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  

Professor: Andrew Sancton  
Phone: 519-850-2985  
E-mail: asancton@uwo.ca  
Office Hours: 4133 Social Science Centre; 1:30-3:30 Mondays  
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)  
(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

Feb. 4 Responding to Federal and Provincial Initiatives
Readings:
Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp.4-7. [check page numbers]
Feb. 11  **Transit Policy-making in Toronto**
Readings:

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

March 4  **Agenda-Setting Diffusion and Participation**
Readings:
- Sancton, new policy ch for 2nd edn (OWL), pp. 11-15

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


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:  
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%**