

Western University
Department of Political Science
Local Government
Political Science 2236e
2016-2017

Lectures: Mondays 9:30-11:30am
Social Science Centre, Room 4255
Tutorials: Mondays or Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Lyons
Office: SSC 4162
Office hours: Tuesdays 10am-12pm, or by appointment
E-mail: jlyons7@uwo.ca
Phone: 519-661-2111, ext. 85168

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.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, students will have developed a good understanding of the structure and political processes of local government in Canada, including such subjects as provincial-municipal relations, finance, administration, and the politics of urban and regional planning.

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 4255. Tutorials are held on Mondays (NCB 295) and Tuesdays (SH 3355) from 12:30-1:30pm. Students must sign up for one of these tutorial groups.

Tutorials

Tutorials begin the week of September 19. The topics and schedule for first term will be distributed at the first session. The topics and schedule for second-term tutorials will be distributed in January. Each student will be expected to make at least one brief oral presentation per term. Tutorial attendance is mandatory and will be monitored.

Tests

In-class tests will be held on **October 31, 2016** and **January 16, 2017**. There will also be a final exam, held during the final examination period in April. Tests will consist of short- and long-answer questions, for which there will be some choice. The tests and exam will be non-cumulative, but general knowledge of material covered beforehand will be assumed.

Essay

Students must write and submit an essay of approximately 2500 words on a subject relating to material covered during the first term. A list of approved essay topic will be distributed in September, but students may also develop their own topic in consultation with the course instructor or teaching assistant. The essay will be worth 15% of the final course grade, and is due at the beginning of class on **December 5, 2016**. Students are required to submit a hard copy to the instructor and an electronic copy to Turnitin.com through the course's OWL site.

Local Issues Report

Students must write and submit a report of approximately 2500 words that presents an analysis of an ongoing or recent political conflict in a Canadian municipality or local government. The Local Issues Report will be worth 15% of the final course grade, and is due at the beginning of class on **March 13, 2017**. Students are required to submit a hard copy to the instructor and an electronic copy to Turnitin.com through the course's OWL site. More information will be provided early in the second term.

Evaluation

First Test	October 31	15%
First Term Tutorials		10%
Essay	Due *In Class* December 5	15%
Second Test	January 16	15%
Local Issues Report	Due *In Class* March 13	15%
Second Term Tutorials		10%
Final Exam	As scheduled	20%

Note: Overdue submissions will be penalized by 2% per day and 5% over weekends. No assignment will be graded if it is submitted more than two weeks late. Extensions will only be granted for documented medical and other emergencies in accordance with university policy.

Readings and Materials

Required Textbook: Sancton, Andrew. 2015. *Canadian local government: An urban perspective*. 2nd ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press – copies are available in the UWO bookstore.

All other assigned readings will be available electronically. Assigned reading should be done **Before** the class in which it is to be discussed.

Course Schedule and Required Readings

Sept. 12	Introduction and Organization
Sept. 19	The What and Why of Local Government
Readings:	Sancton, chs. 1 and 2.

- Sept. 26 **Comparing Municipalities and Parliamentary Systems**
- Readings: Sancton, ch. 9.
 Sancton, Andrew. 2015. What is a meeting? Municipal councils and the Ontario ombudsman. *Canadian Public Administration* 58 (3): 426-43.
- Oct. 3 **Provincial-Local Relations**
- Readings: Sancton, ch. 3.
 Sancton, Andrew. 2016. The false panacea of city charters: The case of Toronto. *University of Calgary School of Public Policy SPP Research Papers* 9 (3), available at <http://www.policyschool.ca/publications/false-panacea-city-charters-political-perspective-case-toronto-0/>.
- Oct. 10 **Thanksgiving – No class**
- Oct. 17 **Accounting for Urban-Rural Differences**
- Readings: Sancton, ch. 5.
 Spicer, Zachary. 2016. Growth, development and conceptualizations of urban and rural. In *The boundary bargain: Growth, development and the future of city-county separation*, 62-74. Montreal & Kingston: MQUP.
- Oct. 24 **Comparing Systems of Local Government**
- Readings: Dye, Thomas and Susan MacManus. 2015. Governing America's communities. In *Politics in states and communities*, 289-316. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.
 Keating, Michael. 1991. Systems of local government: Culture and structure. In *Comparative urban politics: Power and the city in the United States, Canada, Britain and France*, 13-35. Aldershot, UK: Edward Elgar.
- Oct. 31 ***In-Class Test 1***
- Nov. 7 **Theories of Metropolitan and Regional Governance**
- Readings: Sancton, pp. 112-117.
 Savitch, Hank and Ron Vogel. 2009. Regionalism and urban politics. In *Theories of urban politics*, ed. Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio, 106-24. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- Nov. 14 **Inter-Municipal Agreements and Special-Purpose Bodies**
- Readings: Spicer, Zachary. 2014. The ties that bind? Exploring the dynamics of

intermunicipal agreement formation between separated cities and counties. *Canadian Public Policy* 40 (3): 245-58.

Sancton, ch. 4.

Wolman, Harold. 2016. *Learning from abroad: Multi-purpose special districts in British Columbia as a possible model for governance innovation for local governments in the United States*. Phoenix, AZ: Alliance for Innovation, available at http://transformgov.org/en/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/308283/Learning_from_Abroad_MultiPurpose_Special_Districts_in_British_Columbia_as_a_Possible_Model_for_Gove (read for the weeks of Nov. 14 and 21).

Nov. 21 **Annexations and Two-Tier Systems**

Readings: Sancton, ch. 6 and pp. 117-37.
Wolman reading from above, Slack and Bird reading from below.

Nov. 28 **Amalgamations and De-amalgamations**

Readings: Sancton, ch. 8.
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_bird3_online_final.pdf (read for the weeks of Nov. 21 and 28).
Miljan, Lydia and Zachary Spicer. 2015. *De-Amalgamation in Canada: Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*. Vancouver: Fraser Institute, available at www.fraserinstitute.org/.../fraser-ca/.../de-amalgamation-in-canada.pdf.

Dec. 5 **Multilevel Governance and State Rescaling**

*** Essay Due at the Start of Class***

Readings: Horak, Martin. 2012. Multilevel governance in Toronto: Success and failure in Canada's largest city. In *Sites of governance: Multilevel governance and policy making in Canada's big cities*, ed. Martin Horak and Robert Young, 228-62. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.
Horak, Martin. 2013. State rescaling in practice: Urban governance reform in Toronto. *Urban Research and Practice* 6 (3): 311-28.

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/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html 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.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

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/academic_policies/index.html

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.

*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

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

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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.