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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30pm-4:30pm
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 3060

SII 199Y: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE CITY

Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm UC D301

Course Description

Cities highlight the best and worst aspects of modern life and they reveal the starkest contradictions of our time. Cities, for example, produce the majority of the world's wealth and are engines of the global economy yet they also give rise to extreme forms of poverty and inequality. They are hubs of creativity, innovation, and ingenuity as well as social disorder, dysfunction, and environmental degradation. Cities foster transnational connections, diverse communities, and rich public lives but they also breed alienation, exclusions, and social antagonisms. They promise liberty, progress, and prosperity for all at the same time that they institutionalize systems of control, exploitation and violence. How do we make sense of this complex and contradictory picture? Who benefits and who loses from different modes of urban development? How can we conceive of and build cities that promote 'the good life' for all residents equally?

The course attempts to open up debate and discussion on the antagonisms we find inherent in the city through the lens of social justice. The course first introduces a variety of ways (e.g. liberal, Marxist, feminist) that we can think about and debate social justice. With these various dialogues on social justice sketched out, the course turns its attention to the 'urban question.' It asks what is distinctive about the issue of social justice in an urban context and whether we need to view *justice* and *injustice* as matters of spatial politics. In the final section of the course, a number of timely urban themes are examined and we attempt to bring our understandings of social justice to issues of housing, mobility, public space, and decision making.

Overall, the course considers the city as a crucial setting of social change as well as a key site of social theorizing. The class claims that the various forms of urban injustice that surround us are not natural phenomena but political creations – and therefore always resistible through emancipatory movements. In this way, we will consider the extent to which various conceptions of social justice can help us to understand the forces that shape urban environments, provide us with critical tools to address urban problems, and enable us to build alternative, more socially just communities.

Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to various notions of social justice so that they can better understand a diverse urban issues. It is intended that students can use this knowledge to reflect on their own lives. The objectives for student learning in this course can be roughly grouped into two main categories: knowledge and skills. At the end of the year, you should:

- Be able to define, describe and debate a number of key theories of social justice
- Understand how justice and injustice are central concerns within the city and how the operation of justice shapes urban development and urban ways of life
- Recognize the highly uneven and differentiated character of urbanization and how various hierarchical structures affect contemporary urban politics

- Examine various urban issues (including access to housing, mobility, public space, and decision making) from a social justice perspective
- Have a better understanding of your own embeddedness within urban relations and your capacities for individual and collective action.
- Be able to critically read texts and analyze complex arguments about the social world.
- Be able to formulate compelling arguments and structure evidence in a logical fashion.
- Be able to effectively communicate ideas both verbally and in writing.

Requirements

Participation

It is assumed that students will attend every session—and arrive on time—unless a serious illness or emergency arises. Our classroom will be a safe academic environment where ideas are devised, debated, and deconstructed. Feel free to speak your mind on any and all of the issues that will arise during the course. I encourage you to participate even if you think that your views may be unpopular with other students. A university is an important place to debate difficult issues—and in doing so, to challenge others, to appreciate unfamiliar viewpoints, and to reflect upon and deepen one’s own convictions. All students are encouraged to think out loud and to exchange ideas openly.

As a seminar, this course will be directed **by and for students**. My role (as the instructor for this course) is to provide you with a conceptual framework and to facilitate your learning. My role is not merely to deliver factual material to passive learners. It is essential that you take your role as active participant seriously. The success of the seminar is dependent on the group's ability to work together and, through intelligent discussion, develop an understanding of the material that you would not have come to on your own. A seminar is an ongoing and open conversation that unfolds through our shared collective engagements. The participants therefore carry the burden of responsibility for the quality of the discussion. Good discussions tend to occur when participants study texts closely in advance, listen actively, share their ideas and questions in response to the ideas and questions of others, and are generous and respectful to their peers and interlocutors.

NB: Weekly class attendance is necessary, but not sufficient for a top class participation grade. Your participation will be evaluated as follows:

Grade	Description of Contribution
A	Contributions reflect exceptional preparation. Ideas offered are always substantive and provide major insights and direction for class. Analyses are persuasive and thoughtful. If this person were not a class member, the quality of the discussions and exercises would be significantly diminished. No unexcused absences.
B	Contributions reflect thorough preparation. Ideas are usually substantive, they provide good insights, and frequently provide useful direction for the class discussion. Analyses are persuasive and are grounded in the required course materials. If this person were not in the class, the quality of discussions and exercises would be diminished considerably. One to two unexcused absences.
C	Contributions reflect satisfactory preparation. Ideas are generally useful but seldom offer a new direction for the discussion. Analyses are not well substantiated, may be only tangentially related to the course, or may not be compelling. If this person were not in the class, the quality of the discussions and exercises would be somewhat diminished. Three to four unexcused absences.

D	This person has said little to nothing in class. Remarks tend to be unsubstantiated, irrelevant, or inappropriate to the discussion at hand. If this person were not a member of the class, the quality of the exercises and discussions would not be negatively affected. Four or more unexcused absences.
F	Contributions reflect inadequate preparation. Ideas offered do not provide a constructive direction for the class and often are obvious or confusing. Integrative comments and effective analyses are absent. Although this person showed up to class, if this person were not a class member discussion would not be negatively affected. Five or more unexcused absences.

Reading

The readings are the foundation of the course. Students should read all the required materials before class and be prepared—with notes and question—to discuss the major issues raised in the material. You will be asked to rely on various critical and interpretive skills to explore the theories and concepts presented. Students are also encouraged to suggest additional readings based on your interests and to circulate relevant texts (news articles, multimedia clips, event notices etc.) to each other throughout the course. Feel free to share these directly on Blackboard or to bring them to my attention for distribution in class.

Assignments

In order to successfully fulfill the requirements for the course, students must complete two short reflective essays (4-5 pages each, due in class on October 26th and November 30th respectively) and a major research project (components are due throughout the second semester). Weekly exploratory assignments will also be used to stimulate discussion. Details of each assignment will be distributed in class.

Evaluation

The grade for the class will be determined as follows:

Participation	30%
Exploratory Assignments	10%
Reflective Essays (x2)	30%
Research Project	30%

Academic Policy:

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and achieving course goals. The assignments in this course are designed to give you an opportunity to learn important skills and concepts over the course of your degree by making honest attempts through your own thinking, writing, and hard work. I am strongly committed to assigning grades based on my students' honest efforts to demonstrate learning in this course. Academic dishonesty in any form will thus not be tolerated.

Acts of academic dishonesty include:

- copying material word-for-word and not acknowledging the source by placing the text within quotation marks, even with a citation

- submitting work produced by someone else as though it was your own (a friend's paper, work purchased from a custom essay site)
- submitting the same work, in part or in whole, for multiple courses
- “editing” that results in a paper which is no longer entirely your own work.

For a complete list of offences, see section B of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Deadlines

All deadlines are firm. Late submissions of any assignment will be penalized 5% for each 24 hours after the deadline. If you have extenuating circumstances that are affecting your ability to meet deadlines, please speak with me in office hours as soon as you can.

Libraries

The U of T library system is an extraordinary resource for accessing information, conducting research and enhancing your learning. I especially encourage students to consult with librarians for assistance on their research projects. In addition, the following guide, How to Cite: <http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/citing> will be helpful for this class.

Other Resources

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Writing

The University of Toronto offers many helpful resources and tools to aid students in academic writing. No matter your writing ability, I strongly suggest that you familiarize yourself with the workshops, tutoring services and advice guides provided at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca>. Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL)—a useful resource for multilingual students—is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

The following books are also recommended for writing and reading guidance.

- William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White (1959). *The Elements of Style*. New York: Macmillan [abridged version also available online at: <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>]
- Joseph M. Williams (2009) *Style: The Basics of Clarity and Grace* (3rd Edition). New York: Pearson.
- Mortimer J. Adler and C. L. Van Doren (1972) *How to Read a Book*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Readings

There is one required book for the class available for purchase at the U of T Bookstore: Jay Pitter and John Lorinc's *Subdivided: City-Building in an Age of Hyper-Diversity* (Coach House Books, 2016). All other materials will be made available through Blackboard or the U of T library system.

Weekly Schedule

Theorizing (Urban) Social Justice

What do we mean by social justice? How do various authors and intellectual traditions conceive of justice? Are these definitions contextual or universal? How do systems of justice and injustice become institutionalized and made durable? How are these spatialized/urbanized? (How) does the city require us to rethink categories of justice and injustice? Does social justice look different in the global north and the global south?

September 14: Introduction

September 21: Theorizing Social Justice I

James Connolly and Justin Steil. 2009. "Introduction: Finding Justice in the City." in *Searching for the Just City*. Marcuse et al. (eds.) New York: Routledge. pp 1-16.

James DeFilippis and Juan Rivero. 2014 "Just Cities." in *Cities and Social Change*. Paddison and McCann (eds.) London: Sage. pp 186-198.

Brian Barry. 2005. *Why Social Justice Matters*. Cambridge: Polity Press. pp 3-26.

September 28: Theorizing Social Justice II

Susan Fainstein. 2010. *The Just City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. pp 23-56.

Clarissa Hayward and Todd Swanstrom. 2011. *Justice and the American Metropolis*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. pp 1-30.

October 5: The Particularities of Cities and Space

Ed Soja. 2009. "The city and spatial justice." *justice spatiale/spatial justice*. n° 01, September.

Peter Marcuse. 1993. "What's so new about divided cities?" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 17(3) pp 355-365.

October 12: Global Justice

Benjamin Barber. 2013. *If Mayors Ruled the World*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 7.

Mike Davis. 2004. "Planet of Slums." *New Left Review*. 26 pp 5–34.

October 19: Right to the City

UN Habitat. 2005. "Urban Policies and the Right to the City." 7-40.

David Harvey. 2008. "The Right to the City." *New Left Review*. 53 pp 23-40.

Accessing the Diverse City

How do different differences matter to questions of (in)justice? How do social hierarchies—of for example, race, class, gender, and ability—become cemented in the urban environment? What do we mean by urban diversity? Is the pursuit of urban diversity compatible with the desire for universal equality, democracy, and liberty? How do we negotiate conflicts by individuals and groups over urban 'goods'?

October 26: Plural Identities/Differences

Jay Pitter. 2016. "Introduction." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

John Rennie Short 2006. "Theorizing the City of Difference." in *Urban Theory: A Critical Assessment*. New York: Palgrave.

- Iris Marion Young. 2010. "The Ideal of Community and the Politics of Difference" in *The Blackwell City Reader* (2nd Edition) Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson (eds.) Malden: Wiley-Blackwell. p 228-236
- Gil Valentine. 2008. "Living with difference: reflections on geographies of encounter." *Progress in Human Geography*. 32(3) pp 323–337.

November 2: Class

- Friedrich Engels. 1845. "The Great Towns" in *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. London: Penguin Classics. Also available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/>
- Mark Davidson. 2014. "Is Class Relevant to Urban Politics." in *Urban Politics: Critical Approaches*. Davidson and Martin (eds.) pp 189-2015.
- David Hulchanski. 2010. *The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005*. Toronto: Cities Centre, University of Toronto.

November 9: Race/Ethnicity/Culture

- Loïc Wacquant. 2004. "Ghetto." in *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. Smelser and Baltes (eds.) London: Pergamon Press.
- Yasminah Beebeejaun. 2010. "Do Multicultural Cities Help Equality?" in *Critical Urban Studies: New Directions*. Davies and Imbroscio (eds.) Albany: State University of New York Press. pp 121-134.
- Beyhan Farhadi "Identity and the City: Thinking Through Diversity." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

November 16: Sex/Gender

- Sophie Watson. 2010. "City A/Genders." in *The Blackwell City Reader* (2nd Edition) Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson (eds.) Malden: Wiley-Blackwell. Chapter 26.
- Dolores Hayden. 1980. "What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design, and Human Work." *Signs*. 5(3) pp 170-187.
- Toronto Women's City Alliance. 2014. "Making Equality Matter"

November 23: Sexuality

- Lawrence Knopp. 1994. "Social Justice, *Sexuality*, and the City". *Urban Geography*. 15 pp 644-660.
- Catherine Jean Nash. 2013. "Queering neighbourhoods: Politics and practice in Toronto" *Acme: International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*. 12 (2) pp 193-213.

November 30: Ability

- Rob Imrie. 2001. "Barrierred and Bounded Places and the Spatialities of Disability." *Urban Studies*. 38(2) pp 231-237.
- Denise DaCosta. 2016. "Navigating the City with an Invisible Illness: The Story of Dorothy." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.
- Karen Pitter. 2016. "Culture and Mental Illness." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

Patterns of Injustice/Struggles for Justice

What does it mean to understand contemporary urban problems as social justice issues? How are important urban resources—such as housing, mobility, public space, and decision making—produced, distributed, and used? Who has access and who is denied access to these goods? How do activist groups in the city make claims to rights and resources using a social justice framework?

January 11: Housing I

- Loretta Lees, Tom Slater and Elvyn Wily. 2008. *Gentrification*. New York: Routledge. Chapter 1.
- Margaret Kohn. 2013. "What is Wrong with Gentrification?" *Urban Research and Practice*. 6(3) pp 297-310.
- Jay Pitter and Sandra Costain. 2016. "Reconsidering Revitalization: The Case of Regent Park." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.
- Leslie Kern. 2016. "From toxic wreck to crunchy chic: A photo essay" *Society and Space*.
<https://societyandspace.com/material/article-extras/from-toxic-wreck-to-crunchy-chic-a-photo-essay-leslie-kern/>

January 18: Housing II

- Loretta Lees, Hyun Bang Shin and Ernesto López-Morales. 2014. "Introduction: 'gentrification' – a global urban process?" in *Global Gentrifications*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Nigel Gibson. 2007. "Zabalaza, Unfinished Struggles against Apartheid: The Shackdwellers' Movement in Durban," *Socialism and Democracy*, 21(3) pp 60-96.

Familiarize yourself with the Abahlali baseMjondolo movement at: <http://abahlali.org/>

January 25: Mobility I

- Eric Mann. 2016. "Mobility in the Divided City." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.
- Sean Hertel, Roger Keil and Michael Collens. 2015. *Switching Tracks: Toward Transit Equity in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area*.
- Todd Litman. 2014. "Evaluating Transportation Equity." *World Transport Policy & Practice*. 8(2) pp 50-65.

February 1: Mobility II

- Stefan Kipfer. 2012. "Free Transit and Beyond." *The Bullet*. No. 738.
- Roselle Leah Rivera. 2007. "Culture, gender, transport: Contentious planning issues." *Transport and Communications Bulletin for Asia and the Pacific*. 76 pp 1-20.
- Teresa Caldeira. 2013. "Sao Paulo: The City and its Protests." *kalifa.org*, July 5.
[\(http://kalifa.org/2013/07/05/sao-paulo-the-city-and-its-protests-teresa-caldeira/\)](http://kalifa.org/2013/07/05/sao-paulo-the-city-and-its-protests-teresa-caldeira/)

February 8: Public Space I

- Susan Christopherson. 1994. "The fortress city: privatized spaces, consumer citizenship." in *Post-Fordism: A Reader*. Amin (ed.). Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. pp 409-427.
- Gordon MacLeod. 2015. "Walling the City." in *Cities and Social Change*. Paddison and McCann (eds.). London: Sage. pp 130-147.
- Asmaa Malik. 2016. "Neighbourhood Watch: Racial Profiling and Virtual Gated Communities." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

February 15: Public Space II

John Lorinc. 2014. "Armed and Dangerous: How Mission Creep is turning our Cops into Warriors" *The Walrus*, December.

Idil Burale. 2016. "Three Questions about Carding." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

Read/watch any two texts related to #blacklivesmatter from the following syllabus:

<http://www.blacklivesmattersyllabus.com/frankleonrobertsr/>

March 1: Decision Making I

Frank Cunningham. 2011. "The virtues of urban citizenship." *City, Culture and Society*. 2 pp 35-44.

John Lorinc. 2016. "Going Beyond Representation: The Diversity Deficit in Local Government." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

Mariana Valverde. 2016. "A Tale of Two – or Three – Cities: Gentrification and Community Consultations." in *Subdivided*. Pitter and Lorinc (eds.) Toronto: Coach House Press.

March 8: Decision Making II

Sherry Arnstein. 1969. "A ladder of citizen participation." *Journal of the American Institute of planners*. 35(4) pp 216-224.

Gianpaolo Baiocchi and Ernesto Ganuza. 2014. "Participatory budgeting as if emancipation mattered." *Politics & Society*. 42.1 pp 29-50.

Archon Fung and Erik Olin Wright. 2001. "Deepening democracy: innovations in empowered participatory governance." *Politics & Society*. 29.1 pp 5-42.

Sharing of Research

March 15: Student presentations I

March 22: Student presentations II

March 29: Student Presentations III

April 5: No Class