Lakehead University
Local Government in Canada
POLI-3217-WA
Winter 2016

Instructor: **Normand Perreault** (Department of Political Science)

Classroom: RB 3044

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 11:30 - 1:00

Office: RB 2035

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday: 10:00 – 10:30, or by appointment

**Course description:**

This course will examine different aspects of local governance within the context of Canadian structures of government, while paying particular attention to municipal governments, and urban governance and politics. We will start by identifying different forms of local government, their origins and their functions. We will then focus on the reasons for the emergence and persistence of these local government structures. This will allow us to examine the tension that exists between those forces that promote subsidiarity and decentralization, and those that demand centralization and amalgamation. We will end the semester by looking in more detail at the different structures, functions and challenges that are specific to different forms of local government.

**Required readings:**

Evaluation:

The evaluation scheme will consist of the following items:

- A short paper assignment (maximum 1,200 words in length) that is due in class on Thursday January 28th, and that is worth 30% of your total course grade.

- A second short paper assignment (maximum 1,200 words in length) that is due in class on Thursday February 25th, and that is worth 30% of your total course grade.

- A final research paper (maximum 2,000 words in length) that is due by email, at noon, on Tuesday April 5th, and that is worth 40% of your total course grade.

Late papers are not accepted.

Course outline:

Week 1 (January 5th and 7th):

The origins of local government, the types of local government, and the role of globalization.


Week 2 (January 12th and 14th):

Local governments as delegated authority.

- Sancton, Canadian Local Government, pp. 27-45.

Week 3 (January 19th and 21st):

Special-purpose bodies.

- Sancton, Canadian Local Government, pp. 47-72.

Week 4 (January 26th and 28th):

The urban species.

- Sancton, Canadian Local Government, pp. 75-110.

The first short essay paper is due in class, on Thursday January 28th.

Week 5 (February 2nd and 4th):

Regional governments: between functionality and subordination.

- Sancton, Canadian Local Government, pp. 112-137.
Week 6 (February 9th and 11th):
Amalgamation: the economics of regional politics.

Week 7 (February 23rd and 25th):
The structures of municipal governments.

The second short essay paper is due in class, on Thursday February 25th.

Week 8 (March 1st and 3rd):
Developing the city as a private incorporation.

Week 9 (March 8th and 10th):
Political elitism and policy-making in the modern city.
- Sancton, Canadian Local Government, pp. 227-266.

Week 10 (March 15th and 17th):
Organized labour and taxpayers: citizens and stakeholders in the modern city.

Week 11 (March 22nd and 24th):
Balancing the books and keeping the growing city under control.

Week 12 (March 29th and 31th):
Lessons for the modern city.