

Western University  
Department of Political Science  
**Advanced Local Government**  
PA 9901A/PS 4901A/PS 9523A  
Fall 2015

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

Instructor: Joe Lyons  
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### **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. This course is also a gateway for the rest of the program. It will give students the foundational knowledge needed to understand many of the most important issues facing local governments in Canada.

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

### **Readings and Materials**

Required Textbook: Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, 2nd edition (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2015) – 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.

### **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 23rd). 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. These presentations should be **approximately 5 minutes in length**. The presentation schedule will be determined during the first class. Unless agreed to in advance by the instructor, no audiovisual equipment will be used for these presentations.

3. *Research Project.* In consultation with the instructor, students should choose a research topic related to any of the topics covered below. Two items make up the research paper grade:

a. **Research Proposal.** Students will submit a 2-3 page research proposal by **October 28th**. The aim of the research proposal is to focus your research question and develop a strategy for completing the rest of your project.

b. **Research Paper.** The paper should be approximately 3,000 words in length and must be submitted by **December 2nd 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:	30% (15% each)
2. Participation:	20%
3. Research Project:	
a. Proposal	10%
b. Paper	40%

### **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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

### **Note for students with disabilities:**

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.

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## **Course Schedule and Required Readings**

Sept. 9           **Organization and Introduction**

Sept. 16         **The What and Why of Local Government**

Readings:       Sancton, Chs. 1 and 2.  
                  Magnusson, Warren. 1983. "Introduction: The Development of Canadian

Urban Government.” In *City Politics in Canada*, edited by Warren Magnusson and Andrew Sancton, pp. 3-57. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Sept. 23      **Central-Local Relations**

Readings:      Sancton, Ch. 3.  
Taylor, Zack and Neil Bradford. 2015. “The New Localism: Canadian Urban Governance in the Twenty-First Century.” In *Canadian Cities in Transition: Perspectives for an Urban Age*, 5th edition, edited by Pierre Filion et al., pp. 194-208. Toronto: Oxford University Press.  
Garcea, Joseph. 2014. “The Empowerment of Canadian Cities: Classic Canadian Compromise.” *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49:81-104.

Sept. 30      **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.” In *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Governance and Policy Making in Canada’s Big Cities*, edited by Martin Horak and Robert Young, pp. 228-262. Montreal and Kingston: MQUP.  
Eidelman, Gabriel. 2013. *Three’s Company: A Review of Waterfront Toronto’s Tri-government Approach to Revitalization*. Toronto: The Mowat Centre, available for download at <http://mowatcentre.ca/threes-company/>.

Oct. 7      **Fragmentation, Consolidation, or Regionalism?**

Readings:      Sancton, pp. 112-117.  
Savitch, Hank and Ron Vogel. 2009. “Regionalism and Urban Politics.” In *Theories of Urban Politics*, 2nd edition, edited by Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio, pp. 106-124. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.  
Horak, Martin. 2013. “State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto.” *Urban Research and Practice* 6 (3): 311-328.

Oct. 14      **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, [http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/253/imfg\\_1453hiddeninplainview\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/253/imfg_1453hiddeninplainview_final_web.pdf).  
Lyons, Joseph. 2015. “Conservation Authority Board Composition and Watershed Management in Ontario.” *Canadian Public Administration* 58 (2): 315-332.

Oct. 21           **Responses to Urbanization: Annexation**

\* Staff from the Regional Municipality of York will make a presentation about the Region's Triple A (Accelerated Advancement for Analysts) program from 4-5pm. Triple A is a new graduate program, consisting of a two-year rotational work placement for individuals who have completed their Master's degree within the last two years. \*

- Readings:       Sancton, Chs. 5 and 6.  
Taylor, Zack, Marcy Burchfield, and Anna Kramer. 2014. "Alberta Cities at the Crossroads: Urban Development Challenges and Opportunities in Historical and Comparative Perspective." *University of Calgary SPP Research Papers* 7 (2),  
<http://www.policyschool.ucalgary.ca/?q=content/alberta-cities-crossroads-urban-development-challenges-and-opportunities-historical-and-comp>.  
Marion, Michael-Allan. 2015. "Brantford-Brant Chamber Irked by Inaction, Stalled Talks in Boundary Dispute." *Brantford Expositor*, August 10,  
<http://www.brantfordexpositor.ca/2015/08/10/brantford-brant-chamber-irked-by-inaction--stalled-talks-in-boundary-dispute>.

Oct. 28           **Metropolitan Governance: Two-Tier Systems**

- Readings:       Sancton, pp. 117-137.  
Frisken, Francis. 2001. "The Toronto Story: Sober Reflections on Fifty Years of Experiments with Regional Governance." *Journal of Urban Affairs* 23 (5): 513-541.  
Bish, Robert. 2006. "Inter-Municipal Cooperation in British Columbia." *Public Manager* 35 (4): 34-39.

Nov. 4           **Metropolitan Governance: 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,  
[http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg\\_no\\_14\\_slack\\_birdr3\\_online\\_final.pdf](http://www.munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/219/imfg_no_14_slack_birdr3_online_final.pdf).  
Miljan, Lydia and Zachary Spicer. 2015. *De-Amalgamation in Canada: Breaking Up Is Hard to Do*. Vancouver: Fraser Institute,  
[www.fraserinstitute.org/.../fraser-ca/.../de-amalgamation-in-canada.pdf](http://www.fraserinstitute.org/.../fraser-ca/.../de-amalgamation-in-canada.pdf).  
Harnett, Cindy. 2014. "Province Agrees to Study Capital Region Amalgamation." *Times Colonist*, November 17,  
<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/province-agrees-to-study-capital-region-amalgamation-1.1590691>  
Werner, Kevin. 2015. "De-Amalgamation Fight Still Burns Deep among Flamborough Residents." *Hamilton Community News*, July 21,  
<http://www.hamiltonnews.com/news-story/5743513-de-amalgamation-fight-still-burns-deep-among-flamborough-residents/>.

Nov. 11      **Internal Municipal Structures and Municipal Politicians**

- Readings:      Sancton, Ch. 9 and pp. 227-232.  
Sancton, Andrew. Forthcoming, 2015. "What is a Meeting? Municipal Councils and the Ontario Ombudsman." *Canadian Public Administration* 58 (3).  
Mévellec, Anne. 2014. "Did the 2013 Municipal Elections Destabilize Municipal Politics in Quebec?" *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 23 (2): 18-37.

Nov. 18      **Municipal Finance I: Budgets and Borrowing**

- Readings:      Sancton, Ch. 14.  
Dachis, Benjamin and William B.P. Robson. 2014. "Baffling Budgets: Canada's Cities Need Better Financial Reporting." *C.D. Howe Institute Commentary* No. 397,  
[https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research\\_papers/merged/Commentary\\_397.pdf](https://www.cdhowe.org/sites/default/files/attachments/research_papers/merged/Commentary_397.pdf).  
Hanniman, Kyle. 2013. "Borrowing Today for the City of Tomorrow? Municipal Debt and Alternative Financing." *IMFG Forum* No. 3, available at  
[http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg\\_1453borrowingtoday\\_final\\_web\\_sept\\_12.pdf](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/254/imfg_1453borrowingtoday_final_web_sept_12.pdf).

Nov. 25      **Municipal Finance II: Property Taxes, User-Fees, and Development Charges**

- Readings:      Sancton, Ch. 15 and pp. 202-207.  
Bird, Richard, Enid Slack, and Almos Tassonyi. 2012. *A Tale of Two Taxes: Property Tax Reform in Ontario*. Cambridge, MA: Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Chs. 1 and 9.  
Tomalty, Ray and Andrejs Skaburskis. 2003. "Development Charges and City Planning Objectives." *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 12(1): 142-61.