POLS*4900 & POLS*6950 (03) – SPECIAL TOPICS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE: COMMUNITY ENGAGED POLITICS

CLASS LOGISTICS

Instructor: Leah Levac (llevac@uoguelph.ca)
Day/Time: Tuesdays, 8:30 am – 11:20 am
Course materials: All readings and materials provided through ARES/online

COURSE CONTENT

Three broad questions guide this community-engaged class: (1) How do (primarily municipal) governments engage with ‘the public’ and how does ‘the public’ engage with governments to try and inform policy and program decisions? (2) How is ‘the public’ impacted by local government policy and program decisions? and (3) How can community engaged scholarship contribute to bringing ‘the public’ and government closer together?

Our particular interest throughout the term will be with members of the public who are historically marginalized in communities (i.e., people who experience discrimination on protected grounds, such as age, gender expression and identity, Indigenous status, colour, disability, sexual orientation, etc.). However, the materials we cover, as well as the work we undertake, will extend beyond this focus.

We will touch on materials on: local governance, policy development, deliberative democracy, community engaged scholarship theories and methods, and social identity and location. While doing so, you will have the opportunity to apply and expand your knowledge by completing a piece of community-engaged or community-informed research related to the relationship between ‘the public’ and government policy and program decisions.

Class Schedule and Learning Materials
Each class will focus on a question or series of questions that will frame our discussions, your participation in the class, and the materials that we cover. The questions will also lead you through the information you need to consider in completing your major community-engaged or community-informed term project.

Assessment*
Class participation & reading summaries – 30%
Seminar (POLS*6950 students only) – 25%
Content papers – 20%
Term project – 50%

*Note that grading for grad students equals > 100% and will be adjusted proportionally.