

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**Issues in Local Government**  
Public Administration 9917L  
Summer 2019

June 10-14: 9-12:00; 1-4:00  
Room 4255, Social Science Centre

Instructor: Joe Lyons  
Office: 4162 SSC  
Office hours: by appointment  
E-mail: [jlyons7@uwo.ca](mailto:jlyons7@uwo.ca)  
Phone: 519-661-2111, ext. 85168

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### **Course Information**

**Course Objectives:** This is the capstone course in the MPA program. The objectives are two-fold. First, the course allows students to get constructive critical feedback on their MPA research projects in progress. Second, 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.

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

**Readings:** There is minimal reading in this course. Selected readings have been assigned to introduce topics covered by student presentations, guest speakers, and the instructor. All 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.

### **Requirements:**

1. *Class Participation.* Two items make up the class participation grade:

a. **Attendance and Participation.** You must attend all classes and participate during discussions. Students are expected to ask questions and provide feedback on their peers' presentations and to engage with the instructor and guest speakers. If you are unable to attend a class, you should advise the instructor in advance.

b. **Presentation Discussant.** Each student will be assigned as a discussant to a peer's presentation. In your role as discussant, you are expected to ask **two** thoughtful and helpful questions about the presenter's research project. Discussant assignments (names in brackets) are included in the presentation schedule below.

2. *Presentation on Research Project.* Students will prepare a short presentation – no more than 10 minutes – on their final research project. This presentation is an opportunity for you to receive constructive feedback on your research project from the instructor and your peers. It also gives you practice presenting research in a way that is interesting and engaging, which is a skill itself. The group benefits from learning about important and emerging issues in local government.

The content of your presentation will vary depending on how advanced your project is and when you plan to complete. In general, I expect you to: (a) state your research question(s); (b) briefly outline your research design; (c) present a couple of highlights of what you have done so far and what you still need to do; and (d) 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. The goal is to get as many helpful comments and suggestions as possible. Others may have faced similar challenges, so the group is a good sounding board.

PowerPoint facilities will be available, but PowerPoint is not required (it's your choice).

3. *Reading Response on Favourite Reading.* Students must write a 2,500-word critical reflection piece on their favourite peer-reviewed journal article or book chapter from the program (i.e., not a newspaper article or book from a non-academic press). This paper is due on Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is an opportunity for you to grapple with your favourite reading on your own terms. Among other things, the reading response should: (a) identify the course and topic for which the reading was assigned outline and analyze its main assumptions, arguments, and findings; (b) situate it within the broader academic literature on the topic and assess its contribution to the field; (c) identify how research on the topic has since progressed and where it is heading; (d) explain why and how it is a useful resource for practitioners; and (e) describe how it will help to guide your career moving forward. You are encouraged to share your own perspective and experiences, as they relate to this reading. I am interested in finding out how this reading has helped to shape your thinking about public administration as a field of study and as a profession. You will also need to draw from related academic literature to properly evaluate the significance of its contribution and identify avenues of ongoing and future research.

**Note:** Overdue submissions will be penalized **two percentage points** for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late. Extensions will be granted only if written confirmation of any extenuating circumstances is provided.

**Evaluation:**

1. Class Participation:	25%
Attendance and Participation (20%)	
Presentation Discussant (5%)	
2. Presentation on Research Project:	35%
3. Reading Response on Favourite Reading:	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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/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.

## Course Schedule and Required Readings

### *Monday, June 10, Morning Session*

9-11 Introduction and Organization

11-12 **Research and Writing Strategies**

Guest Speaker: Paul Schmidt, Associate Director, Writing Support Centre

### *Monday, June 10, Afternoon Session*

1-2:30 **Local Governments and the (Digital) Information Age**

Reading: Hood, Christopher and Helen Margetts. 2010 Cyber-bureaucracy: If Information Technology Is So Central to Public Administration, Why Is It So Ghetto-ized? In Jon Pierre and Patricia Ingraham, eds. *Comparative Administrative Change and Reform: Lessons Learned*. Montreal & Kingston: MQUP

Morgan Calvert A Proposed Framework for Measuring Success in the Digital Era (Stanley Ing)

Lise Conde Size and the Evolution of Municipal Libraries in Ontario (Elena Hillman)

Andi Maluku The Smart City Challenge: Modelling the Selection Process (Jonathon Graham)

2:30-4 **Diversity Issues in Local Government**

Colleen Kelly Women and Municipal Elections (Andy Grozelle)

Ebyan Hassan Social Inclusion and Local Economic Development (Cheryl Smith)

### *Tuesday, June 11, Morning Session*

9-10:30 **The Advocacy Coalition Framework**

Readings: Heinmiller, Timothy and Kevin Pirak. 2017. Advocacy Coalitions in Ontario Land Use Policy. *Review of Policy Research* 34(2): 168-185. Water Fluoridation Case Study (available on OWL)

10:30-12 **Policy/Political Communication in Local Government**

Guest speakers: Michael Genova, Director, Corporate and Strategic Communications, City of Vaughan and Stephanie Mackenzie-Smith, Manager, Corporate Communications, Town of Aurora

***Tuesday, June 11, Afternoon Session***

**1-3                    Municipal Agenda Setting**

- Stanley Ing            Health in All Policies Action in Four Ontario Municipalities  
(Darlene Coke)
- Devi Richards        Understanding Key Policy Drivers for Public Space Shaping  
(Juan Reyes)
- Suzanna Dieleman    Multi-Year Budgeting: What's Stopping Us?  
(Ellen Pezetta)

**3-4                    Municipal Policy Issues: Perceived Importance and Prevalence**

Reading:              Lucas, Jack and Alison Smith. 2019. "Which Policy Issues Matter in  
Canadian Municipalities? A Survey of Municipal Politicians."  
*University of Calgary SPP Research Paper 12 (8)*  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.11575/sppp.v12i0.56964>.

Guest Speaker:        Shanaya Vanhooren, PhD Student, Department of Political Science

***Wednesday, June 12, Morning Session***

**9-10:30              Municipal Elections**

Reading:              McGregor, Michael, Aaron Moore, and Laura Stephenson. 2016.  
Political Attitudes and Behaviour in a Non-Partisan Environment:  
Toronto 2014. *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 49(2): 311-333.

Guest Speakers:        Cameron Anderson and Laura Stephenson, Municipal Election Study

Carson Lamb         Telephone and Internet Voting in Rural Ontario Municipalities  
(Morgan Calvert)

**10:30-noon         Municipal Politicians**

Evelina Skalski       MFIPPA and Councillors' Records  
(Lise Conde)

Mark Dean             Opting Out of Physical Cannabis Stores  
(Suzanna Dieleman)

***Wednesday, June 12, Afternoon Session***

**1-2:30                Policy Analysis/Evaluation I**

Reading:              Vogel, Brennan and Daniel Henstra. 2015. Studying Local Climate  
Adaptation: A Heuristic Research Framework for Policy Analysis.  
*Global Environmental Change* 31: 110-120.

Jonathon Graham     Bracing for Impact: Asset Management and Infrastructure Deficits  
(Jason Trottier)

Jason Cole                      Willing and Unwilling Hosts: Municipal Wind Turbine Policies  
  (Carson Lamb)  
Taylor Mooney                 Analyzing London’s Planning Policies for Age Friendliness  
  (Sadielou South)

2:30-4                            **Recent Developments in Municipal Law**

Guest Speaker:                Dave Taylor, Manager, Legal Services, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

*Thursday, June 13, Morning Session*

9-10:30                         **Policy Analysis/Evaluation II**

Darlene Coke                 The Cost of Culture: Budgetary Effects of Municipal Cultural Plans  
  (Sarah Andrews)  
Ellen Pezzetta                 Good Food Box Program Sustainability  
  (Taylor Mooney)  
S. Charbonneau               Risk-Based Planning and the Fire Service Financial Sustainability  
  (Devi Richards)

10:30-12                       **Longitudinal Comparisons**

Elena Hillman                 Employment Success Rates for Ontario Social Assistance Clients  
  (Colleen Kelly)  
Katherine Brier               A Tale of Two Regions: The Evolution of London and Waterloo  
  (Evelina Skalski)

*Thursday, June 13, Afternoon Session*

1-2                                **Public Participation**

Andy Grozelle                 Direct Public Engagement: Port Dover’s Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> Biker Rally  
  (Andi Maloku)  
Cheryl Smith                   Municipal Participatory Budgeting  
  (Katherine Brier)

2-3:30                            **Deconstructing a Good Research Report (available on OWL)  
and Program Debrief**

3:30-5                            Summer Social

*Friday, June 14, Morning Session*

9-10:30                         **Special-Purpose Bodies**

Sarah Andrews               Municipalities and Public Libraries  
  (Suzanne Charbonneau)  
Sadielou South                Opioid Crisis Response Strategies in Middlesex-London  
  (Mark Dean)

10:30-12

**Rural/Northern Issues**

Juan Reyes

The Role of Professional Engineers in Small Municipalities  
(Jason Cole)

Jason Trottier

Attracting and Retaining Talent in Northern Ontario  
(Ebyan Hassan)

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**Issues in MPA Research Reports: Review and Discussion**