



Political Science 2294G | Cities in the Federation

Huron University College

Online – Summer 2020

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1:30 to 4:30pm

Dr. Kate Graham

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Office Hours: By appointment (please book through email)

Prerequisite(s): Political Science 1020E, or permission of the Department

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 – including during times of crisis, such as responding to COVID-19?

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 and the 2018 Municipal Elections in the City of Toronto – 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, based on their own interests. 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.

If you are interested in cities, mayors and local leaders, public policy, and political power – and if you care about the challenges facing Canada's cities today – this course is for you.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 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 of London, and the world.

Description of Class Methods

This course takes place online, through twice weekly (Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 4:30pm) Zoom discussion, starting on May 12. A combination of formats will be engaged, including lectures, facilitated class discussions, presentations and more.

Course Outline

The course progresses through a series of topical modules:

1. **Introduction to Cities in Canada (Week 1 / Class 1 & 2)** – the course begins with a broad overview of cities in Canada, including a discussion on their historical evolution, their place within Canadian federalism, and the features which make local governments unique among governments in Canada.
2. **Governance & Power (Week 2 / Class 3 & 4)** – the second module examines the governance and power dynamics in cities in Canada. It begins with a broad picture of the current legal and institutional landscape across provinces and territories, including an examination of efforts to adapt provincial-municipal relationships over time – as well as define federal-municipal and First Nations-municipal relationships. Students will learn about the politics of cities, including the range of governance arrangements across Canada. This module also includes a practical dimension, with an examination of four high profile incidents where provincial-municipal relations in Canada were put to the test.
3. **Cities in Canada's Provinces & Territories (Week 3 / Class 5 & 6)** – the third module builds on the previous week's discussion on governance and power by taking a much closer look at how cities are structured, empowered and operated in Canada's

provinces and territories. This module includes student presentations focused on one province or territory in Canada, as well as class lectures.

4. **Policy Challenges (Weeks 4 and 5 / Classes 7 through 10)** – the course then turns towards a critical examination of some of the most pressing social, economic, environmental and political challenges in Canada concentrated in cities. Students will engage with the policy challenge of their choice and examine how it has been addressed in three Canadian cities. This module also includes an entire class focused on the urban response to COVID-19, including a series of guest speakers.
5. **Making Progress (Week 6 / Classes 11 & 12)** – are Canada's cities equipped to address Canada's greatest social, economic, environmental and political challenges? What needs to change if we want to see greater progress? What strategies can cities employ to mobilize diverse communities towards making progress? What role do each of us as community members play in building thriving cities? The course concludes by tackling important and central questions on the topic of cities in the federation.

Textbooks and Other Required Resources

There is no single textbook for this course; instead, students are expected to engage with an eclectic array of materials including academic journals, media reports, podcasts and videos. All readings are posted in the schedule below, and when possible will be made available in OWL. Weekly readings may change or be added, as events develop (eg. relevant media articles about current events in Canadian cities will be added throughout the course).

Method of Evaluation

- **Class Participation (20%)** – students are expected to attend and actively participate in all class discussions and will be evaluated based on their in-class contributions. Given the online format and smaller class size, participation is particularly important (and weighted accordingly). Marks will be provided at the mid-point and conclusion of the course (10% on May 28 and 10% on June 18, 2020).
- **Group Presentation (15%)** – in small groups, students will examine one of four recent high-profile examples of the ongoing negotiation about the place and power of Canada's cities. More details on the assignment will be provided in class. Presentations will be made during Class #4 (Thursday, May 21, 2020). Copies of the presentation deck should be submitted via OWL.
- **Provincial or Territorial Presentation (15%)** - students will select one province or territory of their choice, and examine how cities are structured, empowered and

operated in that jurisdiction. A specific list of topics to be covered will be provided in class. Students will give a presentation and lead a class discussion on that jurisdiction during Week 3 (May 26. And May 28, 2020) during Class 5 or Class 6.

- **Urban Policy Paper (25%)** – students will engage with an urban policy challenge of their choice and examine how it has been addressed in three Canadian cities. The purpose of the paper is to assess (1) what variation exists, (2) why it exists, and (3) what it reveals about the capacity of cities in Canada to address pressing challenges. This 10-page (maximum) paper is due on Friday, June 12, 2020.
- **Final Exam (25%)** – during the final class, on Thursday, June 18, 2020, students will complete a final written exam based on the materials covered during the course.

Class Schedule

Module 1: Introduction to Cities in Canada	
<p>Class #1</p> <p>Tuesday, May 12 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Welcome & Topic Overview</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions 2. Course Overview 3. Urban Landscape – definitions and conceptualizations of “the city” over time; overview of Canada’s urban landscape in a global context 4. Class Exercise <p>Readings: None</p>
<p>Class #2</p> <p>Thursday, May 14 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Cities and Canadian Federalism</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Canada’s Cities – an overview of Canada’s urban landscape and the historical overview of the evolution of cities; and, an introductory discussion on the ongoing negotiation about role and power of cities in Canadian federalism 2. Federalism – overview of budget content and process; summary of plans for next class and assignment due on January 22, 2020 3. Class Exercise <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TVO’s <i>The Agenda</i>, “Should Cities Have More Power?” online; link provided in OWL • Neil Bradford, “Part 1: Global Transformations – Economy, Society and Polity” in “Why Cities Matter: Policy Research

	Perspectives for Canada, CPRN Discussion Paper No. F23, June 2002
Module 2: Governance & Power	
Class #3 Tuesday, May 19 1:30 – 4:30pm	Power & Politics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Governance of Cities – a summary of how urban governance is organized and operates, reflecting the diversity of Canadian cities Politics of Cities – an examination of how and why politics at the local level is unique Provincial & Territorial Presentations – organizing presentations for next week Class Exercise <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meric S. Gertler, “Flows of People, Capital and Ideas,” ISUMA, Autumn 2001. Available on OWL John Michael McGrath, “Cities say they want more money and more power,” TVO Blog, February 2017
Class #4 Thursday, May 21 1:30 – 4:30pm	Negotiating Boundaries <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Power Struggles - a discussion on the ongoing negotiation about role and power of cities in Canadian federalism, including the Charter Cities movement Group Presentations– in small groups, students will examine one of four recent high-profile examples of the ongoing negotiation about the place and power of Canada’s cities. More details on the assignment will be provided in class. Copies of the presentation deck should be submitted via OWL. Worth 15% of course grade. <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to Spacing Radio 034 Podcast, “Provincial Creatures” available via OWL
Module 3: Cities in Canada’s Provinces & Territories	
Class #5 Tuesday, May 26 1:30 – 4:30pm	Provincial & Territorial Presentations – Group 1 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Student Presentations - students will select one province or territory of their choice, and examine how cities are structured, empowered and operated in that jurisdiction. A specific list of topics to be covered will be provided in class.

	<p>Students will give a presentation and lead a class discussion on that jurisdiction. Worth 15% of course grade.</p> <p>Readings: None</p>
<p>Class #6</p> <p>Thursday, May 28 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Provincial & Territorial Presentations – Group 2</p> <p>1. Student Presentations - students will select one province or territory of their choice, and examine how cities are structured, empowered and operated in that jurisdiction. A specific list of topics to be covered will be provided in class. Students will give a presentation and lead a class discussion on that jurisdiction. Worth 15% of course grade.</p> <p>Readings: None</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First half participation marks will be posted on OWL (10%)
<p>Module 4: Urban Policy Challenges</p>	
<p>Class #7</p> <p>Tuesday, June 2 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Economic & Social Policy Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deeper Dive: Economic Issues – an examination of some of the most pressing economic policy issues facing cities 2. Deeper Dive: Social Issues – an examination of some of the most pressing social policy issues facing cities 3. Guest Speaker – TBD 4. Class Exercise <p>Readings: to be assigned closer to date (will focus on contemporary reports and/or media articles related to topic)</p>
<p>Class #8</p> <p>Thursday, June 4 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Environmental & Political Policy Challenges</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deeper Dive: Economic Issues – an examination of some of the most pressing economic policy issues facing cities 2. Deeper Dive: Social Issues – an examination of some of the most pressing social policy issues facing cities 3. Guest Speaker – TBD 4. Class Exercise <p>Readings: to be assigned closer to date (will focus on contemporary reports and/or media articles related to topic)</p>

<p>Class #9</p> <p>Tuesday, June 9 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Cities & COVID-19</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. History of Cities & Pandemics 2. COVID-19 – an examination of how the novel coronavirus has impacted Canadian cities, and the local responses 3. Guest Speaker – TBD 4. Class Exercise <p>Readings: to be assigned closer to date (will focus on contemporary reports and/or media articles related to topic)</p>
<p>Class #10</p> <p>Thursday, June 11 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Urban Policy Wrap Up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roundtable on Student Policy Papers <p>Readings: none.</p> <p>Note: Urban Policy Papers (worth 25% of course grade) due on Friday, June 12, 2020.</p>
<p>Module 5: Making Progress</p>	
<p>Class #11</p> <p>Tuesday, June 16 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Making Progress</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Great Debate - are Canada's cities equipped to address Canada's greatest social, economic, environmental and political challenges? What needs to change if we want to see greater progress? 2. Final Preparation for Exam <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Broadbent, <i>Urban Nation</i> (selected chapters)
<p>Class #12</p> <p>Tuesday, June 18 1:30 – 4:30pm</p>	<p>Final Exam (in class) – worth 25% of course grade</p> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second half participation marks will be posted on OWL (10%)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Prerequisites

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the prerequisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will

receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Late Penalties

Assignments submitted after the stated due date, without prior approval from Dr. Graham, will be deducted 5% per day for up to 10 days at which time the assignment will receive a grade of zero.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is an academic offense and will be treated as such. Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair, or Dean's Office, as well as the Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism, available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library and at www.huronuc.on.ca. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the Huron University College Library. Information about these resources can be found at www.huronuc.on.ca/library&computing~styleguides. Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form.