3217 FA- Local Government in Canada

Instructor: Ms. Erika Halverson
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Fall 2018
Tuesdays/Thursdays 830am-10am

Course Description
This course will examine local government in Canada from Medieval era to present. The course is designed to examine different aspects of local governance in Canada. Students will develop an understanding of the importance of municipal politics and their relation to everyday life. The course will begin with a focus on the development of municipal government in the European medieval era and highlight the changes that have progressed over time. Following this, students will reflect on how both rural and urban life is understood in Canada. The course will also look at the foundation of local communities, as well as the roles of agencies, boards and commissions within municipal politics. Focus will be paid to the reasons for the emergence of local structures. Students will also engage in understanding the tensions that exist between rural and urban communities, especially relating to centralization and amalgamation. Similarly, students will learn the ways in which local issues are intertwined with federal and provincial governments. The course will conclude with discussions relating to policy making within the municipal realm. Students will focus on using critical analytical skills in understanding the dynamic role municipal politics plays within communities.

Course Format
The course will focus on both lectures as well as seminars. Lectures will focus on both assigned reading as well as other material. Students are to attend class regularly, do the assigned readings and engage in weekly discussions. Students must read the assigned readings prior to class in order to prepare for the seminars. Students are responsible for all required reading material.

Students will be required to submit two engaging questions and submit them by 4:00pm Mondays via D2L. These questions may be discussed during seminars. Questions will be graded based on creativity, relation to readings, and depth.

Course Material
Required Textbook(s):

2. Excerpts from other works and authors.
Course Evaluation

1. **Participation 20%**
   a. Students will be graded on attendance and engaging in class discussion.

2. **Mid-Term Short Paper 30% - Due October 4th, 2018 (IN CLASS)**
   a. Students will submit a short paper based on one of the concepts discussed in the first half of the course (Weeks 2-6). Papers will be a maximum of 8-10 pages in length. **Expectations for paper will be discussed in class.**

3. **Final Paper - 40% - Due December 7th, 2018 - by 12pm**
   Students will submit a 10-12-page research paper based on the concepts discussed throughout the course. Students are required to use a MINIMUM of 5 peer-reviewed sources from academic journals/books. **Expectations for paper will be discussed in class.**

4. **Weekly Questions 10% - Due Monday by 4 pm (via D2L) *late questions will not be marked***
   a. Students will be required to submit questions pertaining to the weekly readings for a total of 20 questions. Students will only be able to submit 2 questions per week for a total of 10 weeks (there are 13 weeks in the semester). Questions must critically engage with the readings and be well thought out. Basic questions will not be marked (i.e. What is public policy?). Questions should allow for the class to engage in lengthy discussions. **Students are not permitted to use/alter questions from textbook, this will count as academic dishonesty.**

**Late Policy**

*Late papers will be deducted a 10% penalty per day (including weekends) up to 5 days after the due date. Papers will not be accepted after 5 days. This policy will be strictly enforced.*

**Academic Dishonesty**

Students are expected to uphold academic honesty at all time. Students are expected to ensure they are familiar with citation manuals and ensuring sources are properly cited. Students are also advised to familiarise themselves with the university policy on academic dishonesty, especially in relation, to plagiarism, cheating, impersonation etc. Students caught plagiarizing will be given a mark of 0 for that assignment and potentially subjected to further consequences. Students who are unsure of how to properly cite should seek assistance with this. **Violation of this will be strictly enforced.**

**Email**

Emails will be answered within two business days. DO NOT submit assignments via email, unless discussed with me prior to submission or instructed to do so. Email should be used to send quick inquiries about course material or setting up appointments out of regularly scheduled office hours. Students are required to use their Lakehead University student email, as other commercial emails will not be answer
Accessibility
Students with diverse learning needs and styles are welcome to participate in this course. Any student requiring specific accommodations please feel free to approach me in person or via email or contact Lakehead University’s Accessibility Services.

Tentative Outline

Weekly schedule subject to change

1. **September 4th, 2018 & September 6th, 2018: Course Introduction; History and Development of Local Government 700-1600 AD**

   **Required Reading(s):**


   **Suggested Reading(s):**


2. **September 11th & September 13th: History and Development of Local Government 1600-Present**

   1. **Required Reading(s):** Bourinot, John George, Sir. Local Government in Canada: An Historical Study 1837-1902. Miami, Hardpress. Miami, United States. 2013, p. 43-76

3. September 18th & September 20th: What is local government and what is its purpose?


4. September 25th & September 27th: Canadian Local Government: Provincial-Municipal Relations


**Suggested Reading(s):**


5. October 2nd & October 4th: Special Purpose Bodies, Agencies and Boards

- Mid Term Paper Due in class October 4th


**Suggested Reading(s)**


6. October 9th & October 11th: Fall Reading Week- NO CLASSES/ NO OFFICE HOURS
7. October 16th & October 18th: Rural/Urban Adaptation


8. October 23rd & October 25th: The Ontario Municipal Board


9. October 30th & November 1st: Annexations, Amalgamations and De-Amalgamations


10. November 6th & November 8th: Metropolitan Governance and Taxation


12. November 20\textsuperscript{th} & November 22\textsuperscript{nd}: Examining Local Political Leadership


13. November 27\textsuperscript{th} & November 29\textsuperscript{th}: Policy Making/ Conclusion
