

Instructor name: Dr. Douglas A. West with Aleesha Gostkowski (Thursday Discussions and 2PM Meetings)	Tuesday and Thursday 4:00PM-5:30PM EST January 11 -April 8, 2022
Office location: OS 1028	Classroom location: Zoom
Email: dwest@lakeheadu.ca	Office hours: By Appointment

**D2L link:** <https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home/82694>

### **Course Description**

This is a survey course focusing on issues and structures that animate local government activities across Canada with a specific focus on Ontario, Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.

### **Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:**

- Identify issues related to local government in Canada, Ontario, Thunder Bay, and Simcoe County.
- Understand the fundamental elements of local government, activism around social change-making, and social justice.
- Demonstrate their ability to write reports and essays at a level commensurate with third-year university standards.
- Engage in debate and discussion regarding the “politics of the day” when and where appropriate.
- Understand and contribute to discussions around fair legal practice, equity and justice in the workplace, political protest, mediation and resolution, and diversity issues affecting women, people involved in the local government in Canada, Ontario, Thunder Bay, and Simcoe County.

### **COURSE MATERIALS**

There is no required text for this course. Readings and other materials will be placed on D2L site

### **GRADING AND EVALUATION**

#### **Course Evaluation and Assessment Weighting**

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION.....10%**

**PEER-TO-PEER DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTS X3.....60%**

**TERM ASSIGNMENT .....30%**

#### **Peer-To-Peer Discussions and Reports Guidelines and Grading Rubric**

<https://www.canadaland.com/podcasts/>

Discussions and reports will be a part of the Thursday classes that pair students together 3 times throughout the term so that they can discuss and issue in depth and produce a 2-3 page report on their research and discussion using assigned podcasts.

### **Guidelines**

Students are responsible for creating 3 Reports based on peer-to-peer discussions that they have in each Module. The first and second Thursday classes in each of the 3 Modules. On the first Thursday, students will choose the topic for their discussion and on the second Thursday class they will be assigned to a group and begin their discussions as a part of that class.



1 – Discussions (5 marks each)

In the discussions, groups will answer the following questions which will form the basis for their reports which will be submitted at the beginning of the next Module:

- 1- What are the issues being discussed in the podcast and what is the relevance to Local government and politics?
- 2- What are the systemic barriers in relation to the issue being discussed and how do they impact your idea of progressive change at the Local level?
- 3- What are some immediate recommendations that can be implemented at the Local level to clarify the progressive direction for social justice and sustainable change?

2- Reports (15 marks each) **Due on the Last Thursday of the Module** – send to [dwest@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:dwest@lakeheadu.ca) by midnight.

Each student will compose a 2-3 page report based on their answers to these questions for each Module Discussion. Direct referencing to material and other's opinions is necessary. Grading will consist of:

- a) Writing style and format – 5 marks
- b) Content presentation and understanding of material - 10 marks

**The Term Assignment** will consist of a number of comparative essay questions (probably three of six) that require students to discuss the ideas we cover in the course. It will be available on **April 6<sup>th</sup> on the D2L site for this course and submitted by April 8<sup>th</sup> to [dwest@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:dwest@lakeheadu.ca)**

**Late assignments will be deducted 1 grade per day and will not be accepted more than (2) days after the deadline. Assignments submitted more than (2) days after the deadline will result in a mark of 0.**



## COURSE SCHEDULE, READINGS AND KEY DATES

### Module 1 January 10 – 21 Defining the “local” in Local Government

PowerPoint and readings on D2L

#### Topics and Readings:

**Constitutional Relationships in Defining Local Government in Canada**

**The Local Government System in Canada**



The Local  
Government System

**Podcast:**

(2021) [“Indigenous communities and local government”](#). Local Government: In Conversation.

**Defining the Local in Canada Through Public Participation** (2019) [“Public participation in the Geoweb era: Defining a typology for Geo-participation in Local Governments.” Shanqi Zhang](#)

**Podcast:**

(2021) Ep. 9. [“Tell Me More About... Community Engagement”](#). Tell Me More About Podcast. City of Kingston.

**Urban-Rural Divide in Canada** (2021) [“Fault Lines and Common Ground: Understanding the State of Canada’s Urban-Rural Divide” Lowen, Peter et.al. Policy Forum.](#)

**Podcasts:**

(2021) [“#8: Canada's urban-rural divide with Hillary Schramm”](#). Humanity Learns. Humanity Learns Podcast.

(2021) [“Restoring Rural Ontario”](#). Steve Paiken. The Agenda with Steve Paiken (Audio).

**Understanding Local Politics, A Municipal Study** (2021) [“The Canadian Municipal Election Study”](#). McGregor R. Michael et al., [Frontiers in Political Science Vol.3](#)

**Do Municipal Councils Reflect Ontario’s Diversity?** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aUnCb6DViiU>

**Indigenous Governance in Canada**

(2019) [“From self-government to government of the self: Fiscal subjectivity, Indigenous governance and the politics of transparency”](#). Willmott, K. [Critical Social Policy](#).

(2012) [“Canadian Indigenous Governance Literature: A Review”](#) Von Der Porten, S. [AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples](#).

Centre for First Nations Governance <https://fngovernance.org/>

**Podcasts:**

(2019) [“# 195 A Baby Country In Diapers”](#). [Canadaland Shortcuts](#). [Canadaland Media](#).



[\(2020\) “#348 Is Canada Ready To Give Land Back?”. Canadaland Podcast. Canadaland Media.](#)

**Peer to Peer Exercises** - Canadaland Podcasts <https://www.canadaland.com/podcasts/>



## Module 2 Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – Issues in Sustainable Local Government

### PowerPoint and readings on D2L

#### Topics and Readings:

**Inaccessible and unaffordable housing in Toronto** (2019) [“Social policies, financial markets and the multi-scalar governance of affordable housing in Toronto”](#). Zhang, Beibei. Urban Studies.

**Housing Policy in Canada** (2016) [“Bridging Perspectives and Balancing Priorities: New Directions for Housing Policy in Canada”](#). MacLeod, Timothy et al., Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.

#### Podcasts:

(2020) [“Affordable housing and modern homelessness, with guest, Jennifer Van Gennip”](#). Tree Planters Podcast: A podcast about change for a better world.

(2021) [“#723 The High Cost Of Living”](#). Canadaland Podcast. Canadaland Media.

(2021) [“REAL ESTATE #6 – Canada’s Biggest Slumlord”](#). Commons Podcast. Canadaland Media.

**Broadband access and Telecom Power** (2021). [“#725 The Rogers Family Compact”](#). Canadaland Podcast. Canadaland Media.

**Food Security/Sovereignty/Water** (2021) [“Mobilizing Networks and Relationships Through Indigenous Food Sovereignty: The Indigenous Food Circle’s Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Northwestern Ontario”](#). Levkoe, Charles Z., et al., Frontiers in Communication.

(2018) [“The Community Food Environment and Food Insecurity in Sioux Lookout, Ontario: Understanding the Relationships between Food, Health, and Place”](#). Parker, Barbara et al., Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition.

#### Podcasts:

(2020) S.2 E. 1 [“Appetite for Change”](#) Hard to Stomach Podcast. CBC Listen.

(2018) [“Life In Canada Without Clean Water”](#). Commons Podcast. Canadaland Media.

**Transportation** (2021) [“Sustainable Transportation”](#) David Suzuki Foundation

(2021) [“Reshaping Canadian Cities after the Pandemic Shockwave”](#) Policy Options

#### Podcasts:

(2021) [“Ep. 6 How do we build better public transit?”](#) City Space. The Globe and Mail.

(2021) [“Ep. 10 The Case for Free Transit. The Next Stop.”](#)

**Health Care** (2016) [Spatial Accessibility to Health Care Services: Identifying under-Serviced Neighbourhoods in Canadian Urban Areas](#). Tayyab Ikram Shah, Scott Bell, Kathi Wilson. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0168208 December 20, 2016 1 / 22

#### Podcast:

(2019) [“#6 The Tragically OHIP”](#). Wag The Doug. Canadaland Media.

## Reading Break – February 21-25



## Module 3 – March 1<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> - Refocusing Local Government

PowerPoint and readings on D2L

### Topics and Readings:

**Immigration and newcomers** (2019) Jamal, Audrey. ["A Welcome Place for Newcomers?: Immigration and Mid-Size Cities"](#) [Guelph, Evergreen Foundation, 1-9.](#)

### Podcasts:

(2021) ["#707 Canada's International Cash Cows"](#) Canadaland Podcast. [Canadaland Media.](#)

(2016) ["42 Live From U of Ottawa: Refugees Welcome, But Bad News About the Job Market..."](#) Commons Podcast. [Canadaland Media.](#)

**Migrant workforce and GIG economy** (2021) ["The systemized exploitation of temporary migrant agricultural workers in Canada: Exacerbation of health vulnerabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations for the future"](#). Landry, Vivianne et al., [Journal of Migration and Health.](#)

### Podcast:

(2016) ["This Is Not Canada: Living as a Migrant Farm Worker"](#). Commons Podcast. [Canadaland Media.](#)

**Long term care** (2021) ["COVID-19 highlights Canada's care home crisis"](#). Webster Paul., [The Lancet.](#)

(2021) ["COVID-19 and long-term care facilities: Does ownership matter?"](#). McGregor, Margaret J., & Harrington, Charlene. [Canadian Medical Association Journal.](#)

### Podcast:

(2020) ["PANDEMIC #4 – Ontario Reaps its Dividends"](#). Commons Podcast. [Canadaland Media.](#)

**Local NGOS** (2009) Walks, R.Alan. [The urban in fragile, uncertain, neoliberal times: towards new geographies of social justice?](#) [The Canadian Geographer / Le G'ographe canadien 53, no 3 \(2009\) 345–356](#)

(2021) [Human Rights and Civil Liberties Organizations in Canada – Charity Village](#)

### Podcast:

(2021) EP. 48 ["40 MILLION PEOPLE ARE MODERN DAY SLAVES"](#) The Hum Podcast. [Jayu.](#)

(2021) Ep. 1. ["Post-Pandemic Fundraising and Beyond"](#). [Charity Village Connects. Charity Village.](#)



#### **Module 4 – March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 8<sup>th</sup> - Final Discussions**

##### **Presentation of Peer-to-Peer interviews (2 weeks) discussion/presentation**

- **General course discussions (takeaways, next steps, where would they like to do more work)**
- **April 8<sup>th</sup> Guest Panel of local administrators/Mayors:**
  - 1. How do you work with different levels of government in a federal political system?**
  - 2. What are some of the unique challenges that you face in your particular situation ?**



## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The Instructor expects all students to be respectful in their interactions with any person involved with the course.

### **Tests, Exams and Term Work**

If you are going to miss a test, it is very important that you email me as soon as you know that you will be missing the test. Missed tests will be accommodated only in extraordinary circumstances that are supported by written documentation from a healthcare practitioner using the official Student Health Certificate, available at

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/examination/medical-notes/node/10641>

Students are strongly urged NOT to make any commitments (i.e., vacation, job-related, or other travel plans) during either the term as a whole or the final examination period. Students are required to be available for all examinations during the periods for which they are scheduled (as published in the course syllabus). It is your responsibility to check the final exam schedule and be prepared to write the examination on the scheduled date/time/location to avoid a grade of zero. There will be no rescheduling of examinations to accommodate holiday travel or extracurricular activities. No one will be allowed to write examinations prior to the scheduled date.

Extensions of deadlines for completion of assignments or writing of midterms/final examinations may be granted to students on the basis of illness, accident, or other extreme and legitimate circumstances beyond their control. Consideration for deferrals will not normally be granted on the basis of vacation/travel plans or job-related obligations.

### **Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Being caught engaging in any such activities will result in disciplinary action either within the course or at the university level. A listing of University Regulations can be found at:

<http://navigator.lakeheadu.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=21&chapterid=3506&loadusercredits=False>. The code of student behaviour and disciplinary procedures can be found at: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>.

The following rules shall govern the treatment of students who have been found guilty of attempting to obtain academic credit dishonestly:

- (a) The minimum penalty for a student found guilty of plagiarism, or of cheating on any part of a course will be a zero for the work concerned.
- (b) A student found guilty of cheating on a formal examination or a test, or of serious or repeated plagiarism, or of unofficially obtaining a copy of an examination paper before the examination is scheduled to be written, will receive zero for the course and may be expelled from the University.

Students disciplined under the Code of Student Behaviour and Disciplinary Procedures may appeal their case through the Judicial Panel.



## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

Lakehead University Grading Scale	
A+	90-100%
A	80-89%
B	70-79%
C	60-69%
D	50-59%
E Fail	40-49%
F Fail	1-39%
F Academic Dishonesty	0%

## LAKEHEAD RESOURCES

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties in your student life, do not hesitate to ask for help! Come to me, or if it is about an issue beyond this class, please contact your academic advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus, including:

**The Student Success Centre** has many programs and support services in place to help you achieve your academic and personal goals while studying at Lakehead University. They provide academic support through tutoring services, career exploration, cooperative opportunities and leadership development. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>.

**The Lakehead Library** provides access to resources, study rooms, and research supportS both online via chat and in-person with more details available here <https://library.lakeheadu.ca/>.

**Public Computer Labs** are available on campus where you may write and/or print out your work. For more details go to <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/helpdesk/computer-labs>.



**Student Life and Services** offers health and wellness resources both on and off-campus, as well as opportunities for involvement in health and wellness activities. More information is available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/or>.

**Office of Human Rights and Equity.** You have the right to an education that is free from any form of discrimination. A wide variety of resources are available here <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/human-rights-and-equity/resources>.