**POL 349: GLOBALIZATION AND URBAN POLITICS**

Thursdays 12:00pm-2:00pm, UC 163

**Course Description**

This course examines urban politics in the context of globalization. With an understanding that urban politics is shaped by forces that are at once immediate and distant, it considers the local-global character of urban development, governance, planning, public policy, democracy, citizenship and territoriality. Throughout the class we will assess the varied nature of urbanization and urban society in a variety of sites in the global north and global south. While Toronto will serve as a key reference point in this comparative endeavor, we will also look at urban dynamics in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa. Overall, our aim will be to bring abstract macro-level processes down to earth and to trace their concrete histories, causes and consequences. This course will thus provide students with a deep empirical understanding of global cities while developing a new theoretical vocabulary of politics attuned to the emergent forms of human association that mark the global urban age.

**Course Objectives**

- To establish a solid understanding of substantive issues, key trends and timely developments related to cities and urban-regions today
- To foreground the highly uneven and differentiated character of globalization and urbanization and to trace how various hierarchical structures—such as race, class, gender and colonialism—affect contemporary urban politics
- To become familiar with key theoretical debates in the field of global urban politics and to evaluate the strengths and weakness of various disciplinary approaches
- To identify significant dynamics shaping politics in Toronto and thus to become better informed urban citizens
- To improve academic skills of critical analysis, interpretation, argumentation, research and communication

**Requirements**

*Participation*

It is assumed that students will attend—and arrive on time—to every lecture. While lectures are not mandatory, they are an important resource and anything covered in lecture will be considered evaluative content. Our classroom will be a safe academic environment where ideas are devised, debated, and deconstructed. 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 exchange ideas openly in a rigorous, and respectful manner.
Readings
The readings are the foundation of the course. Students should complete all of the required readings before class and should be prepared to discuss and analyze the major issues raised in the material. Students are thus expected to read closely and with a critical eye.

Assignments
There are two written assignments and a final exam. The first assignment will be a 5-page paper exploring local urban development in Toronto (due in class on October 22nd). The second assignment will be a 12-page research essay assessing a public policy problem in a chosen city (due in class on November 26th). Assignment details will be distributed in lecture. The final exam will take place during the official exam period.

Evaluation
The grade for the class will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Toronto Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban Policy Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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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 in my classes.

Acts of academic dishonesty include:
• cheating on tests and exams (bringing notes, looking at a neighbour’s paper, allowing someone to look at your paper)
• 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)
• work completed in a group that is not supposed to be group work.
• 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. Papers 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 possible.
Contested Grades
Your TAs and I take very seriously the responsibility of grading and commenting on your work. I am happy to discuss evaluation criteria and strategies for improvement at any time in my office hours. If you judge a received grade to be inaccurate (with respect to the grading guidelines given by the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and/or the assignment rubric) and would like your assignment to be re-graded, you should submit to me a typewritten account of why you think the grade is inaccurate, along with the original graded assignment, within one week of the first day papers are returned to students. Please note that my re-reading a paper for the purposes of reconsidering the grade implies your acceptance that the grade could also drop based on further evaluation.

Libraries
The U of T library system is an extraordinary resource for accessing information, conducting research and enhancing your learning. You should make every effort to take advantage of the various library services available to students. I especially encourage students to consult with librarians for assistance on their research projects. In addition, the following guides on Essay Research: http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/essayresearchbasics?hs=a and 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. 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) is available at http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell.

Course Materials
There are two required books for the class: Benjamin Barber’s If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities and Julie-Anne Boudreau, Roger Keil and Douglas Young’s Changing Toronto: Governing Urban Neoliberalism. For background information on Canadian Urban Politics, it is also recommended that you familiarize yourself with Andrew Saneton’s Canadian Local Government: An Urban Perspective (Second Edition). These titles are available at the U of T bookstore. All other readings will be made available through Blackboard or the U of T Libraries.
Course Schedule

September 17

**What is Urban Politics?**

*The urban/the city/the municipality/the local—what are we talking about?*

*Where does urban politics take place?*

*Why do cities matter?*


September 24

**Globalization and Urbanization: A Framework for Analysis**

*What do we mean by globalization?*

*What have been the major forces shaping urbanization and urban politics since the 1970s?*

*Globalization and/or neoliberalization?*


October 1

**Global Cities and Global Slums**

*What accounts for the unevenness of global urban development?*

*How do we speak about cities in the global north vs. those in the global south?*

*What makes cities comparable?*


October 8

“Glocal” Processes in Context
Is globalization a “top-down” or “bottom up” process?
How are global processes embedded within local institutions and practices?
Are cities in a global age becoming more alike or more differentiated?


October 15

From Municipal Government to Metropolitan Governance I: Local Power
How does power work in an urban context?
What really goes on in City Hall?


October 22

From Municipal Government to Metropolitan Governance II: Fragmented and Collaborative Authority
How do multilevel and federal institutions affect urban affairs?
Through what mechanisms does decision-making authority extend to non-state actors?
What are the democratic consequences of governance beyond the state?

Michael Storper (2014) “Governing the Large Metropolis” Territory, Politics, Governance 2:2, 115-134
October 29

**New State Spaces**

*How is the role of the nation-state transforming under globalization?*

*What are the territorialities of contemporary power?*

*How does social context shape pathways of state restructuring?*


November 5

**Mayors on the World Stage**

*What role do mayors play in global urban politics?*

*What makes for effective urban leadership?*

*Do mayors rule the world? Should they?*


November 12

**Urban Policy-Making and Knowledge Sharing**

*How do urban policies and plans travel from place to place?*

*What global relationships guide policy processes?*

*Why do certain “models” of city development gain traction in diverse contexts?*


November 19

**Global Toronto I: The Canadian Urban System**

*What is the governing framework for Canadian Cities?*

*What are the priorities of Canadian urban public policies?*

*(How) Are Canadian cities neoliberalizing?*


Julie-Anne Boudreau et al. (2009) *Changing Toronto*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, Chapters 2,3

November 26

**Global Toronto II: Megacity and Fragmentation**

*Was amalgamation a good idea?*

*Where does Toronto end?*

*Is Toronto a divided city? If so along what axes?*

Julie-Anne Boudreau et al. (2009) *Changing Toronto*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, Chapters 4, 6, 7


December 3

**Urban Citizenship in Rebel Cities**

*Why do cities breed contention?*

*What kind of right is the right to the city?*

*What is the role of cities in struggles for democracy and social justice?*

