7th** at the latest. (I need these before class starts, so that I can

slot people in based upon how their topic fits with what we are discussing during a particular session.) More details about scheduling and what these presentations should cover will be discussed in class on the morning of May 11th.

2. *Class Participation.* You must attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate during discussions. If you are unable to attend a particular day or session, you should advise the instructor in advance.

3. *In-class Assignment.* To be completed **on the morning of Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Further instructions will be given in class.

4. *Essay.* The final course requirement is an essay of about 2,500-3,000 words in length that is **due Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**. This essay may be related to any topic covered during the course. Further instructions and guidance will be given in class.

**Note:** Overdue submissions will be penalized **one percent of the final course grade** for each day that the paper is late. Extensions will be granted only in the event that written confirmation of any extenuating circumstances is provided.

**Evaluation:**

1. Oral Presentation	10%
2. Participation	20%
3. In-class Assignment	30%
4. Essay	40%

**Note on academic offences and plagiarism:**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf).

**Note for students with disabilities:** Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

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**Course Schedule and Required Readings:**

May 11 a.m. **Introduction, Policy Analysis, and the Stages of the Policy-Making Process**

Readings: Pal, Leslie. 2014. *Beyond Policy Analysis: Public Issues Management in Turbulent Times*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Nelson, pp. 1-25.  
Sabatier, Paul. 2007. The Need for Better Theories. In Paul A. Sabatier, ed. *Theories of the Policy Process*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 3-17

May 11 p.m. **The Policy Process in Canadian Municipalities and Agenda Setting**

- Readings: Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Toronto: OUP, pp. 249-267 (Chapter 12).  
Henstra, Dan. 2010. Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis of Municipal Emergency Management. *Canadian Public Administration* 53(2), pp. 241-58.

May 12 a.m. **Diffusion and Non-Decision Making**

- Readings: Shipan, Charles and Craig Volden. 2012. Policy Diffusion: Seven Lessons for Scholars and Practitioners. *Public Administration Review* 72(6), pp. 789-96.  
Crenson, Matthew. 1971. *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution: A Study of Non-Decisionmaking in the Cities*. Baltimore, MD: The John Hopkins Press, pp. 1-34 (skim until pg. 18).

May 12 p.m. **Policy Instruments and Design, and Implementation**

- Readings: Hood, Christopher and Helen Margetts. 2007. *The Tools of Government in the the Digital Age*. Houndmills, Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1-20.  
Sabatier, Paul and Daniel Mazmanian. 1981. The Implementation of Public Policy. In Mazmanian and Sabatier, eds. *Effective Policy Implementation*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, pp. 3-35.

May 13 a.m. **Local Decision Makers**

- Readings: Oliver, Eric. 2012. *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-Scale Democracy*. Princeton: PUP, chs. 1 and 6 (skim for main arguments and findings).  
Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Toronto: OUP, pp. 210-225 and 232-248.

Guest: Kate Graham, Manager, Corporate Initiatives, City of London; PhD Candidate, UWO

May 13 p.m. **Local Political Economy**

- Readings: Peterson, Paul. 1981. *City Limits*. Chicago: UCP, pp. 17-38.  
Stone, Clarence. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta, 1946-1988*. Lawrence, KS: UKP, pp. 3-12, 234-45.  
Fischel, William. 2001. *The Homevoter Hypothesis*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Univ. Press, pp. 72-97.

Optional: Stone, Clarence. 2015. Reflections on Regime Politics: From Governing Coalition to Urban Political Order. *Urban Affairs Review* 5(1): 101-37

McGregor, Michael and Zachary Spicer. 2015. The Canadian Homevoter: Property Values and Municipal Politics in Canada. *Journal of Urban Affairs* (forthcoming).

May 14 a.m. **Multilevel Governance: The Case of Toronto**

Readings: Horak, Martin. 2012. Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Success and Failure in Canada's Largest City. In Martin Horak and Robert Young, eds. *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP, pp. 228-62.

Sanderson, Christopher and Pierre Filion. 2013. The Development of the Toronto Waterfront: Federal Presence, Institutional Complexity, and Planning Outcomes. In Michael Irca and Robert Young, eds. *Federal Property Policy in Canadian Municipalities*. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP, pp. 110-57.

Optional: Horak, Martin and Marilyn Dantico. 2014. The Limits of Local Redistribution: Neighbourhood Regeneration Efforts in Toronto and Phoenix. *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49: 135-58.

Mahone, Rianne. 2014. Cities and Child Care Policy in Canada: More than a Puppet on (Intergovernmental) Strings? In Katherine A.H. Graham and Caroline Andrew, eds. *Canada in Cities: The Politics and Policy of Federal-Local Governance*. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP, pp. 193-226.

Stasiulis, Daiva, Christine Hughes and Zainab Amery. 2011. 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: MQUP, pp. 73-147.

Guest: Grant Hopcroft, former Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Community Liaison, City of London

May 14 p.m. **The Politics of Land Development and Economic Development Policy**

Readings: Moore, Aaron. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, chs. 1, 3, and 9 (skim pp. 44-52).

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

Guest: Joni Baechler, former councillor and mayor, City of London

May 15 a.m. **In-class Assignment**

May 15 p.m. **Wrap-up and Essay Instructions**