Department of Political Science  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  

Urban Politics and Governance in Canada  
POL 306H1S  
Summer 2012  

Instructor:  Rachael Gibson  
Office:  Sidney Smith Hall, Room 3121  
Office Hours:  Thursday, 2-4 PM  
E-Mail:  rachael.gibson@utoronto.ca  

Lecture Hours:  Monday and Wednesday, 6-8 PM  
Lecture Room:  Bahen Centre for Information Technology, Room 1210  

Course Description:  
In recent years, there has been a resurgence of scholarly interest in urban politics and local government. As many political commentators have noted, Canadian cities are “back on the policy agenda.” A key question is: why now? This course aims to address this question by examining some of the broad contextual developments that define the twenty-first century. We will look at how the forces of economic globalization, increased urbanization and industrialization, and changing patterns of immigration have altered the urban policy landscape in Canada. At a second level of analysis, we will examine the changing dynamics of the intergovernmental context in the mid- to late-1990s. Introducing students to core concepts such as “disentanglement”, “downloading” and “deep federalism”, we will investigate the complex linkages between national, regional and municipal politics in Canada. In addition to the role of global forces and changes in the intergovernmental context, we will look at the role of local actors and explore the nature of the urban autonomy movement in Canada – or the so-called “New Deal for Cities” movement.  

Whereas the first part of the course focuses specifically on issues of urban politics and local government in Canada, the second half of the course aims to situate the Canadian case in a broader comparative context. This will be done from both a theoretical and an empirical standpoint. Taken together, the two parts of the course will give students the analytical skills needed to engage with and critically evaluate contemporary issues and debates in the study of urban politics and governance.  

Required Readings:  

POL 306H1S Course Reading Package. Available at Print City, 180 Bloor Street West. Phone: 416-920-3040. The cost of the course reader is $45.00 + GST.
Requirements and Evaluation:
Course evaluation will be based on a research component and a final exam. The research component includes a research paper proposal (2 pages double-spaced plus an annotated bibliography) and a research paper (10-15 pages double-spaced).

For the research assignment, students are expected to choose a topic from the context of the course and develop a comparative analysis of two North American cities (students can compare two Canadian cities or one city in Canada and one in the United States). The paper proposal should provide a concise introduction to the topic, articulate a clear research question, and provide a first structure of the argument to be advanced. The proposal should also include an annotated bibliography. In most cases, the research paper will be developed from the proposal and the comments received on it. To conserve paper, please print all assignments double-sided.

All assignments should be handed in on the due date in class. The due dates for the assignments are listed below. A late penalty of 3% per day will be deducted from the mark for the first 7 days (including weekends). Assignments will not be accepted after this 7-day period. Students are encouraged to keep all rough and draft work as well as hard copies of their research papers and assignments until the marked assignments have been returned.

The grade breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal (due class 4)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper (due class 10)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Email Policy:
Students should feel free to email the instructor (rachael.gibson@utoronto.ca) with any questions or concerns regarding the class and course assignments. Student emails will be responded to as promptly as possible (within 2 days, not including weekends). For questions that require a lengthy response, students are encouraged to speak to the instructor in person either after class or during office hours. If students have any health-related or personal problems that may potentially interfere with their performance in class, they should inform the instructor and the Registrar early on in the term.

Blackboard:
The course uses the management system Blackboard to help establish efficient communication between instructor and student. One of its advantages is that students can access their marks at any time on an individual basis. To access the Blackboard website, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The Help Desk at the Information Commons and telephone assistance under 416-978-HELP can also answer other related questions.
Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the “My Courses” module. Here you will find the link to this course website along with links to all your other Blackboard-based courses. At times, the instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up and properly entered in the ROSI system.

**Turnitin.com:**
The course also uses Turnitin.com, a web-based program to deter plagiarism. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they are used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. If, as a student, you object to using Turnitin.com, please see the instructor to establish alternative arrangements prior to the submission deadline.

Plagiarism is a very serious offence and will be dealt with accordingly. Failure to properly reference ideas, concepts, and quotations that are not your own will result in academic penalties. For further clarification and information, please see the Plagiarism Handout on the Blackboard-based course website and the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at: [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

Students are expected to register with the course on the Turnitin.com website as soon as they have decided to take the course. The Class Name is: POL306H1S. To register, you will need the following information:

Class ID: **5180584**  
Enrolment Password: **urbanpol2012**

**Accessibility Needs:**
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability or have any accessibility concerns related to the course, the classroom or the course materials, please contact Accessibility Services at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or [http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/](http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/).

Further details regarding the course will be discussed in class.
Course Outline and Reading Schedule

Readings marked by an asterisk (*) are required and are included in the course reader.

Class 1 (July 4): Why is it Important to Study Urban Politics and Local Government?

* Tindal and Tindal – Chapters 1 and 3


Class 2 (July 9): The Historical and Institutional Foundations of Local Government in Canada

* Tindal and Tindal – Chapters 2 and 8


Class 3 (July 11): Municipalities and Canadian Intergovernmental Relations

* Tindal and Tindal – Chapter 6


**Class 4 (July 16): Governing Canada’s Metropolitan Regions**

**PAPER PROPOSAL DUE**

* Tindal and Tindal – Chapters 4 and 5


Class 5 (July 18): Municipal Finance in Canada

* Tindal and Tindal – Chapter 7


Class 6 (July 23): Municipal Elections, Public Participation and Urban Citizenship

* Tindal and Tindal – Chapter 10


**Class 7 (July 25): Canadian Urban Municipalities in Comparative Perspective**


**Class 8 (July 30): Community Power, Capacity-Building and Urban Regimes**


**Class 9 (August 1): Globalization Processes and the Politics of Place**


***August 6: Civic Holiday – University Closed***
Class 10 (August 8): Creative Cities, Industrial Clusters and Economic Growth

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**


Class 11 (August 13): Immigration and Diversity in Urban Municipalities


