


OCT 22 1998

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|  <p>Local Government and Politics<br/>INTELLECT</p> | <p><b>POLITICAL SCIENCE 3230</b></p> <p><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT<br/>AND POLITICS</b></p> <p><b>DETAILED SYLLABUS</b></p> |
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**GPRC HOME INDEX SYLLABUS < LESSON >**



Website: <http://www.cbi-cbu.com/polsci>

Mirror Web: [http://www.gprc.ab.ca/courses\\_and\\_programs/po3230h/outline](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/courses_and_programs/po3230h/outline)

Instructor: Dr. Scott A. McAlpine

Fall, 1998

TEL: (403) 539-2982 (office)

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E-MAIL: Send questions or comments to [Scott.McAlpine@GPRC.AB.CA](mailto:Scott.McAlpine@GPRC.AB.CA)

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

on CHAT OR AS ANNOUNCED

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#### DESCRIPTION:

Local Government has never been more important in the lives of citizens than it is now. 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, with a special focus on 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)
- the 'Klein revolution' in Alberta's local government.
- the "hollowing of the nation-state"

### **COURSE CREDIT:**

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

### **DELIVERY MEDIUM:**

The course will be delivered as a virtual course in 3 components as follows:

#### **1. Lectures**

13 "Lectures" or series of instructor notes on the world wide web (free access)

#### **2. Discussion and Assignments**

TBA but through a groupware server such as Netmeeting or the University of Alberta  
FIRST CLASS SERVER.

#### **3. Texts**

The basis of the lectures and shipped with **payment**.

The course is paced over a 13 week period starting September, 1998. Not all lectures are or will be up by the time the course starts. The course is best viewed as under continuous construction.

### **THE INSTRUCTOR:**

Scott McAlpine (Phd) has been teaching Political Science at Grande Prairie Regional College for over 15 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

**DEFAULT COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS\*:**

|                               |     |                   |
|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Short Assignment (Individual) | 10% | October 6, 1998   |
| Midterm Examination           | 20% | October 22, 1998  |
| **Group Report                | 20% | November 3, 1998  |
| Individual Report             | 20% | November 26, 1998 |
| Final Examination             | 30% | Examination Week  |

\* Dates are approximate and subject to change. All submissions will be via the discussion groups, e-mail, fax, or on disk.

\*\* Group assignments will make use of the group capabilities of Netmeeting, First Class, or some other interactive computer conferencing application and will be evaluated as collaborative efforts. Students may opt to do the group project individually under special circumstances. Individual and short reports may also be done collaboratively. Exact course weightings can be negotiated with the instructor. Please email your request to do so to [Scott.McAlpine@gprc.ab.ca](mailto:Scott.McAlpine@gprc.ab.ca)

**TEXTS:**

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

K. Graham and S. Phillips, Urban Governance in Canada. (Toronto: Harcourt-Brace, 1998).

These are available from or will be shipped on receipt of payment by the Bookstore of Grande Prairie Regional College. Please call (403) 539-2926 to arrange payment and shipping options.

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## POLITICAL SCIENCE 3230

### DETAILED OUTLINE AND READINGS LIST, 1998

**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 a lecture. Given the profound changes occurring in local government in Canada and Alberta, the instructor reserves the right to assign additional an/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

\*Lecture 1 (Web)

\*Graham, chapter 1

\*Masson, chapter 1

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

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

\*Lecture 2 (Web)

\*McAlpine, pp. 82-88.

\*Graham, chapters 2., 10

\*Masson, chapters 5, & 11

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

- Canadian Historical Overview

- **The Constitutional Context**
- **Intergovernmental Relations**

\*Graham, chapters 3, 8

\*Lecture 3 (Web) (continued > Intergovernmental Relations

\*Masson, chapter 5

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

- **Rural and Urban Forms**
- **Internal Structures**

\*Lecture 4 (Web)

\*Masson chapters 3 and 4

\*Graham, chapters 4 and 7

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

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

\*Lecture 5 (Web)

\*Graham, chapter 9

\*Masson, chapter 6

#### **6. ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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

\*Lecture 6 (Web)

\*Masson, chapter 8

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

- **Participation and Democracy**
- **Factors Affecting Participation**

- Election Machinery
- Participation and Democracy
- Election 1995 and 1998 > a Consideration of Results

\*Lecture 7 (Web)

\*Masson chapter 9

\*Graham, chapter 5

## **8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Interest Groups and Parties**

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

\*Lecture 8 (Web)

\*Masson, Appendix

\*Graham, chapter 6

## **9. RE-INVENTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

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

\*Lecture 9 (Web)

\*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

\*Lecture 10 (Web)

\*McAlpine, appendix (continued)

- Election Machinery
- Participation and Democracy
- Election 1995 and 1998 > a Consideration of Results

\*Lecture 7 (Web)

\*Masson chapter 9

\*Graham, chapter 5

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\*Masson, chapter 12

\*Lecture 10 (Web)

\*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

\*Lecture 11 (Web)

## **12. HOSPITAL GOVERNANCE**

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

\*Lecture 12 (Web)

## **13. THE FUTURE????**

- 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...

\*Masson, ch. 14 (review)

\*Graham, chapter 11

\*Lecture 13 (Web)

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