

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
POLITICS 3364 G: ISSUES IN URBAN GOVERNANCE:
CITY POLITICS AND POLICY IN A GLOBAL ERA**

Winter 2015

Instructor: Martin Horak

Wednesdays 1:30-3:30 SSC Room 4103

Course Objectives

Cities have long been the engines of social and economic change. Today, large urban centers are growing and developing in ways that challenge the abilities of established local governments to deal with new social and economic issues. *How social and economic change affects city politics at the local level is the central theme of this course.* How are urban societies and economies affected by globalization, and what can local governments do about it? How can local governments govern when they lack the powers and resources to do so on their own? How can rapidly growing, changing cities keep up with the need for new infrastructure? Can urban politics help overcome social and economic divisions among residents? These are the kinds of questions that we will be discussing in this course.

The primary focus of the course is on cities in Canada and the United States; but the floor is also open for discussion of cities in other parts of the world, and we may choose to focus explicitly on cities in other parts of the world in the second half of the course.

One unique element of this course is that the topics for the second half of the course are chosen early on in the course by the students themselves. In other words you, the students, will set much of the agenda for this course.

Prerequisites

POL 3363F is a prerequisite for this course. If you have a background in Political Science or urban studies, you may be able to do well in POL 3364G even if you have not taken 3363F. However, you will need permission from the instructor to take 3364G.

Course Format and Readings

3364G is a mixed-format lecture and seminar course. The instructor will introduce and clarify the material in each class, yet at the heart of the course is class discussion of each week's theme. This means that you control the agenda of the course to a significant degree by contributing to our discussions.

In addition, instead of the last two scheduled classes (April 1 and April 8) the course will finish with an urban development field trip. This field trip will take place in London during the week of March 30 to April 3. The exact date and time will be agreed upon by students and instructor early on in the course. Attendance is mandatory.

As noted above, you will also control the agenda of the course by **choosing topics for the second part of the course** (Weeks 6 to 11). We will do this during the second class. Here is a list of possible topics. I am also open to other well-considered suggestions:

1. Residents and ratepayers: Urban politics and homeowners
2. Poverty and inequality in North American cities
3. Stadiums, subways, waterfronts: Building big infrastructure in cities
4. The urban politics of race and ethnicity
5. Bringing back downtowns and neighborhoods: the politics of revitalization
6. A city on the brink: governing Detroit
7. Governing Toronto in the age of globalization
8. Vancouver: a Pacific Rim city
9. London, Ontario: Political change and the birth of a new vision?

3364G also is a reading-based course. *You must be committed to reading all of the assigned material before each class.* Advance reading is a prerequisite for doing well in the course, and will help make the seminar discussions dynamic for all of us.

Some of the required readings for this course are available online through Western Libraries' databases. All other readings will be posted on the course's OWL Website.

Readings up to and including Week 5 are included in the current syllabus. The remaining readings for the course will be chosen by the instructor once students have chosen the topics for the rest of the syllabus.

Course Evaluation

The final grade for this course will be composed of the following elements:

1. Participation in class discussion and activity (20%).

In a reading-based course such as this one, lively class discussion is what brings ideas to life and helps to produce a valuable learning experience for all. *Attendance in every class of the term is mandatory*, and you are expected to participate as actively as you are able in discussion and debate.

I will hand out **discussion questions** for each week's material in the preceding week's class. Please come to class prepared with thoughtful answers.

In addition, in lieu of our April 1 and April 8 classes we will schedule a field trip that will take place during the final full week of winter classes. Participation in the field trip will count towards your course participation grade.

2. Two short reading response essays (15% each; 30% total).

During the course, you will write two short essays of about 1000 - 1500 words (3 to 4 pages) each. You will write one short essay during each half of the course. In Week 2, you will choose either Week 3, 4, or 5 as your first short essay week. In Week 4, you will choose one of the weeks in the second half of the course (6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11) as your second short essay week.

In each essay, you will be asked to analyze that week's reading material based on a question developed by the instructor. The instructor will always hand out the essay question one week ahead of the due date.

Your short essays will present a well thought-out argument that responds to the assigned question. They will be written in standard academic format, with citations and a (short) reference list. Research beyond the class readings is not necessary for these essays, although you may choose to do some.

3. Research project (15% proposal, 35% final paper; 50% total).

Your research project is a chance for you to investigate in depth some aspect of urban politics or policy that you are particularly interested in. You will devise your own *research question*. You should develop an explanatory research question about *how or why* something happens the way that it does in your area of interest. Your paper will then answer your question by bringing together academic work on your subject with examples from one or more cities.

There are two elements to your research project:

- a) By Week 7 of the course (Feb 26th), you will develop an 800 – 1000 word research proposal. The proposal will lay out your research question and your plan for completing your research. It is worth 15% of your course grade.
- b) At the end of the course, you will hand in a 3500-4000 word research paper in which you develop a well-crafted answer to your research question. The paper is worth 35% of your course grade. Precise due date TBD.

Detailed guidelines for both the proposal and the paper will be handed out in Week 4 of the course.

Note on deadlines for written work:

Written work handed in late will be subject to a penalty of 2% for each day past the deadline, weekends included.

Instructor Contact

I encourage you all to bring any questions or concerns about course material, requirements or assignments to me. My office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 1pm – 2:30pm in SSC4142. You can also make an appointment for another time.

Questions or concerns can also be sent my e-mail to: mhorak@uwo.ca. I will usually respond within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

- *The assigned readings are best read in the order listed on the schedule below.*
- *Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be posted to the course OWL site. All other readings are available online through Western Libraries.*

Part I: Globalization and the New Urban Governance

Week 1 (Jan 7): Introduction to the Course

We will discuss the structure and requirements of the course. There are no readings.

Week 2 (Jan 14): Political Structure and Political Power in Cities: A Review

We will review some ideas (introduced in POL 3363F) about the structure of government and the exercise of urban political power in North American cities. We will then tie this in to the concept of ‘governance’.

During this class, we will also choose topics for the second half of the course.

* England, Kim and John Mercer. 2006. “Canadian Cities in Continental Context: Global and Continental Perspectives in Canadian Urban Development”. In Trudi Bunting and Pierre Filion, eds. *Canadian Cities in Transition* (3rd ed), pp. 24-39.

Stoker, Gerry. 1998. “Governance as Theory: Five Propositions”. *International Social Science Journal* 155, pp. 17-28.

Week 3 (Jan 21): Globalization and Cities: Causes and Consequences

- * Williamson, Thad, David Imbroscio and Gar Alperovitz. 2003. “Chapter 1: Globalization and Free Trade”. In *Making a Place for Community: Local Democracy in a Global Era*. New York: Routledge, pp. 27-51.
- * Borja, Jordi and Manuel Castells. 1997. “Chapter 2: The Impact of Globalization on the Spatial and Social Structure of Cities”. In *Local & Global: Management of Cities in the Information Age*. London: Earthscan, pp. 16-44.

Week 4 (Jan 28): Winners and Losers: Local Policy Choices in a Global Era

- * Savitch, H.V. and Paul Kantor. 2002. “Chapter 2: Toward a Theory of Urban Development”. In *Cities in the International Marketplace*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 29-54.
- * Levine, Marc V. 2000. “‘A Third World City in the First World’: Social Inclusion, Racial Inequality, and Sustainable Development in Baltimore, Maryland”. In Mario Polese and Richard Stren, eds. *The Social Sustainability of Cities*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 123-156.

Week 5 (Feb 4): Blurring the Lines: Governance in Contemporary Cities

- Steven Erie, Vladimir Kogan, and Scott A. MacKenzie. 2010. “Redevelopment, San Diego Style: The Limits of Public—Private Partnerships”. *Urban Affairs Review* 45(5): 644-678.
- * Horak, Martin. 2012. “Conclusion: Understanding Multilevel Governance in Canada’s Cities”. In Martin Horak and Robert Young, eds., *Sites of Governance: Multilevel Policy-Making in Canada’s Cities*. Montreal: McGill-Queens Press, pp. 339-370.

Part II: Selected Topics in Urban Governance

As discussed earlier in the syllabus, topics for Weeks 6 – 11 of the course will be determined through class discussion and voting on January 14th. Readings for this part of the course will be selected and posted once the topics are finalized.

**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.

*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

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.