

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Cities in the Federation**

Course Number and Section:

POLISCI

3395G 550

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Kate Graham

Instructor Email(s): kgraha@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Canada is an urban nation, with more than 80% of the population now living in cities. Canada's cities provide a high quality of life, fuel the nation's economic growth, and sustain critical services and amenities accessed by millions of Canadians every day. However, Canada's cities are also the places where many of the nation's greatest social, economic, environmental and political challenges are most concentrated. Are Canada's cities equipped to deal with these challenges? Do they have the power they need to meet the needs and expectations of their residents?

This course provides students with an opportunity to learn about the politics of Canada's cities, situated within a broad multilevel context of Canadian federalism. Students will learn about how the power of cities is defined and has been shaped over time - including through recent developments including the City Charters in Alberta, the 2018 Municipal Elections in the City of Toronto, and most recently the introduction of strong mayor powers in Toronto and Ottawa – and examine the ongoing negotiations across Canada's provinces and territories to empower cities.

This course will also provide students with a unique opportunity to engage in contemporary urban public policy challenges through a series of practically-oriented case studies. Students will emerge with new expertise on the urban policy topic of their choice, with an understanding of how that issue is being addressed in a sample of Canadian cities.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand the contemporary landscape of cities in Canada, and their place and power within Canada's unique federalism;

Identify and analyze local dimensions of national economic, social, environmental and political urban issues;

Articulate clearly how and why the local interventions on various urban policy issues vary in cities across Canada;

Develop critical and creative thinking skills, expressed through both individual and collective work projects; and

Become more active and engaged citizens.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Sancton, Andrew. 2020. Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective, Third Edition (Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press).

Spicer, Zachary, Joseph Lyons and Kate Graham. 2020. Local Government in Practice: Cases in Governance, Planning and Policy (Emond Publishing).

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Class Contributions	April 8, 2024	20
Empowering Cities Case Study	January 26, 2024	15
Battles for Power - Small Group Presentations	April 8, 2024	15
Midterm Exam	March 6, 2024	20
Urban Policy Paper	April 8, 2024	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, December 11, 2023