

	School of Arts & Science SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT PSC 208 Local Government and Politics Fall 2015
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COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/psc.html>

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Mona Brash	
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday 4:30-5:30, Wednesday 10:00-11:30, Thursday 9:30-10:00, Friday 10 -11:30 or by appointment	
(c)	Location:	Paul 237	
(d)	Phone:	Please use email for contact	
(e)	Email:	Brashm@camosun.bc.ca	

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to describe, explain, and critically assess:

1. Describe the system of municipal and regional government in British Columbia and trends in urban development and relations with First Nations in Canada.
2. Describe various forms of Indigenous self-government
3. Identify key institutions, players, and issues in Canadian local politics.
4. Describe theories of politics and public administration at the regional and municipal level.
5. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of democracy in Canada at the local level.

3. Required Materials

(a) Texts

Sancton, Andrew. *Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective, Second Edition*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2015.

(b) Other

There will be other readings for you to access online. They are in the syllabus. You will have an electronic copy in order to easily click on links.

4. Course Content and Schedule

Classes are Wednesday and Friday, 8:30-9:50

Class Schedule

Sept. 9 Introduction
Syllabus
Introduction to textbook
Discussion

Sept. 11 **What is Local Government?**
Different Types of Meetings

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 1 & 16 (pp. 337-341)
Read your syllabus

Q. What are the different types of local government?

Sept. 16 **Why Local Government? Types of Committees**

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 2 and Chapter 9 (pp. 190-194)

Q. What does local government do? Do we need it?

What is a Council Meeting/Committee Meeting/Committee of the Whole?

Sept. 18 **Some history of Local Government**

Reading: de Tocqueville, Alexis. Democracy in America (1835)
Chapter V (up to The Counties of New England) at:
<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/815> Download HTML, then go to this link,
[Chapter V: Necessity Of Examining The Condition Of The States—Part I](#)

Q. What were the positive aspects of having a local government according to de Tocqueville?

*****Local Government Assignment due*****

Sept. 23 **Central Governments and Local Governments, Delegated Power, Subsidiarity**

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 3
Constitution Act, 1867, read Sections 92. 8 & 92. 10
<http://www.efc.ca/pages/law/cons/Constitutions/Canada/English/cons.html>

Q. What is the relationship between federal, provincial, and local governments?

Sept. 25 **Central and Local Governments**

Reading: Local Government Act at
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96323_00
(scan Contents and read Part 1, Section 1-4)

Q. How much control does the province have over that which local governments may do?

Sept. 30 Local Government Act, Zoning, Official Community Plans**Reading:** Local Government Act, Sections 875-879 athttp://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96323_00*****Meeting Report Due*******Oct. 2 Special Purpose bodies****Reading:** Sancton, Chapter 4, pp. 48-59, 65-72 (not AMT in Montreal or Metrolinx)*Q. What are the different boards and special purpose bodies in a local government system?***Oct. 7 Urban and Rural****Reading:** Sancton, Chapter 5, pp. 75-81 and 85-89*Q. Which parts of the Capital Regional District are urban and which are rural? How do you define these terms?***Oct. 9 Annexations****Reading:** Sancton, Chapter 6, pp. 91-100 and 107-110*Q. How can municipalities expand? Did any municipality in which you have lived annex to increase its size?***Oct. 14 2 Tier Metropolitan and Regional Governments****Reading:** Sancton, Chapter 7, pp. 112-117 and 129-137CRD website, scan the Homepage at <http://www.crd.bc.ca/>

GVRD (now referred to as Metro Vancouver) website, scan the Homepage at

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Read the news to see if there are any stories about the local candidates.

*Q. What are the CRD and the GVRD? What services do they provide? What issues are highlighted on their homepages?***Oct. 16 Amalgamations and De-amalgamations****Reading:** Sancton, Chapter 8, except section on Kawartha Lakes

New Minister and Amalgamation at:

<http://www.langleytimes.com/news/137979138.html>

Fraser Institute, pp. 1-9 and skim rest, at:

http://www.uvic.ca/hsd/publicadmin/assets/docs/BBish/amalgamation_cd_howe.pdf*Q. How does amalgamation differ from annexation? Should provincial governments be able to force amalgamation? What is the common rationale given for amalgamation?******Essay Proposal and Preliminary Bibliography due*****

Oct. 21 The Push for Amalgamation in the CRD

Reading: Bish, Robert L., LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE PRODUCTION IN THE CAPITAL REGION, Executive Summary at http://www.uvic.ca/hsd/publicadmin/assets/docs/BBish/lg_service_production.pdf

C.D. Howe Institute, Discredited ideas and Utopian ideals driving municipal amalgamations, says C.D. Howe Institute study at http://www.uvic.ca/hsd/publicadmin/assets/docs/BBish/amalgamation_cd_howe.pdf

Google “CRD & amalgamation” and see if it is an issue locally

Q. What are the arguments for and against amalgamation in the Capital Regional District?

Oct. 23 *Test # 1*****

Will cover material from beginning of course

Oct. 28 Local Government in the Media, Review Proposals, Test returned**Oct. 30 Municipal Politics (Voting system, Voter turnout, slates, and parties)**

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 9, pp. 173-190, and 197-199 (not Montreal section) Indian Act, sections 74-79 at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/I-5/page-27.html#docCont>

Local Government Act, read Sections 49, 50, 66, 67, and 136 at

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96323_00

Q. Which electoral system is used? Does the principle of Responsible Government apply to local or band politics? Why or why not?

Nov. 4 2014 local elections (interesting elections and results)

Reading: CIVIC INFO 2014 Election Results at <http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/election>

Q. Who was elected in the 2014 election in the locality you are studying or in which you live?

Discussion: Current mayors

Nov. 6 Councillors/Electoral Financing

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 9, pp. pp. 194-197 and 199-200

What every candidate needs to know (p. 5 & 8) at

http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/library/election2014/Candidate_Brochure.pdf

Q. What is the role of a councillor? How does governing locally differ from other levels of government?

Nov. 11 Remembrance Day – NO CLASS

Nov. 13 Mayors and Local Political Leadership (Naheed Nenshi)

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 11

Q. How does the role of a mayor differ from that of a premier or prime minister?

Nov. 18 Development, Case Study, SLAPP suits, Shadow Communities

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 10

What is a SLAPP suit? At

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/What+SLAPP+does+need/10800491/story.html>

Shadow Populations at:

<http://www.nclga.ca/resolutions/shadow-populations/66>

Q: What is a SLAPP suit? What should be done about Shadow Communities?

Nov. 20 Senior Management and Labour Unions

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 13

Q. Should some of the work done by municipal workers be privatized? Why or why not?

*****Major Paper Due*****

Nov. 25 Test # 2

Material covered since Test # 1

Nov. 27 TBA

Dec. 2 Budgets, Grants, User Fees

Reading: Sancton Chapter 14, pp. 290-304

Q. What are the user fees you encounter?

Dec. 4 Property Tax Examples of Tax notices

Time will be allotted to prepare/practice presentations

Reading: Sancton, Chapter 15,

Q. What taxes might you find on a tax notice?

Dec. 9 Presentations – each student will present their research paper to the class

Attendance by others is mandatory and will be taken

Dec. 11 Presentations – each student will present their research paper to the class

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NO FINAL EXAM**5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

(a) Local government Assignment	Sept. 18	_____ (10%)
(b) Meeting Report	Sept. 30	_____ (10%)
(c) Essay proposal and preliminary bibliography for essay (5% + 5%)	Oct. 16	_____ (10%)
(d) Test # 1	Oct. 23	_____ (20%)
(e) Major Paper	Nov. 20	_____ (25%)
(f) Test # 2	Nov. 25	_____ (20%)
(g) Research Paper Presentation	Dec. 9 or 11	_____ (5%)

Total: _____ /100
 (You can keep track of your grades by entering them here ↑)

NOTE: NO FINAL EXAM**All assignments will be completed using the following:**

- Use default margins
- Type
- Double-space
- Times Roman 12 font
- Include page numbers
- Use Chicago style citations with footnotes or endnotes (your computer is programmed for these – it's easy – in Word "Help", just type in "About Footnotes and Endnotes"! <http://camosun.ca.libguides.com/chicago>)
- Include a bibliography
- Include a title page with your name, student number, title of assignment, course name

Details for Assignments**(a) Local government Assignment (10%) Sept. 18**

In point form (use bullets, not paragraphs or sentences), in 1-2 pages, answer the following about one local government in the area:

- Name of municipality or band/reserve or electoral area
- Population of municipality
- Adjacent municipalities/reserves
- Name of chief/mayor
- Names of councillors
- Last election results (candidates and votes received)
- Last election voter turnout
- Name of regional district of which it is a member
 1. Who is the CRD rep(s)

(b) Meeting Report (10%) Sept. 30

Part 1: Attend a meeting of either a local government, regional government, or a committee of either

In **point form**, in 1-2 pages, answer the following:

- Name of local government, regional government, or committee
- Date of meeting
- Place of meeting
- Who chaired the meeting
- How many elected officials attended
- Were there members of the public present
 - Were they allowed to address the meeting

Part 2: In a few **proper paragraphs**:

- What were the main issues discussed
- Describe the tone of the meeting (was it confrontational, boring, pragmatic...)

(c) Proposal and preliminary bibliography for essay (5% + 5%) Oct. 16

1) Proposal - read Essay Assignment (on p. 8-9):

In 1-2 pages, in point form or paragraphs:

- Describe what your topic will be
- Why did you choose this topic?
- What is the objective of the assignment, what do you intend to explore/find out?
- What are some of the **types** of sources you intend to use (in **general terms**)?

2) Provide, in Chicago Manual of Style (how-to at:

<http://camosun.ca.libguides.com/chicago>

- 3 primary sources
- 2 secondary sources
- For 2 of the 5 sources, explain why this source will be useful, in a few sentences for each

- **Primary sources** are the basic materials for conducting original research in a given discipline. For the historian, they include documents such as letters, diaries, autobiographies, newspaper and magazine articles, speeches, eyewitness accounts, photographs and sketches, and census data. For the scientist, primary sources might be notes on an experiment or a sheet of calculations. For the literary critic, the primary source is the text of the poem, play, or story. In the art of argument—the business of the critical essay—fair and compelling evidence is needed in order to substantiate any claim, whether it be the interpretation of a poem or a judgment on a historical figure. Primary sources constitute the best **evidence**. Original research is only made possible by collection, discovery, and recovery of primary documents and materials.

- **Secondary sources** are books and articles and documentaries that draw on primary sources and interpret them. When you are first researching a topic of interest, the fastest way to come to an understanding of your subject is to read secondary sources. Critical reading of these materials will also give you a sense of how other researchers have approached your research topic, which may give direction to your own argument—either toward or away from established perspectives or conclusions. Academic writing will require you to consult secondary sources to support and direct your own analysis. Most important to the student researcher, good secondary sources will **lead you** to the primary documents and resources noted in a bibliography or footnote. (source: RMC POE 206 CD)
- **Note: Wikipedia is not an acceptable academic source**
- **You will attach marked outline to major paper**

(d) Test # 1 (20%) Oct. 23

- Material covered since start of course

(e) Major paper, in essay format (25%) Nov. 20

- Essay length: **6-8 pages** (TITLE PAGE, FOOTNOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY are extra pages)
- A note on being succinct:
"I have made this letter longer than usual because I lack the time to make it shorter." -- Blaise Pascal
- Be sure to keep a copy of your essay on stick or hard drive.
- **Attach marked outline to major paper when you submit it.**

Choose **one** of the following local governments to examine:

- Central Saanich
- Colwood
- Duncan
- Electoral Area A
- Esquimalt
- Highlands
- Langford
- Metchosin
- North Saanich
- Oak Bay
- Sidney

- Sooke
- Vancouver
- Victoria
- View Royal
- Any of the Gulf Islands in the CRD

Examine in terms of:

- Very brief history of establishment of its local government
- Category of local government
- Statistics (population, size)
- Adjacent local governments/reserves
- Current council

Analyze the local government in terms of **one** current issue. Describe that issue?

- Who is involved?
- Are there cross border municipal, band, and/or regional issues at play? Which?
- Are there ngo's/community organizations involved? Which?
- Are other levels of government involved (either with or without the citizens' approval) in the issue you identify? Which?
- Can the local government resolve the issue?
 1. Why or why not?

(This forms an important part of your paper as it allows you to go beyond simply reporting information but to also analyze what is happening. That is the difference between a low B and an A paper.)

Be sure to **incorporate course terminology and concepts** in your paper. This will demonstrate your comprehension of course material and your ability to apply what you learned.

(f) Test # 2 (20%) Nov. 25

- Material covered since Test # 1

(g) Research Paper Presentation (5%) Dec. 9 or 11

Everyone will provide a 5 minute presentation to the class about their paper.

- Explain your topic,
- What were you were trying to determine
- How did you approach your research
- What did you conclude
- Explain any points of interest regarding the **process of undertaking research** for the paper

You will have to time your presentation carefully in order that everyone can complete this assignment. You will be graded on content (**all** points above addressed), timing, and speaking (good clarity and volume).

It is expected that everyone attends class on the days others are presenting their findings.

Note that none of these assignments is group work. They are each to be done individually. You are encouraged to ask librarians for help with your research. Be sure to read the College's policy on plagiarism at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-&-support/e-2.5.pdf>

Late Policy

Assignments are due in class and will be handed to me in person. Please notify me, **before the assignment is due**, of a problem with completing an assignment and we will make alternate arrangements for you to complete your work.

After the assignment due date, I will only accept your assignment if you have a legitimate excuse (e.g. medical, family, death of person close to you) and/or bring a Doctor's note or note from Student Services (Counselling).

Useful links

CivicInfo BC

<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/>

2014 General Local Elections (November 15, 2014)

<http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/election>

Local Government Act

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96323_00

Local Government Management Association <http://www.lgma.ca/EN/main/resources/links.html>

Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development

<http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/>

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. Some are linked below. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism (defined below)**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

Be sure to ask for help when you need it. Camosun services are here to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. Our goal is to provide you with the best learning experience possible.

- [Planning your education](#)
- [Getting your coursework done](#)
- [Campus life](#)
- [Personal support](#)
- [Work and housing](#)
- [Getting around](#)

Important Dates:

This link provides important registration, financial, and exam dates

<http://camosun.ca/events/important-dates.html>

Student Conduct and Plagiarism:

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-&-support/e-2.5.pdf>

Camlink (for important admin information, exam dates, class schedules)

<https://camlink1.camosun.bc.ca/WebAdvisor/WebAdvisor?TYPE=M&PID=CORE-WBMAIN&TOKENIDX=9975925135>