

POLS*3270 Local Government in Ontario

Credit Weighting: 0.50

Pre-/Co-Requisites:

Restrictions:

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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GENERAL DETAILS

The purpose of this course is to build on the student's knowledge and understanding of Canadian politics and public policy by focusing specifically on local or municipal government in Ontario. While local government provides citizens with the potential for having the most obvious and immediate impact on the decision-making process regarding issues that are of direct relevance, such as water and waste water treatment, garbage collection, snow removal, and the provision of recreational services for example, it also tends to be the level of government that they pay the least attention to with only 30-40% of the electorate typically bothering to vote in a municipal election. This course examines this paradox by exploring the great potential for citizen engagement and democratic participation inherent in local politics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students who have completed this course should have:

- (i) A sense of efficacy regarding the ability of citizens to shape local decision-making
- (ii) a sound understanding of the changing role that municipalities play in the Canadian federal system of government;
- (iii) the ability to distinguish between the federal and provincial machinery of government from that of municipal governments;
- (iv) an awareness of the key urban issues confronting municipalities;
- (v) an ability to critically examine and offer constructive solutions to some of our shared local problems;
- (vi) an enhanced ability to conduct political science research using a variety of sources;
- (vii) greater confidence in sharing and expressing ideas with classmates through lecture discussions and a formal presentation;
- (viii) a heightened awareness of the power of individual and collective action as a means of impacting local decision making.

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

TBD

REQUIRED READING

TBD