Western University
Department of Political Science

Power in the City

Political Science 3363F
Fall 2023

Instructor: Martin Horak
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Office Hours: Wed. 2pm – 3pm (in person), or by appointment (in person or on Zoom)
Physical Office: SSC 7237

Class Time and Location: Wednesdays, 10:30am – 12:30pm, SSC 3028

Course Description

Most people now live in cities. As a result, much of politics is profoundly urban in character. It takes place in cities, it is shaped by urban processes, and it responds to distinctly urban problems, ranging from local economic development and housing inequality to public transit and immigrant integration. This course aims to introduce you to leading theories of urban politics, which we will apply to urban political processes in Canada, the United States, and Western Europe. Our main focus will be on local government in cities, but we will also examine the ways in which urban politics is inherently multi-level in character, and how other levels of government help to shape responses to urban policy issues. We will discuss how contrasting national traditions and institutional structures shape the terrain of urban politics; we will investigate the role played in urban politics at the local level by politicians, business, and community actors, and compare how they operate in various settings; and we will focus on three specific urban political issues that the class will select in discussion with the instructor.

The course will also give you the opportunity to learn about politics in an ‘adopted city’ of your choice, and to conduct an independent research project in which you analyze some aspect of urban politics in your ‘adopted city’ and/or another city or cities of your choice, using theories and concepts drawn from the course.

Prerequisites

You must have taken at least 1.0 full course equivalent in Political Science at the 2200 level to enroll for this course. This course is useful preparation for POL4210 Globalization and Urban Politics.

Course Format

This is a mixed format course. Each class will feature a lecture, but I will also periodically open up the class for discussion; there will be opportunities for online discussion as well. The reading load for the course is not heavy, but some of the readings are challenging, and you must be committed to reading all the assigned material before each class. Advance reading is a
prerequisite for doing well (see “Course Evaluation” below). All readings will be posted under “Resources” on our course OWL site unless otherwise noted. There is no textbook.

Note also that this course has an extensive writing component. We build from small, simple assignments about your “adopted city” (see below) to a full research essay; I will give you feedback along the way. Students in previous years have found that this format has been very helpful to developing their writing skills, but you must be prepared for the volume of writing.

The course also has an element of curriculum co-design: during the week of October 18th, students will collectively choose three topics in urban politics that we will engage with in Weeks 10, 11 and 12 of the course (Nov 22, Nov 29, Dec 6).

Course Requirements

The final grade for this course will be composed of three main elements:

1. Participation (active engagement with course material) (15%).

Active engagement with course material is an important part of this course. You are expected to be at every class; attendance will be taken and is worth 5% of your course grade. Each week except the first week, I will post discussion questions on the OWL site. Please come to class prepared with some thoughtful reflections on them (as well as with other thoughts or questions that you may have). While I set aside time in class to focus on the discussion questions, since the class is fairly large, you may not always get a chance to participate in class; in addition, some of you may be less comfortable participating than others. So I have also set up a discussion forum on OWL where you can post responses to the discussion questions, and react to responses that others have posted. This is an alternative way of engaging with the course material. Active engagement in class and/or on the Forum is worth 10% of your course grade.

2. Writing assignments on your adopted city (35%).

On September 20th in class, you will choose an “adopted city” whose politics you will learn about in detail. You will be expected to bring your knowledge of politics in your city to our class discussions. Between Week 3 and Week 6 of the course, you will write three assignments on some aspect of politics in your adopted city. These assignments will respond to factual questions about politics in your city. I will post the questions on OWL one week before the day in which they are due. The first two assignments will each be about 500 words long, and each will be worth 10% of your grade. The third assignment will be about 1000 words long and will be worth 15% of your grade.

Below you will find a list of suggestions for “adopted” cities. You can also choose one that is not on the list, with my prior approval (the main concern is that you choose a city on which there is enough information available):
3. Research project (50%)

A significant proportion of your grade in this course will be based on your research project. This project is a chance for you to investigate in depth some aspect of urban politics that you are particularly interested in. You may select an aspect of urban politics in your ‘adopted city’ and investigate it in depth using concepts from the course; or you may compare aspects of urban politics across two or more different cities. The research project has two components:

a. Proposal for your research paper (10%)

By November 8th, you will put together a 500 to 750-word research proposal. The aim of the proposal is to focus your research question and develop a strategy for the rest of your research. Full guidelines will be handed out mid-way through the term.

b. Research paper (40%)

The final product of your research project will be a 3000 to 4000-word paper on your research topic. The paper must be double spaced with a consistent academic referencing style and a complete bibliography at the end. Full guidelines will be handed out mid-way through the term. The final paper will be due on December 11th.

Course Policies

Submitting assignments: All written work should be submitted via the course’s OWL site. Work handed in late will be subject to a penalty of 2% for each day past the deadline, weekends included. If you foresee problems meeting submission deadlines please consult the instructor early; accommodations can always be made with adequate advance notice – this means at least two days before the deadline. While I am generally willing to grant brief 1 to 2-day extensions for reasonable cause if you ask me in time, requests for longer extensions must go though Academic Counselling. I do not grant extensions requested after the due date!

Academic integrity: To protect and uphold academic integrity in the class, it is the responsibility of each student to be able to demonstrate the originality of his or her work. At a minimum, for every assignment, the sources of all information and ideas must be properly referenced using a standard academic referencing style such as Chicago, APA, or MLA. Failure to properly reference ideas, concepts, and quotations in an assignment that are not your own will result in academic penalties as required by university policy:
All upper-year students are expected to have a thorough understanding of the rules and conventions of academic writing. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to reference sources, please visit the Writing Support Centre http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/ or review information at: http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/

**Instructor contact:** I encourage you to bring any questions or concerns about course material, requirements or assignments to me. My office hours and contact for appointments are listed above. 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.

**Help with writing:** Learning to express ideas clearly is a central goal of the university experience. If academic writing does not come easily to you, you are strongly encouraged to make use of the Writing Support Centre: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/

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**Course Schedule and Required Readings**

**Week 1 (Sept 13): Introduction: Cities and Urban Politics**

Our first session will include an overview of the structure, aims and requirements of the course. We will also discuss what a ‘city’ is, what urban politics is, and why it is important. Both to our daily lives, and as an object of study in political science.


**Part I: Urban Political Institutions in Comparative Perspective**

**Week 2 (Sept 20): Local and Urban Politics: Differing National Traditions**

* Choose your “adopted” city *


**Week 3 (Sept 27): Local Elections and Political Parties**


*Short Writing Assignment #1 due Sept. 27*

**Week 4 (Oct 4): Local Political Leadership**


Access: https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/what-does-a-strong-mayor-system-mean-for-toronto-1.6002954


*Short Writing Assignment #2 due Oct 4*
Part II: Power in the City

Week 5 (Oct 11): Local Democracies or Growth Machines: Who Governs the City?


Week 6 (Oct 18): Community Activism and Urban Social Movements


Then read at least ONE of the following articles (your choice; you can read both, of course):


* Short Writing Assignment #3 due Oct. 18 *

* Students Choose Course Topics for Weeks 10 – 12 *

Week 7 (Oct 25): Urban Regimes and Governing Capacity


* Fall Reading Week (Oct 30 – Nov 3) *
Part III: Urban Politics Beyond the Local

Week 8 (Nov 8): Governing Metropolitan Areas


* Research Paper Proposal due November 8 *

Week 9 (Nov 15): Cities in Multi-Level Political Systems


Part IV: Selected Issues in Urban Politics

Weeks 10 – 12 (Nov 22, Nov 29, Dec 6): Topics to be chosen in class on Oct 18

* Final Papers due on OWL December 11th *
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.

Absences from Final Examinations
If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: Missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Accommodation and Accessibility

Religious Accommodation
When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the
Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at


Accommodation Policies
Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:


Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is http://www.registrar.uwo.ca.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

During exams/tests/quizzes, no electronic devices (e.g. a phone, laptop, iPad) are allowed and must be powered down and stored out of reach.

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:


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).

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

If a course uses remote proctoring, please be advised that you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including
some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of a course with remote proctoring will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western’s Remote Proctoring website at:

https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca.

Support Services

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: Academic Counselling - Western University (uwo.ca)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (https://uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at


To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning-skills counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (https://learning.uwo.ca) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being:

https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/.

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, https://westernusc.ca/services/.
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. https://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, 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