



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

Municipal Law and Urban Politics in Canada

POLI 2230

Class Schedule: Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:05 pm – 2:25 pm

Class Location: LSC – Psychology, P4260

Instructor: Dr. Adam Foster

E-mail address: adam.foster@dal.ca

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:30 – 3:30

Office:

Territorial Acknowledgement

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

Course Description

Most Canadians live in cities, yet local government is the weakest unit in our federal system. What accounts for this? After all, local government has often been described as the foundation of democracy. In Canada, local governments have many unique characteristics, from their constitutional status to the council system and a tradition of non-partisan government. We will explore the character of local government and the issues related to local governance, including regional and metropolitan restructuring and citizen participation, municipal finance, provincial-local relations, and the role of the federal government.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in the study of Canadian cities through a political lens. They will understand the role that the city places in Canadian politics in the context of Canadian Constitutional law, and how cities relate to the political powers of the provinces and the federal government. Students will also be familiar with many of the key figures in the academic study of urban politics in Canada, and many of the key concepts in this field.

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, ‘thinking and acting globally’ enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is “interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders.” For more information, please visit <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html> .

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact **the Student Accessibility Centre**. They are located in the Killam Memorial Library Atrium, in Room G28. Their website is: [https://www.dal.ca/campus life/academic-support/accessibility.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html)

Mask Mandate

As per Dalhousie University policy, students are required to always wear masks during class to prevent the spread of COVID-19. I also ask that you wear a mask if you visit during office hours.

If I am able keep a safe distance during class, I may remove my mask in order to better project while leading class. If this is the case, please allow me to put my mask back on before approaching me after class with questions or concerns.

Statement on Mental Health

During your time as a student, you may find yourself struggling with issues that can impact your studies as well as your personal well-being, including (but not limited to) anxiety, depression, problems with a loved one or family member, substance abuse, difficulties sleeping, lack of motivation, and struggles adapting to life in a place that is not home. These mental health issues are serious and can interfere with both your ability to do well in university and live a happy life. If you are struggling, please seek help.

Dalhousie's **Student Health & Wellness Centre** offers confidential counseling, social work, and peer support services to students. They are located on the **2nd floor of LeMarchant Place** and can be contacted by phone at **(902) 494-2171**. Appointments can also be **booked online** on their website: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/my-health/mental-health.html

You can also access free, confidential counseling over the phone by calling **1-833-292-3698** or **texting GOOD2TALKNS to 686868**.

Asking for help is never a sign of weakness, but rather a sign of strength. It is a courageous thing to do. Help is always available, and recovery is always possible.

Class Conduct – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view. Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness. For more information, visit <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html> .

Code of Student Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution. For more information, see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Statement of Academic Integrity, Cheating, and Plagiarism

Statement is taken from University Secretariat website's Academic Integrity section, with links updated. See

[https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/Syllabus_Statement_\(Aug%202015\).pdf](https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/Syllabus_Statement_(Aug%202015).pdf)

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

What does academic integrity mean?

At university we advance knowledge by building on the work of other people. Academic integrity means that we are honest and accurate in creating and communicating all academic products. Acknowledgement of other people's work must be done in a way that does not leave the reader in any doubt as to whose work it is. Academic integrity means trustworthy conduct such as not cheating on examinations and not misrepresenting information. It is the student's responsibility to seek assistance to ensure that these standards are met.

How can you achieve academic integrity?

We must all work together to prevent academic dishonesty because it is unfair to honest students. The following are some ways that you can achieve academic integrity; some may not be applicable in all circumstances.

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (see http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html)
- Do not cheat in examinations or write an exam or test for someone else
- Do not falsify data or lab results

Be sure not to **plagiarize**, intentionally or unintentionally, for example...

- Clearly indicate the sources used in your written or oral work. This includes computer codes/ programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images
- Do not use the work of another from the Internet or any other source and submit it as your own
- When you use the ideas of other people (paraphrasing), make sure to acknowledge the source

- Do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor (These examples should be considered only as a guide and not an exhaustive list.)

Where can you turn for help?

If you are ever unsure about any aspect of your academic work, contact me. You are encouraged to also consult:

- Academic Integrity website (see http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing).
- Writing Centre (see https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html - Assistance with learning to write academic documents, reviewing papers for discipline-specific writing standards, organization, argument, transitions, writing styles and citations).
- Dalhousie Libraries (see <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/writing.html> -Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks .
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service (see <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas> - Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures).
- Senate Office (see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/university_senate.html List of Academic Integrity Officers, discipline flowchart, Senate Discipline Committee).

What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

As your instructor, I am required to report every suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Faculty Discipline Flow Chart (see

https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/dept/university_secretariat/FDPflowchartSEpt2016.pdf) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors.
- Based on the evidence provided, the AIO decides if there is evidence to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process.
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved.
- If you are found guilty of an offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning, to failure of the assignment or failure of the class, to expulsion from the University. Penalties may also include a notation on your transcript that indicates that you have committed an academic offence.

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work, and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes (September 16th, 2022) of their intent to choose an alternate method. For more information, see https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html

Student Use of Course Materials

These course materials are designed for use as part of the [course code] course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.

Recording of Class Lectures

Audio or video recordings of the class lectures and discussions are prohibited, other than in cases of a documented accommodation through Dalhousie's Accessibility Center.

Required Textbooks

The following textbooks contain the required readings for this course. They are available for purchase at the Dalhousie University Bookstore.

1. *Canadian Cities in Transition: Understanding Contemporary Urbanism*. 6th Edition. Edited by Markus Moos, Tara Vinodrai, and Ryan Walker. Oxford University Press.
2. *Local Government in Action: A Simulation*. Edited by Bill Kennedy and Gary Wilson. University of Toronto Press.

Other readings will be posted on Brightspace. These will be noted on the syllabus with **(Brightspace)** next to them.

Assignments and Grade Breakdown

Attendance: 10%

Research Paper: 30%

Municipal Government Simulation Participation: 20%

Municipal Government Simulation Reflection Paper: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

Attendance – 10% of Final Grade

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class, and accounts for **10%** of your final grade. If you are late for class, you may not be marked present. Therefore, it is crucial that you are punctual.

If you miss class because of illness or family emergency, please let me know as soon as possible. There are circumstances for which you will not be penalized for missing class.

Research Paper – 30% of Final Grade

A 6 - 8 page, double spaced research paper is due on November 18th. The paper must include readings from the course as well as secondary sources of scholarly research, like articles from peer-reviewed journals and chapters from academic monographs. This paper will be worth **30%** of your final grade.

If you have any difficulties locating articles or relevant books and book chapters, or are unsure if an article is peer-reviewed, you can contact me or reference services located in the lobby of the Killam Library, or through the “Live Help Service” available at <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/ask-us.html> .

Municipal Government Simulation – 30% of Final Grade

During the last 4 class sessions (November 23rd – December 7th), we will run a municipal politics simulation using *Local Government in Action*. You will be assigned a specific role and will have specific duties and responsibilities during these classes. In between classes, you will also likely need to communicate with other students, through Dal e-mail, to fulfill the requirements of your specific role.

20% of your final grade will be based off your participation and performance in this simulation. More information on this portion of the course will be given prior to the event. Attendance during these classes is paramount. Absences during this unit will impact your grade substantially.

10% of your final grade will be based off a four-page reflection paper on the municipal government simulation. Discuss the role you were assigned and relevant issues that arose over the course of the simulation. How did the simulation go? How were you able to deal with constituents concerns, or lobby the council in pursuit of your political goals? Were you successful? To help make this paper assignment easier, it will be helpful for you to take notes as the simulation progresses, jotting down your thoughts after each class.

Final Exam – 30% of Final Grade

An exam will be administered during the final exam period in December. This exam will cover the contents of the entire course, with an emphasis on the first three units. This exam is worth **30%** of your final grade.

Emailing Policy

I respond to all course related emails within 24 hours, apart from weekends and holidays.

Students are asked to use professional language in all communications (“Dear Dr. Foster;” “Sincerely;” etc.) and include the name of the course at the beginning of the subject line of your email (POLI 2230). Please also make sure the answer to your question is not already in the syllabus (though if something in the syllabus doesn’t make sense, it is ok to email me and ask for clarification).

Please also send any emails from your Dalhousie email address; this helps prevent Outlook mistaking an email as spam.

Policy on Late Assignments

For writing assignments, late submissions will be deducted by 2 points per day from a total of 30 potential points per essay. In other words, if your paper is a day late, the highest grade you will be able to earn is 28/30; if it is two days late, the highest you will be able to earn is 26/30; and so on. This also works out to a deduction of 2% from your final grade.

Late tests will not be accepted absent a medical or family emergency. Once submissions close on Brightspace, you will not be able to access the test or submit your completed answers.

If you are late for class, you will not earn your attendance mark for that day.

Class and Reading Schedule

Please-note: I reserve the right to changes to the readings and the order in which we will be reading them if necessary. If I do so, I will give you at least one week's notice, and will notify you by email as well as in class.

Additionally, if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to speak to another classmate to catch up on what you've missed.

September

Unit #1: Thinking about (Canadian) Cities

Wednesday, September 7th:

Introduction to the course and syllabus

Friday, September 9th:

Readings:

Zack Taylor and Gabriel Edelman, "Canadian Political Science and the City: A Limited Engagement," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 43, no. 4 (December 2010). **(Brightspace)**

Wednesday, September 14th:

Readings:

Pierre Filion, "Fundamentals of Cities" in *Canadian Cities in Transition*

Friday, September 16th:

Readings:

Pierre Filion, "Urban Transitions: Historical, Present, and Future Perspectives on Canadian Urban Development" in *Canadian Cities in Transition*.

Wednesday, September 21st:

Readings:

James Lightbody, "The Policy-Making System in Canadian Cities" in *City Politics, Canada* **(Brightspace)**

https://dal.novanet.ca/permalink/01NOVA_DAL/1nek75v/alma9970505035307190

Friday, September 23rd:

Readings:

Zack Taylor and Neil Bradford, "Governing Canadian Cities" in *Canadian Cities in Transition*

Wednesday, September 28th:

Readings:

Kristin Good, "Municipal Political Parties: An Answer to Urbanization or an Affront to Traditions of Local Democracy?," in *Canadian Political Parties in Transition*. **(Brightspace)**

Friday, September 30th:

NO CLASS. TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY. UNIVERSITY CLOSED.

October

Wednesday, October 5th:

Readings:

Jack Lucas. "The Ideological Structure of Municipal Non-Ideology." *Urban Affairs Review*, (August 2021). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10780874211038321>. **(Brightspace)**

Unit #2: Canadian Cities in the Constitutional Context

Friday, October 7th:

Readings:

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

Wednesday, October 12th:

Readings:

1. Kristin R. Good, "The Fallacy of the "Creatures of the Provinces" Doctrine: Recognizing and Protecting Municipalities' Constitutional Status." *IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance* No. 46 2019
https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/bitstream/1807/98264/1/imfgpaper_no46_recognizingandprotectingmunicipalities_kristingood_nov_26_2019.pdf
2. Kristin Good, "Reconsidering the Constitutional Status of Municipalities: From Creatures of the Provinces to Provincial Constitutionalism." Essay #8 of the Montreal, Institute for Research on Public Policy. <https://centre.irpp.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/02/Reconsidering-the-Constitutional-Status-of-Municipalitiess.pdf>

Friday, October 14th:

Readings:

1. United Taxi Drivers' Fellowship v. Calgary (City), [2004] 1 S.C.R. 485.
<https://decisions.scc-csc.ca/scc-csc/scc-csc/en/2131/1/document.do>
2. East York (Borough) v. Ontario (Attorney General), 1997 CanLII 12263 (ON SC)
<https://www.ontariocourts.ca/search-canlii/scj/scj-en.htm>

Wednesday, October 19th:

Readings:

Ron Levi and Mariana Valverde. "Freedom of the City: Canadian Cities and the Quest for Governmental Status." *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 44.3 (2006) : 409-459. **(Brightspace)** READ PARTS I - IV

Friday, October 21st:

Readings:

1. Ron Levi and Mariana Valverde. "Freedom of the City: Canadian Cities and the Quest for Governmental Status." *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 44.3 (2006): 409-459. **(Brightspace)** READ REST OF ARTICLE

2. Samuel Mosonyi and Dennis Baker. "Bylaw Battles: Explaining Municipal-Provincial and Municipal-Federal Win-Rates." *Canadian Journal of Urban Research* 25, no. 2 (2016): 11–22. **(Brightspace)**

Unit #3: Race, Gender, Indigeneity, and the Canadian Municipality

Wednesday, October 26th:

Readings:

R. Ben Fawcett and Ryan Walker, "Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Cities" in *Canadian Cities in Transition*

Friday, October 31st:

Readings:

1. Don Manderscheid, "First Nations and Self-Government: A Matter of Trust." *Canadian Journal of Law and Society* 22, no. 1 (2007): 109–121. **(Brightspace)**
2. Neskonalith Indian Band v. Salmon Arm (City), 2012 BCCA 379 **(Brightspace)**

November

Wednesday, November 2nd:

Readings:

Audrey Kobayashi and Valerie Preston, "International Migration and Immigration: Remaking the Multicultural Canadian City" in *Canadian Cities in Transition*

Friday, November 4th:

Readings:

GUEST SPEAKER: Emily Lutz, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of King's County, Nova Scotia

Readings:

1. Royce Koop and Laura Conrad. "Gender and the Policy Priorities of Canadian City Councilors." *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*, vol. 42, no. 2, 2021. **(Brightspace)**
2. Erin Tolley, "Do Women 'Do Better' in Municipal Politics? Electoral Representation Across Three Levels of Government." *Canadian journal of political science* 44, no. 3 (2011): 573–594. **(Brightspace)**
3. Municipality of King's County Municipal Action Plan.
https://www.countyofkings.ca/government/SPlan_flip/2021-24%20Strat%20Plan.html

FALL STUDY BREAK NOVEMBER 7TH TO 11TH

Wednesday, November 16th:

Readings:

Damaris Rose, "Gender, Sexuality, and the City" in *Canadian Cities in Transition*

Friday, November 18th:

Today's class will be devoted to preparing for the municipal government simulation. We will meet during class time; however, you are free to use class time to begin preparing for next week and meeting with students whose roles might intersect with your own. I will also be available if you have any questions, and to troubleshoot any issues.

Assignments Due:

Research Paper at 11:55 PM on Brightspace.

Unit #4: Municipal Government Simulation

Wednesday, November 23th:

Readings:

Familiarize yourself with *Local Government in Action*, especially pages 1-77 and relevant pages for the character you've been assigned.

Activities:

1. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #1
2. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #2

Friday, November 25th:

Activities:

1. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #3
2. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #4

Wednesday, November 30th:

Activities:

3. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #3
4. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #4

December

Friday, December 2nd:

Activities:

5. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #5
6. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #6

Wednesday, December 7th:

Activities:

1. Municipal Government Simulation: Council Meeting #7
2. Wrap up and debrief

Assignments Due:

Municipal government reflection paper due at 11:55 PM on Brightspace.