

POLI 3232

Municipal Law, Urban Governance and Public Policy in Canada

Class Location: Henry Hicks Academic, Room 217

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:35 p.m. – 3: 55 p.m.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1– 2 p.m. or by appointment

Course Themes and Objectives

Since Canada is a highly urban country, its major political, economic, environmental, and social challenges intersect in its cities. Urbanization has implications for all levels of government. Nevertheless, although we examine multilevel governance arrangements and processes, we pay particular attention to the implications of Canada's urban reality for municipal systems and municipal governments, the democratically-elected bodies that contribute to governing this reality on the ground. In this class, we cover the legal foundations of municipal governments but also investigate how municipal laws and policies, even in seemingly mundane service areas, have a profound effect on power relations within cities. A major concern is to evaluate how effectively and equitably city governments in Canada have responded to contemporary urban policy challenges and to diversity. We adopt a critical perspective on urban governance and engage with contemporary debates about municipal governance reform and the evolving nature of urban governance within Canadian federalism.

Format

The course will be offered in a seminar format with extensive student participation

Reading Materials

Valverde, Mariana. 2012. *Everyday Law on the Street: City Governance in an Age of Diversity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

A reading schedule and list is provided on pages 8-10 of this syllabus. Links to journal articles and e-books are provided. Scanned copies of other reading material will be posted on BBL.

Learning Objectives

The course's primary learning objectives are the following:

Students will ...

Develop an in-depth understanding of local government institutions, municipal law and governance processes.

Become familiar with some of the fundamental debates in the Canadian urban politics literature.

Hone reading comprehension skills through discussion of the material in class.

Improve oral communication skills through extensive in class discussion, a presentation and a debate.

Strengthen analytical, writing and research skills by summarizing and assessing the arguments made in a book on municipal laws and then applying the ideas to a case study.

Learn to identify a local news story and write a short journalistic piece.

Assignments and Grading

Requirements

Participation	10%
Debate	10%
Journalistic news article and presentation	20%
Book analysis and municipal law case study	30%
Final exam	30%

Grading Scale

Dalhousie University uses a common grading scale which reproduced below. It is taken from the Undergraduate Calendar 2015-2016 which is available at the following website: <http://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=1&loadusercredits=False>

17.1 Grade Scale and Definitions

Grade	Grade Point Value		Definition	
A+	4.30	90-100	Excellent	Considerable evidence of original thinking; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.
A	4.00	85-89		
A-	3.70	80-84		
B+	3.30	77-79	Good	Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.
B	3.00	73-76		
B-	2.70	70-72		
C+	2.30	65-69	Satisfactory	Evidence of some understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems; benefitting from his/her university experience.
C	2.00	60-64		
C-	1.70	55-59		

D	1.00	50-54	Marginal Pass	Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with subject matter, critical and analytical skills (except in programs where a minimum grade of "C" or "C+" is required).
F	0.00	0-49	Inadequate	Insufficient evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytical skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.
INC	0.00		Incomplete	
W	Neutral and no credit obtained		Withdrew after deadline	
ILL	Neutral and no credit obtained		Compassionate reasons, illness	
P	Neutral		Pass	
TR	Neutral		Transfer credit on admission	

Pending

Neutral

Grade not
reported

Participation

Active participation in seminar discussions is expected of all members of the group.

The participation grade will be assigned on the basis of the quality of students' interventions in the class discussion. Essentially, it will assess students' knowledge and analysis of readings as well as their ability to express their ideas clearly and effectively through oral communication.

Debate

We will have an in-class debate on municipal autonomy on **February 4th**. The class will be divided into two groups and one side will argue for increased municipal autonomy and the other side will argue against it. The debate's format and the precise resolution to be debated will be discussed in class. Each team will be asked to submit a short summary (one single-spaced page) of their main arguments and a list of sources used to prepare for the debate. This document and performance in the debate itself will be weighted equally when determining each group's grade (all members of each group will receive the same grade).

Journalistic News Article and Presentation

Students will identify a newsworthy topic/question that speaks to an issue related to local politics, policy or governance in Halifax and write a short journalistic piece. The objective is to write a piece that could be published in local newspapers such as the *Chronicle Herald* or *The Coast*.

Students will present their news items and article in class. Students should make copies for their classmates. The presentation should present the story itself but also how the story was identified, why it constitutes an important story and how the course material is useful (or not) in understanding the story's significance.

All students will be asked to provide constructive feedback which can be used to improve the article before submission for evaluation. **The final draft of the news article will be due in class the week following its presentation.**

The presentations will be held after reading week. The schedule will be determined by February 2th.

The grade will be based equally on the story itself (as written in the final draft of the news article) as well as the presentation in class (10% per aspect of the assignment).

A workshop on writing news articles will be held in class on **February 9th**.

Dean Jobb, Associate Professor, School of Journalism, King's College will lead the workshop for all or part of the class.

Book Analysis and Municipal Law and Politics Case Study

Students will write an essay that first summarizes and assesses the central themes of Mariana Valverde's *Everyday Law On the Street* (2012) and then develops a case study that explores how municipal law in the HRM shapes who is included and excluded and/or the extent to which diversity is embraced or stifled. If students identify more strongly with a different city in Canada then that city could be used to develop the case study. The idea is to critically examine the impact of municipal law on power relations in your community (as long as it is a city). The paper will be 10 double-spaced pages in length. The case study should be developed using both primary and secondary (academic) sources. The assignment will be discussed further in class.

As part of their general participation grade, students will be asked to share their case study informally during the classes on municipalities and diversity.

Deadline: April 5th.

Exam

A two-hour final exam will be scheduled during the exam period.

Basic Rules of the Class for all Students

Attendance

Since the class is a seminar, attendance is mandatory.

Late and Missed Assignments

Late written assignments will be penalized by 10%. I will not accept assignments after **April 8th**.

Students who miss their presentation or the debate will receive a grade of "0" on the assignment.

Penalties will be waived for exceptional reasons such as medical and family emergencies if the proper documentation is provided.

Academic Integrity

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on plagiarism and academic honesty as referenced in the Undergraduate Calendar available at: http://www.dal.ca/academics/academic_calendars.html#12

More information on academic integrity and support services for students is available on the following Dalhousie University website:

http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Accessibility Services

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers experienced related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic protected under Canadian human rights legislation.

Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation form.

A note taker may be required as part of a student's accommodation. There is an honorarium of \$75/course/term (with some exceptions). If you are interested, please contact AASC at 494-2836 for more information or send an email to notetaking@dal.ca

Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom, untouched, so that students who require their usage will be able to fully participate in the class.

Class Schedule

	Topic	Reading Assignment
January 5th	Introduction	None
January 7th	Why Study Cities?	Andrew (2001)
January 12 and 14	Defining the Terms	Magnusson (2005); Lucas (2013)
January 19 and 21	Legal Relationship and IGRs	Levi and Valverde (2006)
January 26	Municipal Finance	Courchene (2007); Slack (2006)
January 28 and February 2	Local Leadership	Feldman and Graham (2005); Good (forthcoming)
February 4	Debate on Municipal Empowerment	Sancton (2006) – Chapter 6 (other chapters could be useful as well)
February 9	Dean Jobb – Writing Workshop	TBA
February 11	Local Leadership continued	Guest Speaker: Dr. Nirmala Rao
February 15-19	READING WEEK	
February 23 and 25	Municipal Elections	Good (forthcoming); Murray (2009)
March 1 and 3	Institutional Responses to Growth Municipal Elections	Sancton (2005); Sancton (2006)
March 8 and 10	Politics of Growth and Decline	Leo and Anderson (2006); Betsy and Hall (2015)
March 15	Municipal Law, Governance and the Environment	Gore, Robinson and Stren (2012)
March 17, 22, 24, 29 and 31	Municipalities and Diversity	Valverde (2012); Bourgeois and Bourgeois (2005); Howard (2011); Good (2005); Rosenberg and Wilson (2010)
April 5th	Municipal Democracy and Reform	No reading required

***Please note the following important dates:**

January 15: Last day to drop the class with no financial implications.

February 8: Last day to drop the class without a “W”.

March 11: Last day to drop the class with a “W”.

Reading List

Andrew, Caroline. 2001. "The Shame of (Ignoring) the Cities," *Journal of Canadian Studies*. 35, 4: 100-111.

Bourgeois, Daniel and Yves Bourgeois. 2005. "Territory, Institutions and National Identity: The Case of Acadians in Greater Moncton, Canada," *Urban Studies*. 42, 7 (June): 1123-1138.

Courchene, Thomas J. 2007. *Global Futures for Canada's Global Cities*. IRPP Policy Matters 8:2, June. Available online:

<http://irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/research/canadian-federalism/global-futures-for-canadas-global-cities/pmvol8no2.pdf>

Donald, Betsy and Heather M. Hall. 2015. "Slow Growth and Decline in Canadian Cities," in Filion, Pierre, Markus Moos, Tara Vinodrai and Ryan Walker. Eds. *Canadian Cities in Transition: Perspectives for an Urban Age* (Fifth edition). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press, pp. 258-273.

Feldman, Lionel D. and Katherine A. Graham. 2005. *Discussion Papers on Selected Urban Governance Models*. Prepared for consideration by the Governing Toronto Advisory Panel, City of Toronto, November.

<http://web.iaincirebon.ac.id/ebook/moon/UrbanMatters/feldman.pdf>

Good, Kristin. 2005. "Patterns of Politics in Canada's Immigrant-receiving Cities and Suburbs: How Immigrant Settlement Patterns Shape the Municipal Role in Multiculturalism Policy," *Policy Studies*. 26, 3: 261-289.

Good, Kristin R. (forthcoming). "Municipal Political Parties: An Answer to Urbanization or an Affront to Traditions of Local Democracy?," in Alain-G. Gagnon and A. Brian Tanguay Eds. *Canadian Parties in Transition: Recent Evolution and New Paths for Research (4th Edition)*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

Gore, Christopher, Pamela Robinson and Richard Stren. 2012. "Governance and Climate Change: Assessing and Learning from Canadian cities," in *Cities and Climate Change: Responding to an Urgent Agenda*, Volume 2. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2012 pp. 538-563.

Howard, Heather A. 2011. "The Friendship Centre: Native People and the Organization of Community in Cities," in Howard, Heather A. and Craig Proulx (eds.). *Aboriginal Peoples in Canadian Cities: Transformations and Continuities*. Waterloo: Wilfred Laurier Press: 87-107.

Leo, Christopher and Kathryn Anderson. 2006. "Being Realistic About Urban Growth," *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 28, 2: 169-189.

Levi, Ron and Mariana Valverde. 2006. "Freedom of the City: Canadian Cities and the Quest for Governmental Status," *Osgoode Hall Law Journal*. 44, 3: 409-459.

Lucas, Jack. 2013. "Hidden in Plain View: Local Agencies, Boards, and Commissions in Canada," IMFG Perspectives, Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto.
http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/imfg/uploads/253/imfg_1453hiddeninplainview_final_web.pdf

Magnusson, Warren. 2005. "Are Municipalities Creatures of the Provinces?," *Journal of Canadian Studies*. Spring, 39, 2: 5-29.

Murray, Karen Bridget (with Michael Caverhill). 2009. "The Patterning of Political Representation in Halifax," in Caroline Andrew, John Biles, Myer Siemiatycki and Erin Tolley. Eds. *Electing a Diverse Canada: The Representation of Immigrants, Minorities, and Women*. Vancouver: UBC Press.

Sancton, Andrew. 2005. "The Governance of Metropolitan Areas in Canada," *Public Administration and Development*. 25, 4: 317-327.

Sancton, Andrew. 2006. "Why Municipal Amalgamations? Halifax, Toronto, Montreal," In Robert Young and Christian Leuprecht eds. *Canada: The State of the Federation 2004* (Chapter 5). Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Sancton, Andrew. 2008. *The Limits of Boundaries: Why City-Regions Cannot be Self-Governing*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Rosenberg, Mark W. and Dana H. Wilson. 2010. "Younger Cities, Older Cities, and Cities in the Balance: Space and Places of the Younger and Older Population," Bunting, Trudi, Pierre Filion, and Ryan Walker. Eds. *Canadian Cities in Transition: New Directions in the Twenty-First Century* (fourth edition) Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Slack, Enid. 2006. "Fiscal Balance: The Case for Cities," Institute on Municipal Finance and Governance, Munk Centre for International Studies, University of Toronto. Available online:
http://carleton.ca/cure/wp-content/uploads/municipal_fisal_imbalance2006.pdf