

NOV 28 2015

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3230**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**

**Instructor:** Scott McAlpine  
**Fall, 1995**  
**O. H. TBA**

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**DESCRIPTION:**

Local Government has never been more important in the lives of citizens than it is now, in 1995—a municipal election year in Alberta. Yet, reinventing government at the local level is often seen as necessary to achieve the two goals of efficiency AND democracy. It is these two often contradictory goals of efficiency and democracy in local government which will drive the discussion in this course. Topics covered are the social context, structures, opportunities for public participation, processes and outcomes of local government in Canada, and, in particular, in Alberta. Specific issues in local government will also be covered including:

- provincial downloading
- planning and Regional Planning Commissions
- health care reform (regionalization of the health care system)
- education reform (amalgamation of school districts)
- 1995 municipal election results
- the 'Klein revolution' in Alberta's local government.

**COURSE CREDIT:**

There is NO pre-requisite for this senior (2nd year) course. Transferable to the U. of A. and elsewhere for university credit, the course is also transferable to the U. of A. Extension Certificate Program in Local Government.

**DELIVERY MEDIUM:**

The course will be delivered in a truly multi-media fashion relying largely on two-way video conferencing simultaneously in Grande Prairie and Hinton. The technology used is interactive and will make considerable use of in-class discussion, computer graphics, video clips, and text materials.

**THE INSTRUCTOR:**

Scott McAlpine (PhD) has been teaching Political Science at GPRC for 14 years and, among other things,

- is the coordinator of the University of Alberta Extension program in Local Government at the College,
- instructs 'Alberta's Local Governments' for the University of Alberta Extension Program
- has published in the field of Local Government
- has served as a consultant on Metis Self-Administration/Government
- is the Author of one of the course texts
- has consulted with local school boards on indicators of student satisfaction and parent opinion on compressed school weeks
- has co-hosted local broadcasts of election coverage
- was co-facilitator for the Mistahia Regional Health Authority public forums on regionalization of health care.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. knowledge of local government structures and processes in Canada
2. ability to critically assess issues and trends in local government

### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Short Essay (1000 words)	10%	October 18, 1995
Midterm Examination	25%	October 25, 1995
Term Paper/Report	20%	November 15, 1995
Final Examination	30%	Examination Week

### TEXTS:

J. Masson, Alberta's Local Governments: Politics and Democracy. (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 1994)

C. R. Tindal and S. N. Tindal, Local government in Canada (4th edition). (Toronto: Mc-Graw-Hill Ryerson, 1995).

S. McAlpine, "Change and Continuity in Local Government", 1995

## GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

### POLITICAL SCIENCE 3230: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

#### DETAILED OUTLINE AND READINGS LIST, 1995

Note: Students are responsible for all required readings (marked with an asterisk (\*)) and should complete the readings before (and not after) class time. Recommended reading cover aspects of the course in greater detail and depth than the required readings and should be at least skimmed unless otherwise noted by the instructor. Lecture dates are approximate and will not be followed to the letter depending on class interest and diversions due to significant events and discussion. Not all required material will necessarily be covered in lecture. Given the profound changes occurring in local government in Canada and Alberta, the instructor reserves the right to assign additional and/or replacement readings as necessary. The order that readings appear on the readings list is, by and large, important.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION: Local Government and Democracy

- What Is Local Government?
- Democracy and Efficiency
- General Functions of Local Government
- Contemporary Functions and Activities

\*McAlpine, chapter 1

\*Tindal and Tindal, chapter 1

\*Masson, chapters 1, 11

#### 2. CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT AND PRESSURES

- Ideological Frameworks
- Community Power Research
- Urbanization and Fragmentation
- Contemporary Reform and Re-organization

\*McAlpine, chapter 1 (continued)

\*McAlpine, pp. 82-88.

\*Tindal and Tindal, pp. 303-317.

Tindal and Tindal, chapter 2

\*Tindal and Tindal, chapter 4 (note, chapter 2 could be read first and will have to read for session 3)

\*Masson, chapter 5

### 3. THE TRADITIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: History and Intergovernmental Relations

- Canadian Historical Overview
- Turn of the Century Reform Era
- The Constitutional Context
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Forms of Local Government

\*Tindal and Tindal, chapters 2, 3 and 7

\*McAlpine, chapter 1 (continued > Intergovernmental Relations)

\*Masson, chapter 5

### 4. BASIC STRUCTURES AND FORMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

- Rural and Urban Forms
- Internal Structures

\*McAlpine, chapter 2

\*Masson chapters 3 and 4

\*Tindal and Tindal, pp. 159-188

### 5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROCESS: Policy and Budget

- The Traditional Paradigm
- Policy Making Models
- Budgeting Models
- Policy and Budget Linkages

\*McAlpine, chapter 3

\*Tindal and Tindal, pp. 281-302.

\*Masson, chapter 6

### 6. ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Administrative Roles
- Political Roles
- Roles, Personality, and Structure

\*McAlpine, chapter 4

\*Masson, chapter 8

\*Tindal and Tindal, pp. 159-169

### 7. THE PUBLIC ROLE: Participation and Elections

- Participation and Democracy
- Factors Affecting Participation
- Election Machinery
- Participation and Democracy
- Election 1995 > a Consideration of Results

\*McAlpine, chapter 4

\*Masson chapter 9

\*Tindal and Tindal, pp. 149-159

## 8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Interest Groups and Parties

- Old and New Politics
- Theories of Interest Group Politics
- Citizen Contacts with 'City Hall'
- Local Party Politics

\* McAlpine, chapter 4 (continued)  
\* Masson, Appendix  
\* Tindal and Tindal, chapter 8

## 9. RE-INVENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Osborne and Gaebler's Thesis
- The Post-Modern Organization
- Reinventing Local Government in Canada: An Overview

\* McAlpine, Appendix  
\* Tindal and Tindal chapter 10  
\* Masson, chapter 14

## 10. URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING: An Introduction

- Schools of Planning Thought
- Planning and the 'New' Agenda
- Planning and Participation
- Reforms to Planning in Alberta

\* Masson, chapter 12  
\* McAlpine, chapter 5  
\* McAlpine, appendix (continued)

## 11. SCHOOL GOVERNANCE: Parents and Elected Officials

- Democracy, Autonomy, Equity, and Efficiency
- Provincial or Local Control
- Reforms in Alberta

\* Masson, chapter 13  
\* McAlpine, appendix (continued)

## 12. HOSPITAL GOVERNANCE

- Local, Provincial, or National Function?
- Re-organization of the System
- Reforms in Alberta

\* READINGS TBA  
\* McAlpine, appendix (continued)

### 13. THE FUTURE???

\*READINGS TBA > Student selection?

- Buzzword Fetishism?

- 2 Paths: Democracy or Efficiency versus Democracy and Efficiency

- The Klein Revolution as a Model for Canada?

- The Hollowing of the Nation-State: Think Global, Act Local and so on...

\*Mayson, ch. 14 (review)