TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI

VICTORIA
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

School of Government

MAPP 528
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(15 Points)

Trimester One 2007

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Coordinator: **Professor Claudia Scott**
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Module Dates, Times and Locations

Module One: Friday 23 February 2007   8.30am – 6.00pm

Module Two: Friday 20 April 2007   8.30am – 6.00pm

Module Three: Friday 8 June 2007   8.30am – 6.00pm

Location: Classes will normally be held on the Pipitea Campus of Victoria University and you will be advised of your classroom one week prior to each module by email.

Course Overview

This course examines strategic policy and planning in a community setting, drawing on local and international experience. Emphasis is given to different concepts of local governance and to the roles of and relationships among central and local government, the private sector, Maori and various stakeholder groups.

Course Content

This course will identify and discuss trends, issues, challenges and opportunities with respect to strategic policy in New Zealand and overseas, and assess the potential for the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) to add value to communities by enhancing the ability of local governments to contribute services and activities which enhance the economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes for local communities.

The course aims to help participants:

- Enhance their understanding of normative theories and frameworks surrounding local government system design with respect to the role and function, structure and financing arrangements for local government;
- Understand some of the issues and challenges facing local governments in different country contexts, including opportunities for stronger local governance;
- Appreciate the merits and demerits of joined-up, whole-of-government approaches to policy developments involving local governments;
- Know the key features, strengths and limitations of different approaches to strategic planning in community settings;
- Understand the history and evolution of strategic policy and planning for local governments and the significance of the LGA 2002 for local government, strategy and communities;
- Analyse and reflect upon alternative policy, management and strategic directions for local government, and assess existing and alternative approaches to local governance in international and local contexts.

Learning Commitment

The learning objectives set for each course are demanding and, to achieve them, candidates must make a significant commitment in time and effort to reading, studying, thinking, and completion of assessment items outside of contact time. Courses vary in design but all require preparation and learning before the first module. Regular learning is necessary between modules (students who leave everything to the last moment rarely achieve at a high level). Expressed in input terms, the time commitment required usually translates to 65-95 hours (excluding class contact time) per course.

Readings

A book of course readings will be provided and, in addition, a copy of the Local Government Know How Guide: The Local Government Act: An Overview. To assist you, we have identified a few readings under each topic which we would like you to be familiar with prior to the module. The number of the reading is noted in brackets after the author(s). Once this has been done, you can turn your attention to the remaining readings.

Course Structure

Module One: *(Claudia Scott, Mike Reid)*

- Local Government: an international perspective - Norton (1), Cheyne (2), Local Futures (3)
- From Local government to Local Governance - Centre for Democratic Governance (7), Andrew and Goldsmith (9), Savitch (10)
- Normative Frameworks - Bailey (11), Local Authority Funding Issues (12), Loughlin & Martin (13)
- The New Local Government Act Know How Guide - Reid (14), McKinlay (15)

Module Two: *(Claudia Scott, Mike Reid)*

- Central and Local Government Relationships - Banner (16), Stoker (17), Reid (18), Guerritsen (19), Reid (24), Scott & McNeill (25)
- Market Failure/Local Government Failure - Dollery & Wallis(26)
- Strategy and Local Government - Local Futures(20), Bill, Collinge, Worrall (21), Martin (24)
- Community Plans - Know How Guide, Burke (23)

Module Three: *(Claudia Scott, Mike Reid)*

- Student Presentation of Case Studies
- Alternative Models of Community Governance
- Challenges and Opportunities for Local Governments - Lowndes & Wilson (27)

Assessment Requirements

One 2000 word (maximum) essay (35%); a 4000 word case study project (50%); presentation and class participation (15%).

Please email ALL assignments (as a Microsoft Word document) to francine.mcgee@vuw.ac.nz, claudia.scott@vuw.ac.nz and mike.reid@lgnz.co.nz.

Essay (2000 words / 35%): Due 5.00pm Friday 30 March 2007

Answer **ONE** of the following questions:

Note: you may (alternatively) discuss another government with which you are familiar

1. Drawing on various normative frameworks, provide a critique of the functions and financing arrangements surrounding NZ local government. Suggest any areas where you believe that modifications to current arrangements are warranted.

    OR

2. Drawing on normative frameworks and international experience, discuss some of the key similarities and differences between local government in New Zealand and in other countries. Identify areas where you consider change is warranted and provide justification for your views.

Case Study Project (4000 words / 50%): Draft due Wednesday 30 May 2007; Slides due Monday 4 June 2007; Presentation on Friday 8 June 2007; Final report due Friday 15 June 2007

Select two councils which are participating in the Local Futures Research Project (see below). Compare and assess their draft Long Term Council Community Plans with respect to the following criteria:

*   the clarity of direction provided by the identified community outcomes;
*   the nature and effectiveness of the linkages between outcomes and outputs (council activities);
*   the quality of evidence presented that the community outcomes exercise has influenced priority setting in relation to council's outputs and activities;
*   the level and quality of information used by the council to assess the strategic challenges and opportunities to the achievement of outcomes;
*   the degree to which the plan describes negative(as well as positive) consequences of its activities;
*   the degree to which the contribution to council outcomes by other agencies has been acknowledged in the plan;
*   the degree to which the plan includes meaningful measures to assess whether or not the outcomes will have been advanced over the 3 year life of the plan.

Comment briefly on how "strategic" the plans are –drawing on different concepts and features of 'strategy'. Does this plan have the capacity to assist the council and community to 'adapt to' and 'shape' the future?

Note: Participating councils in the Local Futures Research Project are: Auckland Regional Council; Canterbury Regional Council; Carterton District Council; Central Hawkes Bay District Council; Christchurch City Council; Dunedin City Council; Grey District Council; Hurunui District Council; Manukau City Council; Marlborough District Council; New Plymouth District Council; Porirua City Council; Ruapehu District Council; Southland District Council; Stratford District Council; Waipa District Council; Waitakere City Council;

[Wellington City Council;](url) [Western Bay of Plenty District Council](url). Further information on the Local Futures project can be obtained at www.localfutures.ac.nz.

A draft of your case study assignment must be submitted no later than **5.00pm Wednesday 30 May 2007**. Each student will make a short presentation on their project at the third module on **Friday 8 June 2007**. Students must bring copies of slides (maximum of 6 slides per presentation) for everyone in the class in handout form. Please submit a copy of the slides by **5.00pm Monday 4 June 2007**. Mark the message "MAPP 528 slides for 8 June session". You must submit a final version of your case study project no later than **5.00pm Friday 15 June 2007**.

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

ANZSOG candidates taking this course as an elective should note that they take it for 24 points, and not 15 points. Accordingly, the learning outcomes to be achieved by ANZSOG candidates are wider and deeper than those expected for non-ANZSOG candidates. The content of those learning outcomes, and the means whereby they will be assessed, will be negotiated and confirmed with the Course Coordinator at the start of the course.

Penalties

The ability to plan for and meet deadlines is a core competency of both advanced study and public management. Failure to meet deadlines disrupts course planning and is unfair on students who do submit their work on time. It is expected therefore that you will complete and hand in assignments by the due date. Marks may be deducted where assignments are submitted after the due date. For out of town students, two calendar days' grace is given to allow for time in the post.

If ill-health, family bereavement or other personal emergencies prevent you from meeting the deadline for submitting a piece of written work or from attending class to make a presentation, you can apply for and may be granted an extension to the due date. Note that this applies only to extreme unforeseen circumstances and is not necessarily awarded. You should let your Course Coordinator know as soon as possible in advance of the deadline if you are seeking an extension.

Mandatory Course Requirements

To fulfil the mandatory course requirements for this course, you are required to:

1. Submit all assignments by the due date, unless you have been granted an extension;
2. Attend all contact sessions of the course. If you are unable to attend a session, you must inform the Course Coordinator as soon as possible and you may be required to submit a further item of assessment.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be communicated in class or by email.

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

Railway West Wing (RWW) - FCA Student and Academic Services Office
The Faculty's Student and Academic Services Office is located on the ground and first floors of the Railway West Wing. The ground floor counter is the first point of contact for general enquiries and FCA forms. Student Administration Advisers are available to discuss course status and give further advice about FCA qualifications. To check for opening hours, call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

Easterfield (EA) - FCA/Education/Law Kelburn Office
The Kelburn Campus Office for the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, Education and Law is situated in the Easterfield Building - it includes the ground floor reception desk (EA 005) and offices 125a to 131 (Level 1). The office is available for the following:

- Duty tutors for student contact and advice.
- Information concerning administrative and academic matters.
- Forms for FCA Student and Academic Services (e.g. application for academic transcripts, requests for degree audit, COP requests).
- Examinations-related information during the examination period.

To check for opening hours, call the Student and Academic Services Office on (04) 463 5376.

General University Policies and Statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied. See the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.vuw.ac.nz.

Student and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct. The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course, you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean. VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievances Policy which is published on the VUW website at www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other student or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalised severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- An oral or written warning
- Cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- Suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website at www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine Turnitin (www.turnitin.com). Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which identifies material that may have been copied from other sources including the Internet, books, journals, periodicals or the work of other students. Turnitin is used to assist academic staff in detecting misreferencing, misquotation, and the

inclusion of unattributed material, which may be forms of cheating or plagiarism. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. You are strongly advised to check with your tutor or the Course Coordinator if you are uncertain about how to use and cite material from other sources. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

Students with Impairments

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building (telephone (04) 463 6070, email disability@vuw.ac.nz). The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the School Office or DSS.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each Faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

In addition, the Student Services Group (email student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/.

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and Faculty delegates. The Education Office (telephone (04) 463 6983 or (04) 463 6984, email education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

Manaaki Pihipihinga is an academic mentoring programme for undergraduate Māori and Pacific students in the Faculties of Commerce and Administration, and Humanities and Social Sciences. Sessions are held at the Kelburn and Pipitea Campuses in the Mentoring Rooms, 14 Kelburn Parade (back courtyard), Room 109D, and Room 210, Level 2, Railway West Wing. There is also a Pacific Support Coordinator who assists Pacific students by linking them to the services and support they need while studying at Victoria. Another feature of the programme

is a support network for Postgraduate students with links to Postgraduate workshops and activities around Campus.

For further information, or to register with the programme, email manaaki-pihipihinga-programme@vuw.ac.nz or telephone (04) 463 5233 extension 8977. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or telephone (04) 463 5842.