

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9917

Issues in Local Government

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Course Dates and Times

The class will meet from 9:00am until 12:00 noon and 1:00pm until 4:00pm from Monday to Friday, June 8 to 12 inclusive in SSC 4255. We will take one 30 minute break each morning and afternoon.

Schedule exceptions: On Thursday June 11, we will NOT take a lunch break, but will end the class at 1:00pm due to a time conflict with new student orientation. I encourage all those who are available to join next year's MPA students at the Grad Club for the post-orientation social event, which starts at 3pm. On Friday June 12, I anticipate a 2pm end to the course.

Objectives

This is the 'capstone' course in the MPA program. The objectives are two-fold:

First, the course provides a venue for students to review and apply what they have learned in other courses, by discussing a selection of topics related to local government. A couple of these topical discussions will be introduced by the instructor. In addition, the course will feature four guest speakers, all seasoned local government professionals who will discuss issues in their area of expertise, drawing on their personal experience. Students will also apply what they have learned in the MPA program to a short written response to a recent book on local / urban issues (see below)

Second, the course provides a venue for students to get constructive critical feedback on their final MPA research projects. About ½ of the course time is devoted to hearing and discussing student presentations, and all students are expected to be active participants in critiquing and questioning the work of their peers.

Readings

The reading load for this course is kept to a minimum. The only required reading assignment involves one book of your choice (see list below), to which you will write a short critical response paper, due ten days after the end of class.

Course Evaluation

Your grade will be composed of the following:

Participation in class discussion:	20%
Presentation on research project (see below):	40%
Critical response assignment (see below):	40%

Participation:

Each of you will participate actively in the class by asking questions and providing feedback to your peers on their project presentations, and by engaging with guest speakers and the instructor.

Presentation on research project:

You will prepare a short presentation (no more than 10 minutes) on your final MPA research project. The main purpose of this presentation is to allow for constructive critical input on your MRP-in-progress from the instructor and your peers. I will schedule the presentations once I have all topic titles, and will group them by theme.

The content of your presentation will vary depending on how well advanced your project is. In general, I expect you to: State the research question; briefly outline your research design; present a couple of highlights of what you have done so far, and what you still need to do; tell us about any challenges / issues / problems that you are facing.

Since a major purpose of the presentation is to allow for critical feedback, it is in your interest to acknowledge and discuss any significant challenges that you have faced in research design and/or data gathering. PowerPoint facilities will be available for your use if you so choose, but PowerPoint is not required.

We will have time for about 20 minutes of discussion after each presentation.

Critical response assignment:

You will write a brief (about 2000 words, or 5-7 pages) critical response to **one** of the books listed below. What did you learn that you did not know before? Which arguments made sense to you, and which did not? Why or why not? You can use reading material from other courses to support your arguments and positions if you like, but you need not do so.

The critical response will be worth 40% of your course grade. It will be due on Monday, June 22 (ten days after the last class of the course).

I include a very brief annotation on each book below to help you make your choice. Many of these books are available at Weldon and other libraries, and all of them can be purchased for a reasonable price from major online booksellers such as Amazon.ca.

Book list:

Bird, Richard M. and Enid Slack, eds. 2015. *Is Your City Healthy? Measuring Urban Fiscal Health*. Toronto: Institute on Municipal Finance & Governance.

A brand new multi-country overview of how to measure municipal fiscal health, and what those measures mean for policy.

Blais, Pamela. 2011. *Perverse Cities: Hidden Subsidies, Wonky Policy and Urban Sprawl*. Vancouver; University of British Columbia Press.

An innovative book about how it takes more than zoning change to rein in sprawl.

Bradford, Neil and Alison Bramwell, eds. 2014. *Governing Urban Economies: Innovation and Inclusion in Canadian City-Regions*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

A wide-ranging edited volume that examines how local governments in a number of Canadian cities connect to community actors and to other levels of government in order to address economic challenges.

Henstra, Daniel, ed. 2013. *Multilevel Governance and Emergency Management in Canadian Municipalities*. Montreal: McGill – Queens University Press.

A strong new edited volume in the series that has come out of Bob Young's MCRI project on multilevel governance and public policy in Canadian municipalities.

Moore, Aaron A. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Important reading for those who are interested in the OMB, this book presents lots of data on how the Board shapes development in Toronto.

Oliver, J. Eric. 2013. *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-Scale Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

An antidote to the central-city focus of local politics scholarship in the US, this book looks at smaller municipalities in America and argues that local democracy is in pretty good shape.

Siegel, David. 2015. *Leaders in the Shadows: The Leadership Qualities of Municipal Chief Administrative Officers*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

A pathbreaking study of what it takes to be an effective CAO. Based on in-depth research into the careers of five respected Canadian CAOs.

Urbaniak, Tom. 2009. *Her Worship: Hazel McCallion and the Development of Mississauga*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

For students of political leadership, a readable account of the Mississauga mayor's remarkable political career.

Valverde, Mariana. 2012. *Everyday Law on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

A law professor explores the hidden inequities of bylaw application on the ground in the City of Toronto in this study, based on participant-observation.

Course Schedule

Monday, June 9, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:00am: *Introduction to the Course*

10:30am – noon:

Martin Horak Canadian Local Government in Comparative Perspective

Monday, June 9, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm: *Guest Speaker*

Andrew Sancton (Professor of Political Science, Western)

Professors, Practitioners, and City Governance: Some Personal Reflections, 1970-2015

3:00pm – 4:00pm: *Issues in Human Resource Management*

Laura Cornish Absenteeism among Municipal Transit Drivers

Sabrina Stanlake-Wong Employee Engagement and Older Workers

Tuesday, June 10, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:00am: *Leadership and Collective Action*

Erin Britnell How CAOs in Ontario Effectively Lead Organizational Change

Neale Carbert A Matter of Size: Municipalities in Associations

10:30am – noon: *Guest Speaker*

Joni Baechler (Former City of London Councilor and Mayor)

Municipal Leadership – Challenges and Opportunities

Tuesday, June 10, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm: *Guest Speaker*

Sean Galloway (Manager, Urban Design and GIS, City of London)

Citizens and Planning: The London Experience

3:00pm – 4:00pm: *Funding and Delivering Provincial Mandates*

Sandy Stevens Ontario Public Health Unit Funding

Lori Wilson Municipalities and Ontario Works

Wednesday, June 11, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am:

Martin Horak Globalization and Cities: Causes and Consequences

11:00am – noon: *Issues in Program Evaluation*

Julie Gonyou Coordinating Library Evaluation and Benefit Assessment

Tom Parker Evaluating Cultural Programs in the Northwest Territories

Wednesday, June 11, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm *Financing Infrastructure and Development*

Matt Feldberg Sustainable Citizen Behavior and Local Infrastructure Funding

Colin Williams Toronto Financial Management and Strategic Investment Tools

Jenna Shultz Financial Sustainability of Residential Development

3:00pm – 4:00pm *Coordinating Service Delivery*

Jennifer Alexander Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMC)

Dean Sheppard Municipal Service Corporations in Ontario

Thursday, June 12 ** no lunch break, class ends at 1pm **

9:00am – 10:00am: *New Technologies: Prospects and Challenges*

Chris Bantock Online Voting and Turnout in Ontario Municipalities

Melissa Bauman Open Data and Civic Innovation: London and Boston

10:30am – noon: *Guest Speaker*

Ashleigh Weeden (Community Engagement, Grey County)

Digital Engagement: Having the Conversation you Want to Have

Noon – 1:00pm:

Huiwen Chen Chinese Students' Understanding of Canadian Political Issues

Michael Schulthess Pre-Appointment Profession and OMB Decision Outcomes

Friday, June 13, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Citizen Engagement and the Policy Process*

Barbara Westlake-Power Advisory Committees and Citizen Engagement

Dorothy McCabe Citizen Engagement in the Annual Budgeting Process

Jake Sutton Community-led Approaches in Public Libraries

11:00am –12:00pm: *Citizen Engagement II*

Tim Smuck The Lived Experience of Public Housing in London Ontario

Adam Fearnall Youth Expressions of the Political: Why Local Government Needs to Listen Differently

Friday, June 13, Afternoon Session ** 2:00pm end time **

1:00pm – 2:00pm:

Martin Horak Issues in MPA Research Reports: Review and Discussion