

School of Government

MAPP 528
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(15 Points)

Trimester One 2008

COURSE OUTLINE

Contact Details

Course Coordinator: **Professor Claudia Scott**
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Other Lecturers: **Mike Reid**
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Module Dates, Times and Locations

Module One:	Friday 22 February 2008	8.30am – 6.00pm
Module Two:	Friday 18 April 2008	8.30am – 6.00pm
Module Three:	Friday 6 June 2008	8.30am – 6.00pm

Locations: Classes will 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 Objectives

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 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 Local Government Act 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.

Written and oral assessments will help students to consolidate their learning and provide them with opportunities to undertake research on New Zealand reform experiences and to compare these across jurisdictions and relative to approaches to local government and governance in other countries.

Course Content

This course will identify and discuss trends, issues, challenges and opportunities with respect to strategic policy in New Zealand and overseas. Students will assess the ability of local governments to undertake activities which enhance the economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes of local communities.

Module One (Claudia Scott, Mike Reid)

- Local Government: An International Perspective
- Normative Frameworks for Local Government
- Market and Government Failure in Local Government
- The Local Government Act 2002

Please read the first 11 Readings for the first session. We suggest that you skim them all, before setting out to read them properly. Also read the Local Government Act 2002: Know How Guide (see www.lgnz.co.nz).

Module Two (Claudia Scott, Mike Reid)

- Strategic Planning in Local Government
- Strategic Local Governance
- The Development of Community Plans
- Enhancing Local Government Capability and Performance

Look at readings 12 onwards. We suggest that you skim them first, before reading them.

Module Three (Claudia Scott, Mike Reid)

- Student Presentation of Case Studies
- Alternative Models of Community Governance
- Challenges and Opportunities for Local Governments

Learning Commitment

The learning objectives set for each course are demanding and, to achieve them, students 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.

Group Work

Peer and self-assessment may play a part in the learning process, but will not contribute directly towards the course grade.

Readings

A course book of readings will be provided to you before the first meeting of the course.

Materials and Equipment

No special materials or equipment is required.

Assessment Requirements

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

Essay (2000 words, 35%): due 5.00pm, Thursday 27 March 2008

“We contend that cogent reasons exist which suggest that local governments are much more susceptible to government failure than higher levels of government” (Dollery and Wallis 2001 p. 53). Critique this statement with reference to the theory of government failure and the experiences of NZ local government (or alternatively, another local government with which you are familiar).

Case Study (4000 words, 50%): slides due 5.00pm, Monday 2 June 2008; presentation due Friday 6 June 2008 (Module Three); final report due 5.00pm, Friday 13 June 2008.

Select two councils which are participating in the Local Futures Research Project. Compare and assess their 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 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;
- the degree to which the plan reflects a concept of councils as primarily service providers and/or a partner in the furthering of community governance;
- comment on whether the plans are likely to enhance the council’s ability to improve its strategic and operational planning performance.

Please submit ALL assignments BY EMAIL (as a Microsoft Word attachment) to francine.mcgee@vuw.ac.nz

Students should keep a copy of all submitted work.

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;
2. Attend all contact sessions of the course.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information may be provided in class and by email.

Withdrawal Dates

Students giving notice of withdrawal from this course after **Monday 3 March 2008** will NOT receive a refund of fees.

Students giving notice of withdrawal from this course after **Friday 30 May 2008** are regarded as having failed the course, unless the Associate Dean subsequently gives approval to withdraw.

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 on the ground floor (EA 005). This counter is the first point of contact for:

- 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.

Notice of Turnitin Use

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine 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 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.

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 or go to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy/students.aspx

For information on the following topics, go to the Faculty's website www.victoria.ac.nz/fca under Important Information for Students:

- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

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 6015. To contact the Pacific Support Coordinator, email pacific-support-coord@vuw.ac.nz or telephone (04) 463 5842.