

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CANADA
POLI 3217
WINTER 2018

Instructor: Dr. Douglas Jarvis
Classroom: OA1025
Class Schedule: Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am-10:00am
Email: djarvis@lakeheadu.ca
Office Location & Hours: TBD

This course will examine local government in Canada. Students will develop a central understanding of how important are local political matters to the most fundamental elements of their lives. The course will commence with a brief historical study of how urbanism arose during the medieval and early modern era. Following this brief introduction to the rise of urbanism during the medieval European era, the class will engage in a cultural discussion of how rural and urban life has come to be understood in Canadian society. The course will then examine the historical foundations of local community organization in Canada. How Canadian municipalities assert their position of autonomy within the context of being “creatures of provinces” will then be studied. This problem will be analyzed according to the integral role played by agencies, boards and commissions in determining the direction of community politics. Special emphasis will be placed on current day debates surrounding the Ontario Municipal Board, and how studying its place in the Ontarian community development process helps reveal the nature of power politics in local community life. Students will then learn how local government is structured and how its everyday administrative tasks are managed. Rural and urban trends in community organization will be comparatively assessed as well. The course will conclude with an anthropological study of urbanism as the new frontier of North American society and its relevance for questions of continued civilizational vitality.

Required Texts (Available at Lakehead-Orillia Textbook Store):

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*

John George Bourinot, *Local Government in Canada: An Historical Study*

Grading Evaluation

1.) Short Essay Due by 11:59pm on Monday, Feb. 12 (worth 20%)
7-10 pages double spaced, (12# Times New Roman font)

Compare and contrast the different effects French and British colonialism had on how community government has developed in Canada. Does the very different nature of how our communities were organized on the local level make it impossible to see a core foundational

value on how local government should be organized on a national level? Alternatively, is there a fundamental characteristic shared by various local colonial ventures that allow for a truly Canadian form of local organization? Explain your perspective.

Or,

Develop a critical assessment of the films regarding rural and urban life within the course outline according to the historical literature on Canadian local government. How are fundamental themes within the historical literature reflected in the films listed in the outline? What does the growing trend of urbanism, as highlighted in the films, mean for these historical trends in Canadian community life?

2.) Final Research Paper Proposal due by 11:59pm on Friday March 2 (10%)

The proposal should include the following items:

- i.) Name and Email Address
- ii.) Main research topic
- ii.) Main Research Question
- iii.) Tentative Main Argument
- iv.) Evidence and/or Method Used to Support Argument
- v.) Tentative Conclusion
- vi.) Preliminary Bibliography (include scholarly literature outside course reading list)

3.) Final Research Paper Due by 11:59pm on Monday April 9 (25%)

13-15 pages doubled spaced (12# Times New Roman Font)

4.) Take Home Exam Due by 11:59pm on Tuesday April 25—NO EXTENSIONS! (30%)

To be handed out last day of class

5.) Participation (15%)

Note: Class attendance is mandatory. Active contribution to discussions centered on readings is key aspect of participation grade. Cell phones are to be turned off and not present during class lectures. Laptop computers are acceptable in class but are to not be in use during video presentations.

Course Timetable

Section 1.) Canadian Local Government: A Cultural and Historical Review

Jan. 9) Class Introduction: Medieval European History as Background to Canadian Local Government

Jan. 11) Rural Life in the Canadian Imagination

Mon Oncle Antoine (1971), available on youtube (type “Mon Oncle Antoine NFB”)

Paper Wheat (1979), available on NFB website

Suggested Watching:

Why Shoot the Teacher? (1977), available on youtube (will be discussed in class, useful for essay assignment but not mandatory for that class)

Jan. 16) Urban Life in the Canadian Imagination

The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz (1973), available on youtube

Goin’ Down The Road (1970), available on youtube

Suggested Watching:

Shivers (1975), available on youtube (warning: contains content some may find highly offensive, viewer discretion seriously advised—this film is not mandatory watching but is culturally significant to Canadian understandings of urbanism and will be discussed in class)

Jan. 18) Community Governance in Colonial Canada

Primary Reading: John George Bourinot’s *Local Government in Canada: An Historical Study* Sec. 1-3

Secondary Reading: Graeme Wynn’s “Colonization and Conflict: New France and its Rivals (1600-1760), *The Illustrated History of Canada*, pp.122-137, 157-172, available on course website

Jan. 23) Community Governance in Colonial Canada cont.

Primary Reading: John George Bourinot’s *Local Government in Canada: An Historical Study* Sec. 4-7

Secondary Reading: Sid Noel, “The Ontarian Political Culture: An Interpretation,” *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, 5th Edition, available at library reserve

Jan. 25) Local Government in Canada: A Historical Overview

Richard & Susan Tindal, *Local Government in Canada*, 7th Edition, ch.2, available on course website

Section 2.) Local Government in Provincial Context and the Role of Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Jan. 30) Canadian Local Government: A Descriptive Survey

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, chs. 1, 2.

Feb. 1) Canadian Local Government: Provincial-Municipal Relations

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, ch. 3

Recommended Readings: Andre Cote and Michael Fenn. 2014. "Provincial-Municipal Relations in Ontario: Approaching an Inflection Point" IMFG Papers No. 17. Toronto: Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance

Feb. 6) Canadian Local Government: Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, ch.4

Natalie Myhal, "Existing Rationales for Agencies, Boards, and Commissions", *Agencies, Boards and Commissions in Canadian Local Government*, available on course website

Recommended Reading: Jack Lucas, "Hidden in Plain View: Local Agencies, Boards and Commissions in Canada," IMFG Perspectives 4, 2013, available on IMFG website

Feb. 8) The Ontario Municipal Board: A Provincial-Municipal Board Currently on Trial

B. Krushelnicki, *A Practical Guide to the Ontario Municipal Board*, 2nd edition, ch. 1, ch. 2. (available on course reserves)

Feb. 13) The Ontario Municipal Board: A Provincial-Municipal Board Currently on Trial

J. Chipman, *A Law Unto Itself: How the Ontario Municipal Board Has Developed and Applied Land-Use Planning Policy*, ch. 4. Ch. 6, available as e-resource in Lakehead Library

Feb. 15) The Question of Power in Community Politics

Ian Miligan, "'The Board Has A Duty to Intervene': Challenging the Spadina Expressway through the Ontario Municipal Board", *Urban History Review*, Jan. 2011

Karen Mossberger and Gerry Stoker. "The Evolution of Urban Regime Theory: The Challenge of Conceptualization," in *Urban Affairs Review*, Vol. 36, No. 6, 2001.

Harvey Molotch. "The Political Economy of Growth Machines," in *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Vol. 15, No. 1, 1993

Feb. 19) Winter Break

Feb. 21) Winter Break

Section 3.) Local Government: An Institutional Study

Feb. 27) The Community Council in Local Government

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, ch. 9

Mar. 1) The Development Industry in Local Government

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, ch. 10

Mar. 6) Political Leadership in Local Government

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, ch. 11

His Worship, Mr. Montreal (NFB), available on NFB website

Mar. 8) City Administration and Budgeting in Local Government

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, chs. 13, 14

Mar. 13) Metropolitan Governance and Local Taxation

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, chs. 7, 15

Mar. 15) Public Policy in Local Government

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, chs. 12, 16

Mar. 20) Alienation and Decentralization in Rural Local Government

Geoffrey Walker, "Politics and Policy in the North", *The Government and Politics of Ontario*, available at library reserve

Jack Hicks, Graham White, *Made in Nunavut: An Experiment in Decentralized Government*, ch. 10, available on course website

Mar. 22) Annexation and Amalgamation in Urban Local Government

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective*, chs. 6, 8

Section 4.) Urbanism and Civilization

Mar. 27) The Urbanist Vision and its Challenges

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, chs. 18, 19, available at library reserve

Mar. 29) Urbanism at a Crossroads

Elena Fagotto and Archon Fung, "Empowered Participation in Minneapolis: The Neighbourhood

Revitalization Program,” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Vol. 30, No. 3
Week 14: Peter Eisinger “Is Detroit Dead?” *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Vol. 36, No. 1. 2014.

Apr. 3) The City and Civilization: The Promise

Peter Hall, *Cities in Civilization*, ch. 30, available on course website

Apr. 5) The City and Civilization: The Challenge

Joseph Tainter, *The Collapse of Complex Societies*, ch. 4, available on course website