The University of Western Ontario Department of Political Science

The Policy Process in Local Government

Public Administration 4902/9902b-Political Science 9524b Winter 2015

> Wednesdays, 4:30-6:30 Room 4255, Social Science Centre

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2:30-4:30 Wednesdays

or by chance or appointment

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 their own copy of the following (paperback) book:

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

All other readings – including draft chapters for the 2nd edn of Sancton, *Canadian Local Government* – will be available electronically through Western Libraries or will be available on the course website (OWL).

Jan. 7 **Introduction**

Readings: Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL)

J. Eric Oliver, *Local Elections and the Politics of Small-scale Democracy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012), especially Introduction, ch.1 and 6. (available online through the Weldon Library)

Guest: Connie Wheeler, Program Manager, Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative

Readings: Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiative (OMBI) website: http://www.ombi.ca/

Jan. 14 Local Political Economy

Readings:

Sancton, 1st edn., pp.211-19. Moore, ch. 1 and 2

Jan.21 Institutions and Processes for Planning: The Toronto Case

Readings:

Moore, ch.3-7

Jan. 28 The Politics of Urban development in London ON

Readings:

Sancton, 1st edn., pp.203-11

Timothy Cobban, 'The Political Economy of Urban Development:
Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993–2002', *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12, 2 (2003): 231–48 [online at Weldon]
Christopher Leo, "Are There Urban Regimes in Canada? Comment on:
Timothy Cobban's "The Political Economy of Urban Development:
Downtown Revitalization in London, Ontario, 1993–2002'', *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12, 2 (2003): 344–8.[online at Weldon]
Timothy Cobban, 'Timothy Cobban's Reply to Christopher Leo's
Comment "Are There Urban Regimes in Canada?''', *Canadian Journal*

Feb. 4 Responding to Federal and Provincial Initiatives

of Urban Research 12, 2 (2003): 349-52.

Readings:

Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp.4-7. [check page numbers] Daniel Henstra, ed., *Multilevel Governance and Emergency Management in Canadian Municipalities* (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013), ch. 1 and 6 (OWL)

Eric Champagne 'Tracking the Growth of the Federal Municipal Infrastructure Program under Different Federal Regimes', in Katherine A.H. Graham and Caroline Andrew, eds., *Canada in Cities: The*

Politics and Policy of Federal-Local Governance (Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014), ch.7 (OWL)

Feb. 11 **Transit Policy-making in Toronto**

Readings:

Metrolinx: http://www.metrolinx.com/en/

Michael, Schabas, *Review of Metrolinx's Big Move* (Toronto, Neptis Foundation, 2013)

http://www.neptis.org/publications/review-metrolinxs-big-move

Feb. 25 **Policy-making for Local Economic Growth**

Readings:

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

Timothy W. Cobban, *Cities of Oil: Municipalities and petroleum Manufacturing in Southern Ontario, 1860-1960* (Toronto; University of Toronto Press, 2013), ch.1 and 5 (OWL)

March 4 Agenda-Setting Diffusion and Participation

Readings:

Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp. 11-15

Daniel Henstra, "Explaining Local Policy Choices: A Multiple Streams Analysis, *Canadian Public Administration*, 53-2 (2010), 241-58

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

Brianna Heinrichs, "The Consulter's Conceit: How Phony Public Consultations Undermine Democracy and the Market", Manning Foundation for Democratic Participation, (2013) http://www.manningfoundation.org/Docs/Consulters-Conceit.pdf

March 11 **Symbolic policy-making, including frameworks for future policy actions**

Readings: new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp. 15-16.

Angela Macleod Irons, "Noble Frustrations: The many practical problems with municipal poverty initiatives" Manning Foundation for Democratic

Education (2013) http://www.manningfoundation.org/Docs/Noble-Frustrations.pdf

Martin Horak and Marilyn Dantico, "The Limits of Local Redistribution: Neighbourhood Regeneration Initiatives in Toronto and Phoenix", *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49 (2014): 135-58 (online at Weldon)

Martin Horak and Aaron A. Moore, "Policy Shift without Institutional Change: The Precarious Place of Neighborhood Revitalization in Toronto" forthcoming publication (OWL)

March 18 **Policy Instruments and Implementation**

Readings:

Christopher Hood and Helen Magetts, *The Tools of Government in the Digital Age* (Houndsmills, Basingstoke, England:Palgrave macmillan, 2007), pp.1-20 (OWL)

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)

Ontario, Report of the Elliott Lake Commission of Inquiry, Part One The Events Leading to the Collapse of the Algo Centre Mall, pp.246-54, available at:

http://www.elliotlakeinquiry.ca/report/Vol1 E/ELI Vol1 Ch06 E.pdf and pp. 598-99, available at:

http://www.elliotlakeinquiry.ca/report/Vol1_E/ELI_Vol1_Ch13_E.pdf

March 25 **OMBI presentations**

April 1 OMBI (and possibly miscellaneous presentations)

April 8 Conclusion

Readings:

Sancton, concluding ch. For 2nd edn (OWL)

Course Requirements and Responsibilities

By January 21, all students must have chosen a local policy issue or an issue to analyze using OMBI data. By January 28 a schedule of oral presentations will be prepared by the instructor. The basic requirements will be as follows:

• Essay outline – 20%

A brief outline (approximately 500 words) of the proposed essay together with a listing of the main sources. **Due January 21**

• Oral presentation – 10%

Each student will be required to make a presentation based on their essay topic. Students scheduled earlier in the term will not be expected to have completed their research.

• Essay − 50%

An essay of about 3000 words containing a comprehensive treatment of the policy issue or OMBI data-set chosen. **Due April 8**

• Overall Participation – 20%