

Western University
Department of Political Science
Local Government
Political Science 2236e
2014-2015

Lectures: Mondays 9:30-11:30 am
Room 3028, Social Science Centre
Tutorials: Mondays, Tuesdays, or Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 pm

Instructor (Sept. – Dec.): Dr. Joseph Lyons
Office: SSC 4162
Office hours: Mondays 1-3 pm, or by appointment
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Instructor (Jan. – Apr.): Dr. Andrew Sancton
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Course Information

Course Objectives: This course provides an introduction to the basic concepts, structures, processes, and politics of local government. Emphasis is mostly placed on local government in Ontario, though examples are also drawn from other provinces and other countries, especially the United States.

Course Organization: The course will consist of a combination of lectures and tutorials. The lectures will be held on Mondays from 9:30-11:30am in SSC 3028. Tutorials are held on Mondays (SSC 3024), Tuesdays (SSC 2020), and Wednesdays (SSC 3006) from 12:30-1:30 pm. Students must sign up for one of these tutorial groups.

Tutorials

Tutorials begin the week of September 15. Attendance is compulsory. Topics for the weekly discussions in the autumn term will be assigned at the first session. Each student will be expected to make at least one brief oral presentation. Topics for the second-term tutorials will be assigned in January.

Tests

Tests covering first-term material will be held on October 20, 2014 and January 12, 2015. They will consist of short and long answer questions, for which there will be some choice. You will not be asked specific questions about the material covered before October 27 on the second test, but knowledge of material covered before then will be assumed.

Local Election Report

Municipal elections will occur in Ontario on October 27, 2014. For this assignment, students will follow and report on at least one election contest in a municipality of their choosing (large cities are probably, though not certainly, the best choices). The report should be approximately 1500 words in length, and take the form of short, weekly entries, like a journal or blog. Each entry should reference at least two sources (possible sources may include local newspapers, local bloggers, and candidates' websites). Entries must begin the week of September 29. The focus should be on identifying and analyzing the positions of the main candidates on key policy issues during the campaign, and considering how those positions will influence the electoral outcome. The final entry (for a total of five entries) will come in the week following the election. In this entry, you will report and reflect on the results of the election, and offer some predictions on the upcoming council term. Reports are due on November 10, no later than 9:30 am. Once the lecture begins, the report is late. Late submissions will be penalized by one percentage point of the course grade for each business day that the paper is overdue. Extensions will only be granted for documented medical and other emergencies in accordance with university policy.

Evaluation

First Test	October 20	15%
First Term Tutorials		10%
Local Election Report	Due *In Class* November 10	10%
Second Test	January 12	15%
Essay	Due *In Class* March 9	20%
Second Term Tutorials		10%
Final Exam	As scheduled	20%

Readings and Materials

Required Textbook: Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011) – copies are available in the UWO bookstore

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.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Sept. 8	Introduction and Organization
Sept. 15	The What and Why of Local Government
Readings:	Sancton, chs. 1 & 2
Sept. 22	Central Governments and Local Governments

Readings: Sancton, ch. 3

Sept. 29 **Central-Local Relations Cont'd: The OMB and Multilevel Governance**

Readings: Moore, Aaron. 2013. *Planning Politics in Toronto: The Ontario Municipal Board and Urban Development*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 37-52.

Horak, Martin. 2012. "Multilevel Governance in Toronto: Success and Failure in Canada's Largest City." Pp. 228-262 in *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada's Big Cities*, edited by Martin Horak and Robert Young. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.

Oct. 6 **Urban and Rural**

Readings: Sancton, ch. 5

Oct. 13 **Thanksgiving – No class**

Oct. 20 **Test**

Oct. 27 **Consolidation vs. Public Choice**

Readings: Sancton, pp. 109-114

Keating, Michael. 1995. "Size, Efficiency, and Democracy: Consolidation, Fragmentation and Public Choice." Pp. 117-134 in *Theories of Urban Politics*, edited by David Judge, Gerry Stoker, and Harold Wolman. London: Sage Publications.

Nov. 3 **Special Purpose Bodies**

Readings: Sancton, ch. 4

Lucas, Jack. 2013. "Hidden in Plain View: Local Agencies, Boards, and Commissions in Canada." *IMFG Perspectives* No. 4, available at http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/253/imfg_1453hiddeninplainview_final_web.pdf.

Nov. 10 **Annexations**

Readings: Sancton, ch. 6

**** LOCAL ELECTIONS REPORTS DUE AT START OF CLASS BY 9:30 – Once the lecture starts, the paper is late**

Nov. 17 **Two-Tier Systems**

Readings: Sancton, pp. 114-134

British Columbia. Ministry of Community Services. 2006. *Primer on*

Regional Districts in British Columbia, available at
http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/NewAndEvents/Election/Primer_on_Regional_Districts_in_BC.pdf

New Brunswick. Ministry of Environment and Local Government. 2012.
Regional Service Commissions: Your Questions Answered, available at
<http://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/Ig-gl/pdf/RSCQuestions.pdf>.

Nov. 24 **Amalgamations**

Readings: Sancton, pp. 135-149 and 151-161
Slack, Enid and Richard Bird. 2013. "Merging Municipalities: Is Bigger Better?" *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 14, available at
http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg_no_14_slack_birdr3_online_final.pdf.

Dec. 1 **De-amalgamations**

Readings: Sancton, pp. 149-151 and 161-167
The Toronto Star, "Big Ideas Live Chat: Should Toronto De-amalgamate?" available at
http://www.thestar.com/bigideas/2014/07/11/big_ideas_live_chat_should_toronto_deamalgamate.html

A detailed schedule for the second term will be distributed in January. The course will continue to follow the general subject matter contained in the textbook, but additional policy issues related to local government will be included towards the end.

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

Accessibility at Western: 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.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.