All over the world, cities are becoming both a major platform for political change, as well as an increasingly important site for political contestation. This course will review the literature on the growth and increasingly important political role of cities, then look at theories and concepts – mostly from political science that help us to understand this trajectory. While most of the examples in the course will be drawn from North America, case studies of urban politics and governance in other major regions may be considered, depending on the interests of the class. Some central questions in our analysis will be: What is the role of cities (and metropolitan areas) in politics in Canada and the US? Do US theories of urban politics apply to Canadian cities (or to cities elsewhere in the world)? With globalization, are Canadian and US cities becoming more similar? How do cities operate in the international arena?

The course will meet once a week, for two hours, in OISE 2281, Tuesdays 4-6 pm.

The course will be conducted in a seminar format. In the first part of the course (for the first 9 weeks) the lecturer will begin with a discussion of some issues from the required readings. Students will be expected to read the material before the class, and to complement the lecture with their own ideas. (The required readings are marked with an asterisk [*] and should be available on Blackboard if they are not directly accessible from the Robarts Library). Starting in the third week and up to the ninth week, students will present short bibliographic papers based on the supplementary readings for that week. This assignment will be explained in class, and in a handout.

In the final three weeks, we will survey the issues already covered, and then consider drafts of final papers presented by members of the class. The final paper will be approximately 20-25 pages in length (double-spaced, with correct University of Chicago citations), on a subject of the student’s choice relating to the politics of one or two cities in North America.

The grade for the course will be made up of three elements. Participation will count for 20%; the bibliographic paper (and its presentation) will count for 30%; and the final paper will count for 50%. (Late papers will be penalized 2% per day, including weekend days.) Detailed guidelines for the writing of the two papers will be distributed early in the course.

There is no textbook for this course. However, there are a number of very good books on the market covering either US or Canadian urban politics in general. Here are some of them:


We hope you will decide to take this course, but if you wish to drop it, no problem. Just do it before March 13, 2016 so that it doesn’t stay on your record.

Students are reminded that plagiarism is a serious offense and will lead to severe academic sanctions.

To reach the instructor, use e-mail at: restren@gmail.com, cell phone (416 817 1330), or office phone (416 966 2368, x228). The instructor’s office is located in Suite 1100, 170 Bloor Street West. The entrance to the building is on the north side of Bloor Street, just opposite the Royal Ontario Museum. Feel free to visit the instructor’s office, but make an appointment first, to make sure he is in.

**Week 1. (January 12) Cities in Transformation**


Week 2. (January 19) Globalization and Localization


Supplementary


Peck, Jamie, and Adam Tickell (2002) "Neoliberalizing space." Antipode 34.3: 380-404


Week 3. (January 26) Elitists and Pluralists: The Early Years of Urban Politics


Supplementary


Week 4. (February 2) Decentralization and Suburbanization


Supplementary

Week 5. (February 9) Growth Machines, Regimes, Governance and Multilevel Governance


**Supplementary**


Week 6 (February 23) Cities and Electoral Politics in Canada and the US


Supplementary


Week 7 (March 1) Mayors and Leadership

*Barber, Bernard. (2013). TED Talk, “Why mayors should rule the world”, see at: http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_barber_why_mayors_should_rule_the_world

Supplementary

Barber, Benjamin. 2013. If Mayors Ruled the World. Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities. New
Haven: Yale University Press,

Week 8 (March 8). The Challenge of Metropolitan Governance

Supplementary


Slack, Enid and Rupak Chattopadhyay, eds. 2014. Governance and Finance of Metropolitan Areas in Federal Systems Toronto: Oxford University Press (See especially the article on US metropolitan regions by Vogel and Imbroschio.)

Week 9 (March 15) Cities in the International Arena

*Barber, Benjamin. 2013. TED Talk, “Why mayors should rule the world”, see at: http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_barber_why_mayors_should_rule_the_world


Supplementary


**Weeks 10-12 (March 22, March 29, April 5) Overview and Student Presentations of Research Papers.**