This course provides an introduction to the concept and practice of local government. The course will cover the development, structure, and operation of municipal government in Canada, with particular emphasis on recent municipal reform and Newfoundland.

This will be a combination lecture and discussion course. Students will be encouraged to read the material before class and to use class time to ask questions, seek clarification, and to discuss the issues raised in the readings. Special guests, including municipal politicians, administrators, and senior civil servants, may be invited to the class at appropriate times.

Texts


Other required readings will be placed on reserve.

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam (around week 7)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
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Mid-term Exam

The mid-term exam will be based on lectures and reading material covered to that point. Questions may be any combination of multiple-choice, short answer, or essay format.

Essay

The essay will be an analysis of some issue or policy which has been dealt with or considered by a municipal council in Newfoundland or by the provincial Department of Municipal Affairs within the past ten years. You will be expected to conduct background research on the issue, trace the decision, and relate the issue to municipal law, theory, or practice as relevant. Further instructions are attached.

Final exam

The final exam will be held in the regular examination period. Questions will be based on required readings and on information provided in lectures for the entire course. The format may include any combination of multiple-choice, short answer, or essay-type questions.
Course Outline and Readings

1. **Introduction**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chap 1
   Municipalities Act, Sections 156-204, and 222-246
   Feldman & Goldrick, "Local Government and Democracy" (on reserve)
   Municipal Councillor’s Handbook, Chap 1

2. **Origins and Early Reforms**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chaps 2 and 3
   Municipalities Act, Sections 3-25

3. **Recent Structural Reforms**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chaps 4 and 5
   Municipalities Act, Sections 26-52

4. **Finances and Taxes**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chap 7
   Municipalities Act, Sections 75-155

5. **Governing the Municipality**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chapters 8 and 9
   Municipalities Act, Sections 12-22, 25, 40-50, 53-74, 154-250, 205-221, and 448
   Municipal Councillor’s Handbook, chap 2, 3, 5, and 6

6. **Municipal Policy Making**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chap 10
   Municipalities Act, ss 205-221
   Municipal Councillor’s Handbook, pp. 79-87

7. **Intergovernmental Relations**

   Tindal and Tindal, Chap 6
Term Paper

This paper will provide you with the opportunity to analyze an issue or policy that is directly related to municipal government in Newfoundland. There are two choices of topic:

1. Any issue or policy that has been dealt with by a Newfoundland municipal council over the past ten years. You will probably write a better paper if there has been substantial public and council discussion about the topic since information will be easier to find. Suggestions include, but are not limited to, the following:
   - a zoning issue (housing development, business uses)
   - a major council expenditure (capital projects such as an arena, a new town water and sewer installation, or new capital equipment)
   - expropriation
   - budget cutbacks
   - tax increases
   - regulations (animal control, water ban)
   - council-staff relations

   Students will be expected to relate the specific issue under study to broader concepts covered in the course readings and other reference material where appropriate. Literature on municipal interest groups, ward systems, roles of councillors and staff, municipal structures, provincial-municipal relations, finances, planning and zoning laws, and other relevant material should be incorporated depending on the topic.

2. An analysis of any provincial policy related to municipal government in Newfoundland and Labrador since 1949. Some suggestions might include:
   - amalgamation
   - regionalization
   - establishment of local government
   - assessment
   - provincial-municipal financial arrangements
   - municipal legislation

   As with the previous topic, students will be expected to relate the specific issue under study to broader concepts covered in the course readings and other reference material where appropriate. Literature on municipal structures, provincial-municipal relations, finances, and other relevant material should be incorporated depending on the topic.

FORMAT: In all cases, papers must be adequately documented with standard footnotes and bibliographies. Be sure that you will be able to obtain sufficient information about a topic before committing yourself to write on it. Papers may be argumentative, but should provide a balanced assessment of the issue.

Papers should be no longer than ten double-spaced printed pages (about 2,500 to 3,000 words), although content endnotes can be used to provide further information on matters discussed in the body of the paper itself.
The papers will be graded on a combination of research, depth of analysis, writing and presentation style, scholarly content, and overall impact. Dreary, blow-by-blow descriptions of the history of a particular issue with little reference to a broader or comparative setting will not receive high grades. Similarly, papers that are weak in documentation, poorly written, one-sided, or scantily researched will also fare poorly.

NOTE: Papers which will involve any form of interview must receive prior approval from the Departmental Ethics Review Committee.

DUE DATE:  The final date for receipt of the essay will be on the last day of class, November 30, 2006. No essays will be accepted after this date. To encourage the early submission of papers with a maximum potential for learning, the following submission scheme will be followed:

Essays received on or before November 2 will be critiqued and given tentative grades. Students may either keep the original grade or resubmit the essay on or before November 30 for a final grade which will not be less than the original grade.

Essays received on or before November 16 will be critiqued, graded, and returned by November 30. No opportunity for rewriting will be available.

Essays received after November 16 will receive only a grade with no comments or suggestions.

No essays will be accepted after November 30.