Course Information

Course Objectives: This course provides an advanced overview of local government in Canada. It surveys the structures, functions, and financing of local governments, and examines their relations with federal and provincial governments.

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

Readings and Materials

Required textbooks (both available in the UWO bookstore):

(Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015)


All other assigned readings will be available electronically, either through the course’s OWL site or on-line. Assigned reading should be done before the class in which it is to be discussed.

Requirements:
1. *Two Short Reading Responses*. Every student is required to submit a short reaction paper to the assigned readings for two classes (beginning Sept 21). These papers should be no more than two pages single-spaced and should speak to the main themes and issues raised in the readings. You have some freedom in how you want to approach these responses, but they are NOT intended to be summaries. You are encouraged to reflect on any ideas or approaches covered in the readings that you agree or disagree with, to develop an argument that ties some or all of the readings together, and to incorporate your own personal experiences. You will be asked to
present one of these responses to the class (see Class Participation). You should be prepared to help lead class discussions for each of the sessions that you prepare a response for, and especially during the class in which you present. Responses are to be submitted at the start of the class which is covering the readings that you have responded to. Late Papers will not be accepted.

2. Class Participation. Two items make up the class participation grade:
   a. Attendance and Participation. You must attend all classes, keep up with the readings, and participate during discussions. If you are unable to attend a particular class, you should advise the instructor in advance.
   b. Reading Response Presentation. You will be required to present one of your reading responses to the class. The presentation schedule will be determined during the first class. These presentations should be approximately 5 minutes in length. Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations.

3. Final Essay. In consultation with the instructor, students should choose an essay topic related to any of the subjects covered above. The essay should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words in length and must be submitted by December 7 at the latest. Papers submitted after this date will be penalized two percentage points for each day (including weekends) that the paper is late.

Evaluation:
1. Two Short Reading Responses 10% each = 20%
2. Participation 30%
3. Final Essay 50%

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

Note for students with disabilities:
Please contact policie@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

Sept. 14 Organization and Introduction
The What and Why of Local Government:
Are Indigenous Governments Local Governments?

Readings: Sancton, ch. 1 and 2.
Spicer, pp.17-31
Sept. 21  Central-Local Relations

Readings:  Sancton, Ch. 3.
Warren Magnusson, Local Self-Government and the Right to the City (Monreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2016), ch.8

Federation of Canadian Municipalities: http://www.fcm.ca/home.htm
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page11.aspx

Sept. 28  Central-Local Relations Cont’d: the OMB and Multilevel Governance

Readings:

Oct. 5  Special Purpose Bodies

Readings:  Sancton, ch.4.
Jack Lucas, Fields of Authority: Special Purpose Governance in Ontario, 1815-1915 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2016), Introduction and ch.6

Websites:  Waterfront Toronto: http://www.waterfronttoronto.ca/
Oct. 12 **Urban and Rural: Greenbelt and Smart Growth**

**Readings:** Sancton, ch.5  
Spicer, ch.2  

**Websites:**  
Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Coordinated Land Use Planning Review: [http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page10882.aspx](http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page10882.aspx)

Oct. 19 **Responses to Urbanization: Annexation and City-County Separation**

**Readings:** Sancton, ch.5  
Spicer, Introduction, pp.44-55 and ch.3-6  

Oct.26 **Metropolitan Governance: Two-Tier Systems**

**Readings:** Sancton, ch.7  
Spicer, pp.31-44  
Nov. 2 Metropolitan Governance: Amalgamations and De-amalgamations

Readings: Sancton, Ch. 8.
Spicer, pp.44-61

Websites: Amalgamation Yes! (Victoria BC): http://www.amalgamationyes.ca/

Nov. 9 Internal Municipal Structures and Municipal Politicians

Readings: Sancton, Ch. 9 and pp. 227-232.
Royce Koop and John Kraemer, “Wards, At-Large Systems and the Focus of Representation in Canadian Cities,” forthcoming in Canadian Journal of Political Science available from a computer logged in to Western Libraries at:
http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&pdftype=1&fid=10339089&jid=CJP&volumeId=1&issueId=1&aid=10339084

Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators: http://www.camacam.ca/en/

Nov. 16 Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing

Readings: Sancton, Ch. 14.
Nov. 23  
**Municipal Finance II: Property Taxes, User-Fees, and Development Charges**

Readings:  
Sancton, Ch. 15 and pp. 202-207.

Nov. 30  
**Good Governance at the Local Level**

Readings:  