

## P0312: The Politics of Cities and Regions in Canada Winter 2017

**Instructor:** Loren King, PhD  
**Lectures:** MW 4:00-5:20pm  
**Classroom:** Arts 1C17  
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**Office Hours:** MW 2-3pm or by appointment  
**Office:** DAWB 4-130

### Overview

- Subject Areas: local, city, and municipal politics in the Canadian federation.
- Background Assumed: familiarity with (i) core legal and political institutions of liberal democracies (i.e. constitutions, legislatures, executive agencies); and (i) basic statistical methods.
- Learning Objectives: understand the structure, functions, and importance of municipal politics in relation to provincial and federal levels of government.
- Class Format: two 80 minute lectures per week; several visiting speakers; group field/policy assignment.
- Assignments: midterm (30%); group project (20%), final exam (50%).
- Special Notes: no phone use in class, and the use of laptops is ***strongly discouraged***.<sup>1</sup>

### Course Description

This is a course about local politics in Canadian public life. Specifically, we will study the structure, functions, and changing roles of municipal institutions and urban spatial forms in the Canadian federation. It's a truism that 'all politics is local', but more and more, local public life around the world is shaped by the economic vagaries of growing urban regions, and those sprawling sites increasingly challenge older categories of 'city', 'suburb', and 'rural area'. Canada is no exception.

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<sup>1</sup> Why? There is mounting evidence that students who take notes on laptops learn less, think less critically, and are more easily distracted than students who take notes by hand. That said, you are all adults who can make your own informed choices, and there may well be a variety of effective learning styles. I'm simply telling you what the data seems to suggest: that most students do better taking notes by hand. Perhaps you are indeed the exception. Or perhaps the evidence is rubbish. Both are distinct possibilities. The choice is yours.

## Readings

Required Texts:

Andrew Sancton, *Canadian Local Government: an Urban Perspective* (Oxford)

Jane Jacobs, *Cities and the Wealth of Nations: Principles of Economic Life* (Vintage)

Other Readings: MLS course website.

## Assignments

- Midterm in-class exam (1hr, 30%)
- Group project (20%): policy analysis and recommendation
- Final Exam (2hr, 50%)

## Topics and Readings

### Week 1 (January 4<sup>th</sup>): Cities, Towns, and Rural Life in the Canadian Experience

Introductory remarks, and a broad overview of demographic trends in Canada.

### Week 2 (January 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>): Local Government?

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapters 1-3
- Magnusson, "Are Municipalities Creatures of the Provinces?" *J. Canadian Studies* 39 (2005)
- "It's time to reexamine the scope of municipal powers," *Globe & Mail* (22 October 2016)

### Week 3 (January 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>): the Nature of Cities

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapter 5
- Jacobs, *Cities and the Wealth of Nations*, chapters 2 and 11
- Glaeser, "Cities and Ethics," *Journal of Urban Affairs* 22, 4 (2000)

### Week 4 (January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>): Regional Economies and Local Public Goods

- Jacobs, *Cities and the Wealth of Nations*, chapters 3-7
- Ostrom, Tiebout, Warren, "Organization of Gov't in Metropolitan Areas," *APSR* 55, 4 (1961)
- Donahue, "Tiebout. Or not Tiebout?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 11, 4 (1997)

### Week 5 (January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>): Cities, Regions, and Levels of Government

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapter 7
- Sancton, "Canadian Cities and the New Regionalism," *Journal of Urban Affairs* 23, 5 (2001)
- Gerald Frug, "Beyond Regional Government," *Harvard Law Review* (2002)

### **Week 6 (February 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>): Special Purpose Bodies**

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapter 4
- Krawchecko, "Regional special purpose bodies for transportation & transit," *CJRS* 34, 1 (2011)
- Irwin and Seasons, "School closure decision-making processes," *CJUR* 21, 2 (2012)

### **Week 7 (February 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>): Mid-term Exam**

Mid-term exam: review (Monday) and in-class exam (Wednesday)

### **Week 8 (February 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>): Reading Week**

### **Week 9 (February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>): Amalgamation and Polycentricity**

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapters 6 and 8
- Agbo, "Decentralization of First Nations Education in Canada," *Interchange* 33, 3 (2002)
- Aquash, "First Nations Control of Education," *Canadian J Native Education* 36, 1 (2013)

### **Week 10 (March 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>): Mayors and Councils**

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapters 9 and 11
- Macfarlane, "Rob Ford reveals deep flaws in our democracy," *Globe & Mail* (4 Nov 2013)
- Hepburn, "Rob Ford scandal may lead to better democracy," *Toronto Star* (20 Nov 2013)

### **Week 11 (March 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>): Development and Infrastructure - Contested Geographies**

- Sancton, *Canadian Local Government*, chapters 10 and 15
- Young and Keil, "Locating the Urban in-between," *IJURR* 38, 5 (2014)
- "Here Comes Money: Gentrification, Condos And Canadian Cities," *CBC* (24 Sept 2012)
- "The battle for Hamilton's beach front: Locals vs. Toronto developers," *CBC* (

### **Week 12 (March 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>): Race, Class, and Indigeneity in Canadian Cities**

- Comack & Silver, "A Canadian exception to the punitive turn?" *Cdn J Sociology* 33, 4 (2998)
- Lam, "Inspection, policing, and racism," *Cdn Rev Social Policy* 75 (2016)
- "Winnipeg inner-city groups have lessons for Canada on reconciliation," *CBC* (13 Dec 2016)

### **Week 13 (March 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>): the Urban Environment**

- Hoffman & Hittinger, "Inventory & transport of plastic debris in the Great Lakes," *MPB* (2016)
- Keil and Macdonald, "Rethinking urban political ecology," *Local Environment* 21, 12 (2016)
- "Mayor Tory can't escape Toronto's waterfront issues," *Globe & Mail* (2 Jan 2015)
- "Billions of L of raw sewage, untreated waste pouring into Cdn waterways," *CBC* (12 Dec 2016)

### **Week 14 (April 3<sup>rd</sup>): Conclusions and Exam Review**

## **On behalf of WLUSU ([wlusu.com](http://wlusu.com))**

### **Foot Patrol Walk Home Service:**

1.519.886.FOOT x3668

Foot Patrol is a volunteer operated walk-home service, available daily during evening hours. Male-female, radio-dispatched teams trained in Emergency First Aid are available on request to escort students to and from campus as well as to off-campus destinations, either by foot or by van.

### **Counselling Services and Peer Help Line:**

1.886.281.PEER x7337

Counselling Services are available to help students deal with emotional, psychological and social challenges of university. Counselling, consultation or referrals are available at the Student Wellness Centre. Peer Help Line, a confidential listening, referral, information and support line, is available during evening hours to provide support.

### **Student Food bank**

All Laurier students are eligible to use the Student Food Bank. Anonymous requests can be made online at [wlusu.com](http://wlusu.com) under the Services tab. All dietary restrictions are accommodated, and food hampers typically last up to a week.