

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 9917

Issues in Local Government

Martin Horak

e-mail: mhorak@uwo.ca

tel: 519-661-2111 x. 85002

office: SSC 4142

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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 12 to 16 inclusive in **SSC 3026**. We will take one 20-30 minute break each morning and afternoon. On Friday, we will take our lunch break a bit early, and plan to end the class around 2:30pm (see detailed schedule).

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 three guest presenters. 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.

Reading

The reading load for this course is kept to a minimum. Two of our guest speakers have assigned some brief recommended reading, listed in the course schedule. However, the only required reading involves one book of your choice (see below), to which you will write a short critical response paper, due one week 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.

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, if anything, and what you still need to do; tell us about some 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. PowerPoint facilities will be available, but PowerPoint is not required (it's your choice).

We will have time for about 15-20 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. "Critical" here means reflective and analytical – you may really like the book, but you're invited to also reflect on its weaknesses. Guiding questions: What did you learn that you did not know before? What were the book's most important and/or convincing arguments, and why? What weaknesses or omissions did you notice? You can use reading material from other courses to support your work 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 **Friday, June 23** (one week 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.

Lucas, Jack. 2016. *Fields of Authority: Special Purpose Governance in Ontario, 1815-2015*. University of Toronto Press.

A brand new historical study of special purpose bodies in Ontario, half of it devoted to a detailed history of ABCs in Kitchener. Lively and engaging writing on what may seem like a dry subject. Note that this book is only out in hardcover so far, so it's a bit more expensive (but UTP is selling it with an online discount for less than \$50).

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.

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.

Spicer, Zachary. 2016. *The Boundary Bargain: Growth, Development, and the Future of City-County Separation*. McGill-Queen's University Press.

Why does Ontario have separated cities, and should it still have them? This brand new book looks at these questions in historical perspective.

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 (most of) the former 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 12, Morning Session

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

10:30am – noon:

Martin Horak Canadian Local Government in Comparative Perspective

Monday, June 12, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm: *Growth and Economic Development*

Jason Brander Rural Industrial Parks: An Effective Development Tool?

Barbara Koopmans Implementing the Growth Plan: Overcoming NIMBY

Yueyue Zhang Retaining International Graduates in London

3:00pm – 4:00pm: *Housing and Homelessness*

Dan Byskal Affordable Housing Waitlists and Public-Private Partnership

Barbara Hall Enumerating the Homeless Population in a Rural Community

Tuesday, June 13, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Zoning and Planning*

Doug MacRae Neighbourhood Design and Travel Choices in London

Trisha McKibbin Heritage Policies in the Town of St. Mary's

Alexandra Codispodi Secondary Suite Policy Implementation in Ontario

11:00am – 12:00pm: *Governance Reform*

Jennifer Crowe BC's Regional District model in Newfoundland and Labrador

Gwen Lowrie-Dennis Indigenous – Local Government Relationships

Tuesday, June 13, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm:

Martin Horak Globalization and Cities: Causes and Consequences

3:00pm – 4:00pm: *Elections and Representation I*

Amy Humphries Electronic Voting and Municipal Election Costs
Ethan Robert Ranked Ballot Elections in London and Guelph

Wednesday, June 14, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:00am: *Elections and Representation II*

Alysha Faria At-Large Elections in Ontario Municipalities
Sarah Corman Ward Boundary Reviews and Post-Secondary Students

10:30am – noon: *Guest Speaker*

Jennifer Smout (Solicitor, City of London)

Reforming the OMB through Bill 139:
Are We Building Better Communities?

Recommended reading (read initial explanatory note only):

http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=4936

Wednesday, June 14, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 2:30pm: *Provincial Policies and Local Conflicts*

Patrick D'Almada Aggregate Extraction Conflicts in Rural Communities
Shannon Geraghty Rural School Closures
Josh Brick Socioeconomic Impacts of Joint and Several Liability

3:00pm – 4:00pm: *Issues in Policing*

Stephanie MacKenzie-Smith Police Carding Policies in Toronto
Michael Pearce Reducing Policing Costs in Chatham-Kent

Thursday, June 15, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:00am: *Local Government Management: Finances and Purchasing*

Mary-Ellen Ducharme Employee Responses to Internal Audit Recommendations
Liang Zhao Pension Purchasing in Chinese Local Government

10:30am – 12:00pm: *Revenues and Pricing*

Brenda Garrett Needs-Based Allocation of Infrastructure Money
Catalina Blumenberg Marijuana and Municipalities: Diversifying Municipal Revenue
Robert Sharon Drinking Water and Affordability in Southwestern Ontario

Thursday, June 15, Afternoon Session

1:00pm – 4:00pm: *Guest Workshop*

John Hannam (City Clerk, City of Thunder Bay)

Municipal-Aboriginal Relationships as a Matter of Public Policy

Recommended reading:

1. <http://www.ubcm.ca/assets/Library/Policy~Topics/First~Nations~Relations/Relationship~Building~and~Dispute~Resolution~Resources/Partnerships%20in%20Practice%202002.pdf>
2. <http://www.winnipeg.ca/interhom/pdfs/highlights/firststepsmunicipalaboriginalpathways.pdf>

Friday, June 16, Morning Session

9:00am – 10:30am: *Guest Speaker*

Ashleigh Weeden (Communications Manager, South Western Integrated Fibre
Technology)

Digital Engagement in Local Government

10:45am – 11:15am:

David Taylor Change Management and Electronic Document Systems

Friday, June 16, Afternoon Session

12:30pm – 2:00pm: *Public Engagement*

Paul Sandor	Public Engagement in Regional Health Planning
Francis Hinnah	Self-Governance and Participation in Refugee Settlements
Melanie Figueiredo	Does Citizen Initiative Increase Program Success?

2:00pm – 2:30pm:

Martin Horak	Issues in MPA Research Reports: Review and Discussion
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***** approx. 2:30pm end time *****