



## General Information

<b>Instructor:</b>	Darryl C. Eisan
<b>Class Date/Time:</b>	Thursday, 18:05 – 20:55
<b>Room:</b>	McCain Arts and SS 2102
<b>Telephone:</b>	902.445.7160 (h)
<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:deisan@dal.ca">deisan@dal.ca</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	Before or after class, or by appointment

## Required or recommended prerequisites

An introductory class in political science.

## Objective

In Canada, until recently, many political scientists neglected the study of local government and politics, focusing instead on the institutions and policy-making processes of federal and provincial jurisdictions. This is because, in Canada, municipal governments lack independent constitutional status and are highly limited in their legislative, fiscal, and political autonomy.

Nevertheless, Canada's major political, economic, and social challenges intersect in cities. This has led many to reconsider the importance of cities and of municipal governments in their local, national, and international contexts.

The objective of this course is to provide students with the analytical tools to understand the politics and policy activities of Canadian municipalities within their historical, socioeconomic, institutional, and constitutional contexts. A major concern is to evaluate how effectively city governments in Canada have responded to contemporary urban challenges. In this class, we will adopt a critical perspective on local governance and engage with contemporary debates concerning municipal governance reform and the evolving role of city governments within Canadian federalism.

## **Approach taken**

This course comprises three hours of class time per week and is a combination of lecture and discussion. Course sessions are conducted with the expectation that students come to class having read all of the assigned material in advance and are fully prepared to discuss that material. It is critical to keep abreast of current affairs in political science and public administration as these are examinable material on both the mid-term and final examinations.

As outlined in the Method of Evaluation section of this course syllabus, class attendance and participation will be assessed.

## **Learning Materials**

### *Required*

Tindal, Richard C., Susan Nobes Tindal, Kennedy Stewart and Patrick J. Smith, *Local Government in Canada* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: Nelson Education, 2013.

### *Recommended*

Sancton, Andrew, *Canadian Local Government. An Urban Perspective*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press, 2011.

## **Course Communication**

Our primary communication channel will be through BbLearn (occasionally Dal e-mail), so make sure to check Blackboard for announcements, PowerPoint slide decks, etc on a regular basis. Please make sure that when you send me e-mails you put the course name and section in the subject line, i.e. POLI 3232. I will make every effort to respond to e-mails within 24-hours and please ensure that your Banner e-mail address is up-to-date.

## Method of Evaluation

The requirements for this course are:

Course Requirement	Due Date	% of Final Mark
Course outline confirmation	January 16, 2014	1%
Autobiography	January 16, 2014	1%
Question for Mayor Savage	January 23, 2014	3%
Summarize and Evaluate Article	January 30, 2014	10%
Research Report, Presentation and Peer Assessment	Commence March 6, 2014	30% (Research Report 20%, Presentation 7%, Peer Assessment 3%)
Attendance	Assessed throughout term	5%
Participation	Assessed throughout term	5%
Mid-term Examination	February 27, 2014	20%
End of term Examination	During formal examination period, April 9-26, 2014	25%
<b>Total</b>		100%

## Course Requirements

### *Course Outline confirmation*

Please send me an e-mail confirming that you have read the entire course syllabus and accept the course syllabus as our learning contract. Make sure you receive e-mail confirmation from me.

### *Autobiography*

Among other things, this Assignment should address the following:

1. Name, number of years in University and number of years since high school graduation
2. Where are you from?
3. What contribution do you want to make to your community, society, family, etc? Why are these contributions important?
4. What types of volunteer and sport activities are you involved in?
5. Have you, or someone you know well, been involved in government related activities? If yes, what was the nature of that involvement?
6. Have you, or someone you know well, been involved in politics. If yes, what was the nature of that involvement?
7. What are your expectations for POLI 3232?
8. What media stories (newspaper, radio, television or social media) have you been following recently? (minimum of 3 examples)

### *Summarize and Evaluate Article*

Write an analysis of the following article, *The Economic Effects of Large Cities on the Canadian Economy* by Harvey Schwartz. It can be found on-line at the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), <http://archive.irpp.org/po/archive/may11/schwartz.pdf>.

In this analysis, you should discuss both the author's approach and the substance of the political actions taken. Moreover, the more "critical" and "analytical" the better — a mere summary is not sufficient — but you are not expected to use other sources or to know a great deal about the subject in advance. You should also address the following questions:

- Is the article (s) well organized, well researched, and well written?
- Does the evidence used in the article (s) support the argument? Is it strong, weak, or contradictory?
- Does the conclusion flow naturally from the evidence?
- Are there any questions raised by the article (s) that aren't answered? If yes, what are they?

The final product should include: a title page; a 6-7 page critical evaluation; your name and date on the paper; page numbers; proper formatting techniques (double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 pt font in Arial; type-written; and provided electronically in MS Word).

### *Question for Mayor Savage*

The Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM), His Worship Mayor Michael Savage will join us on January 30. In preparation for his visit, you are to draft a course relevant question that if possible, you will ask the Mayor during his visit with us.

### *Research Report, Class Presentation and Peer Assessment*

Working as teams, students are expected to:

- Complete a Research Paper of 2500-3000 words or about 10 pages on one of the topics listed on page 11. The Research Paper should include a theme or argument — not just a recitation of facts. Your analysis should be based on solid, respectable sources, looking at different sides of the issue, and conclude with a certain amount of informed opinion. Your sources should include primary public documents, scholarly journals and books, respectable newspapers and periodicals, and perhaps official, advocacy group, and think-tank Websites.
- Present a summary your work to class. The expectation is not for a comprehensive presentation, but rather the identification of a few themes, highlights and discussion questions that can be subsequently discussed by the entire group.

The presentation will be assessed against the following criteria: thoroughness of coverage of the issue; quality of sources used; thoroughness, clarity and professionalism of presentation; engaging the class in the topic; and originality and interest of presentation.

During these presentations, the non-presenting members of the class are expected to participate in whatever experiential exercises the group uses, ask questions, and generally be engaged. Performance in these classes will count toward your participation grades.

- Complete a Peer Assessment that provides 'confidential' feedback in the form of grading and comments of your fellow group member (s) regarding their contribution to the Research Report and Class Presentation. It should focus on the efforts expended and the results achieved by each group member in contributing to the group results.

Each of these course requirements are due the day you present; so it is critical that you choose your topic quickly.

#### *Mid-term Examination*

The mid-term examination will be held in class and comprise a combination of short answer and essay questions. It will be based on topics addressed during lectures, assigned readings and other materials distributed during class.

#### *End of Term Examination*

The End of Term Examination is cumulative and will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. It will be based on topics addressed during lectures, assigned readings and other materials distributed during class.

The End of Term Examination will be scheduled by the university during the official exam period, so do not make any travel plans until the exam schedule is published.

#### *Attendance/ Participation*

*POLI 3232 Local Government in Canada* is a combination of lecture and discussions. Course sessions are conducted with the expectation that students attend classes having read all assigned materials in advance and are prepared to discuss materials. Grading points will also be based on class participation.

Students must be knowledgeable of current affairs as they relate to local government. Current affairs discussed in class are examinable material.

To encourage open and more engaging discussions, students are encouraged to freely share their opinions and also be receptive to hearing other viewpoints. If you have a view on an issue that is counter to that of another class member or the instructor, you may challenge or critique the viewpoint but not the individual; respectful professional behavior is expected at all times.

Attendance sheets must be signed at the beginning of each class as attendance will be a factor in determining students' attendance/participation marks. If students wish to enhance their attendance/participation mark, they must be prepared to share their views and questions on current events in class.

Students will be provided with one (1) "free" absence throughout the term for which no penalty will be recorded. Students who wish to take advantage of this absence are still responsible for the material covered during class. For any additional absences, students will have one (1) point deducted from their final course mark for each missed class without a medical doctor's verification of illness.

Note:

1. Signing someone else's name on the attendance sheet is considered a breach of academic integrity and will have consequences.
2. Students may only sign the attendance sheet if they attend the entire class.
3. If you cannot attend class, you must inform the Instructor by e-mail and state the reason why.
4. Punctuality is expected.

### **Submission of Written Work**

Students are expected to submit class work on the assigned deadlines. Make-up examinations or deadline extensions will not be given, unless a proper medical certificate of illness is presented. Students are responsible for knowing the due dates for assignments and exams.

Late assignments will be subject to a 10% penalty per day. After three (3) calendar days, the assignment will not be accepted and a mark of zero will be applied.

Students, who miss a deadline because of illness and produce a medical certificate as outlined in the *2013-2014 Dalhousie University Academic Calendar*, must provide the assignment within one week of their return to class. Students are advised to read relevant regulations carefully.

#### *"16.8 Special Arrangements for Examinations, Tests and Assignments*

*At the discretion of the instructor, alternate arrangements for examinations, tests or the completion of assignments may be made for students who are ill, or in other exceptional circumstances.*

*Where illness is involved, a certificate from the student's physician will be required. This certificate should indicate the dates and duration of the illness, when possible should describe the impact it had on the student's ability to fulfill academic requirements, and should include any other information the physician considers relevant and appropriate. To obtain a medical certificate, students who miss examinations, tests or the completion of other assignments should contact*

*the University Health Services or their physician at the time they are ill and should submit a medical certificate to their instructor as soon thereafter as possible. Such certificates will not normally be accepted after a lapse of more than one week from the examination or assignment completion date.*

*For exceptional circumstances other than illness, appropriate documentation, depending on the situation, will be required."*

Please note that no final grade will be issued until each of the course requirements have been completed and graded by the instructor.

### **Smart phones, laptops, etc.**

All smart phones, etc. must be switched off during class time. Laptops may be used for taking notes only. If students are suspected of using laptops in class for reasons other than taking notes, they will be asked to stop. Repeated behaviour of this sort can result in the student being asked to leave the class; and/or the professor limiting or banning the use of laptops by the student in question.

### **Academic Integrity**

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the [academicintegrity.dal.ca](http://academicintegrity.dal.ca) website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality.

### **Office of Student Accommodation and Accessibility (OSAA) Statement on Accommodation**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility and Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses. Please see [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca) for more information and to obtain Form A - Request for Accommodation.

## **Writing Centre**

The writing centre works to develop writing skills that meet university expectations in one-on-one sessions, in small groups, and in classes. The centre's website ([www.writingcentre.dal.ca](http://www.writingcentre.dal.ca)) offers information on seminars. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 10:00 am – 7:00 pm, Friday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 pm.

## **Grading**

Letter grades will be assigned as outlined in the *2013-2014 Dalhousie University Academic Calendar*.

## **Add/Drop Dates**

Last day to add/drop: January 17, 2014

Last day to drop without a “W”: February 3, 2014

Last day to drop with a “W”: March 10, 2014

## Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Provided is the Course Schedule and Reading Assignments that outlines the topics to be addressed and accompanying required readings.

Date	Topic
January 9	<p><b>Course overview and introduction</b></p> <p><b>The Promise of Local Government</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 1, pp. 1-25</p>
January 16	<p><b>The Legacy of the Past</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 2, pp. 26-61</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Course Outline Confirmation Due</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Autobiography Due</b></p>
January 23	<p><b>Pressures of Growth and Change</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 3, pp. 63-85</p>
January 30	<p><b>Local Government Restructuring</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 4, pp. 87-140</p> <p><b>Special Guest: His Worship Mayor Michael Savage, Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summarize and Evaluate Article Due</b></p>
February 6	<p><b>Restructuring Limitations and Alternatives</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 5, pp. 141-183</p>
February 13	<p><b>Intergovernmental Relations</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 6, pp. 185-237</p>
February 17-21	<p><b>Study break - no classes</b></p>
February 27	<p><b>Mid-term Examination (<i>in class</i>)</b></p> <p>Includes all topics addressed during lectures, assigned readings and other materials distributed during class.</p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
March 6	<p><b>Local Government Finances</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 7, pp. 240-283</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Class Presentations Commence</b></p>
March 13	<p><b>Municipal Governing Structures</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 8, pp. 286-325</p>
March 20	<p><b>Municipal Governing Processes and Values</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 9, pp. 327-363</p>
March 27	<p><b>Public Participation in Local Government</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 10, pp. 366-402</p> <p><b>Special Guest: Betty MacDonald, Executive Director, Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM)</b></p>
April 3	<p><b>Municipal Policy Making</b></p> <p><b>Future Prospects for Municipal Government</b></p> <p>Tindal et al, chapter 11, pp. 403-438 and chapter 12 439-461</p>
April 9-26, 2014	<p><b>End - of - Term Examination</b></p> <p>Includes all topics addressed during lectures, assigned readings and other materials distributed during class</p>

## Appendix A - Research Report Topics

1. In the 1990s, municipal amalgamations became a popular reform initiative. Why? Evaluate the arguments for and against municipal amalgamations. To what extent do amalgamations lead to effective and equitable governance of Canada's metropolitan areas? What are the alternatives?
2. Canada has become a highly urban country since it was first established in 1867. What does this mean for Canada's governing institutions? To what extent have they adapted to changes in settlement patterns? To what extent does an "urban nation" imply the need to decentralize power to municipal institutions or even to create city-states?
3. The majority of Canada's immigrants settle in the country's largest city regions including most prominently – Toronto, Vancouver, and Montreal. What implications does this have for municipal governance in Canada?
4. Investigate the way ethical behaviour is addressed/enforced in municipal governance structures and how effective those approaches seem to be.
5. Assess the overall provincial-municipal relationship addressing such aspects as: recent trends, key areas of friction, main suggestions for improvement, etc.
6. Assess the current state of the provincial-municipal financial relationship and suggest areas for change/improvement.
7. Are municipalities well governed? Are CAO systems widespread and are they effective in providing more coordinated administration and more cohesive policy advice to councils? Is strong leadership provided by councils – either through Mayors or some type of Executive Committee? What are the main weaknesses in municipal governing and what suggestions are there for improvements in structure or processes? How do they differ from bureaucratic structures in federal and provincial governments?
8. Investigate the absence of political parties at the municipal level. If political parties existed at the municipal level, what kinds would there be?
9. Assess the impacts of globalization on large Canadian cities.