

**Winter 2017**  
**POL 476/2376 H1S**  
**Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:00**

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## **Urban Policy and Policymaking**

Cities are where many of our most pressing social, economic, and environmental problems are addressed: innovation and economic development, poverty, infrastructure expansion, and environmental sustainability are all subject to the policies and investment priorities of city governments. In this course we will examine different dimensions of urban policy and politics, the role of city governments in particular, and the ability of different theoretical approaches to explain the emergence of, and solutions to, pressing urban problems. We will focus primarily on cities in the U.S. and Canada, but will also consider the ways in which cities elsewhere face similar or different conditions. Our aim will be to develop a fuller picture of how, why, and with what consequences city governments and their partners develop and implement policy.

The course is divided into three parts. First (Weeks 1 and 2), we will explore alternative theoretical approaches to urban policy and politics, and the source of urban policy problems. We will then turn our attention to three particular urban policy challenges. During Weeks 3 - 5, we will focus on the Flint water crisis and the multiple dimensions of policy choices and responses that have contributed to this public health disaster. We will also consider the likelihood of this happening in other cities. During Weeks 6 - 8 we will focus on youth policy and politics in Toronto. We will learn about the challenges facing urban youth and the mechanisms by which they are engaged with and by the urban policy process. During Weeks 9 - 11 we will focus on climate change mitigation policy in New York City: the strategies the city is using and how these intersect with other social and environmental policy challenges. Finally, we will spend Week 12 synthesizing and evaluating the knowledge we have gained throughout the term on the multiple dimensions of urban policy and policymaking.

### **COURSE READINGS**

The majority of the readings can be found electronically through the University of Toronto Library's holdings; those that can't will be hyperlinked or posted on the course Blackboard site.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

The course will be run as a seminar, and therefore will be discussion-based. Students are expected to complete each week's assigned readings and actively participate in class discussions. Final grades will be based on participation, three critical response papers, and a final project.

#### Participation

You are expected to attend each class and arrive on time. Before each class, you should have finished the readings assigned for that day. In order to be sure you are as prepared for class as possible, be sure to complete the readings with a critical eye: What point is the author making? Are the most important aspects of the issue discussed? How does this reading compare to other

literature exploring the same topic? To your own ideas and experiences? Can you spot weaknesses in the author's arguments? You may find it easier to participate in class discussions if you take notes as you go.

### Critical Response Papers

You will be required to write **three** critical response papers throughout the course of the term. These will be due on **February 7 (Flint water crisis), March 7 (Toronto youth policy), and March 28 (New York City climate change mitigation)**. These should be 2-4 pages in length (12 point font, double spaced) and critically evaluate the arguments and findings from the section's readings and discussions. These are not to be summaries; they must compare and contrast the readings and evaluate them in the broader context of the course and your own thinking. Response papers should be turned in during class in hard copy barring exceptional circumstances.

### Final Project

You may choose between two options for your final project, depending on where your longer-term interests lie. You can draw on both scholarly and non-scholarly sources as necessary. Scholarly sources include journal articles and academic books; non-scholarly sources include newspaper and magazine articles, websites, and non-academic books. You should use 12 point font, double space your text, and use a consistent and established citation style. The final product should be around 15 pages in length, not including references. Due April 4, 2017.

#### *Project Option 1: Research Proposal*

The aim of this project is for you to produce a sophisticated proposal for a research project related to urban policy and policymaking. The proposal should consist of four parts:

Part 1: A description of the problem or phenomena to be studied and why it is important.

Part 2: A review of what is known about the topic already.

Part 3: A summary of what is *not* known **but should be known** about the topic.

Part 4: A proposal for research that would address the knowledge gap that has been identified, including research design, data collection and data analysis.

#### *Project Option 2: Policy Analysis*

The aim of this project is for you to write an authoritative assessment of a specific urban policy adopted by a specific city or set of cities. The analysis should consist of three parts:

Part 1: A description of the policy problem being evaluated and the city or cities that are experiencing it.

Part 2: An in-depth assessment of what the policy options for addressing the problem are, and what impacts, co-benefits or tradeoffs might be expected to come from them. Options include new planning tools, regulations, incentives, services or requirements, while impacts include actual changes to the conditions being targeted (e.g., reduced crime rates, reduced energy use, increased economic development, etc.). A variety of methods may be used.

Part 3: A synthesis of your findings, including recommendations for decision makers going forward.

## **GRADING**

Critical Response Papers.....	30% (10% each)
Final Project (Due April 4).....	40%
Participation.....	30%

## **COURSE POLICIES**

### Attendance and Participation

You are expected to attend each class on time, having completed the readings for that week. This is a discussion-based course and so your preparation is critical for your success (and enjoyment!). As described above, 30% of your final grade will be based on your participation in class discussions, including helping to facilitate one week's discussion.

### Email

Please send emails via your University of Toronto account and include the course code in the subject line. I will do my best to get back to you within 48 hours.

### Submitting Assignments

All assignments should be submitted in class as a hard copy.

### Late Assignments

Late assignments are subject to an automatic penalty of 15% and will not be accepted after 7 days. Extensions can only be granted under exceptional circumstances, usually restricted to provable family or medical emergencies, and require the written permission of the instructor. Assignments submitted after the due date must be submitted to and stamped by the Department of Political Science main office.

### Academic Honesty

It is the responsibility of each student to be able to demonstrate the originality of his or her work. Failure to properly reference figures, concepts, and quotations that are not your own will result in

academic penalties, as required by the University of Toronto's policy on plagiarism. At a minimum, for every assignment, the sources of all data and ideas must be properly referenced using a standard academic referencing style such as Chicago, APA, or MLA. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to reference sources, please visit:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

### Part I. Urban Policy Primer

#### Week 1 (January 10): Introduction to Urban Policy and Policymaking

- Sapotichne, Joshua and Bryan D. Jones. 2012. "Setting City Agendas: Power and policy change," in Mossberger, Karen, Susan E. Clarke, and Peter John (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 442-467.
- Friendly, Abigail. 2016. "National Urban Policy: A Roadmap for Canadian Cities," IMFG Perspectives Paper No. 14, Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance, University of Toronto.
- Trounstein, Jessica. 2010. "Representation and Accountability in Cities." *Annual Review of Political Science* 13 (1): 407–23. doi:10.1146/annurev.polisci.032808.150414.

#### Week 2 (January 17): Introduction to Politics in Urban Policymaking

- McGregor, Michael and Zachary Spicer. 2014. "The Canadian Homevoter: Property Values and Municipal Politics in Canada," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 123-139.
- Portney, Kent and Zachary Cuttler. 2010. "The local non-profit sector and the pursuit of sustainability in American cities: a preliminary exploration," *Local Environment*, Vol. 14, Issue 4, pp. 323-339.
- Cote, Andre. 2013. "The Fault Lines at City Hall: Reflections on Toronto's local government," IMFG Perspectives Paper No. 1, Institute for Municipal Finance and Governance, University of Toronto.
- Drier, Peter and Todd Swanstrom. 2014. "Suburban ghettos like Ferguson are ticking time bombs," *The Washington Post*. August 21 edition.

### Part II. Urban Policy Challenges

#### Week 3 (January 24): The Flint Water Crisis: It's origins and consequences

- Overview: <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/wtf-is-happening-in-the-flint-water-crisis-explained-20160122>
- Time pipe GIFs: <http://time.com/4191864/flint-water-crisis-lead-contaminated-michigan/>

- Podcast:  
<http://michiganradio.org/post/listen-not-safe-drink-special-documentary-about-flint-water-crisis>

Week 4 (January 31): The Flint Water Crisis: Who's to blame?

- LAT historical context: <http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-0131-highsmith-flint-water-crisis-20160131-story.html>
- Washington Post: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/flints-water-crisis-reveals-government-failures-at-every-level/2016/01/23/03705f0c-c11e-11e5-bcda-62a36b394160\\_story.html?tid=a\\_inl](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/flints-water-crisis-reveals-government-failures-at-every-level/2016/01/23/03705f0c-c11e-11e5-bcda-62a36b394160_story.html?tid=a_inl)
- Gostin, Lawrence O. 2016. "Politics and Public Health: The Flint Drinking Water Crisis," *The Hastings Center Report*, July-August, pp. 5-6.

Week 5 (February 7): The Flint Water Crisis: Could this happen elsewhere?

- Anna Mehler Paperny: Tens of thousands of Canadians still get their water from lead pipes. In *Global News*:  
<http://globalnews.ca/news/2474102/lead-in-the-water-tens-of-thousands-of-canadian-households-still-have-toxic-pipes/>
- David Konisky in *The Conversation*:  
<https://theconversation.com/will-a-weakened-epa-set-environmental-justice-back-69525>
- Anna Clark: The City That Unpoisoned Its Pipes. In *Next City*:  
<https://nextcity.org/features/view/flint-lansing-michigan-replaced-lead-water-pipes>
- Sapotichne, Joshua et al. 2015. "Beyond State Takeovers: Reconsidering the Role of State Government in Local Financial Distress, with Important Lessons for Michigan and its Embattled Cities," *MSU Extension White Paper*.

**\*\*\*First Critical Response Paper Due\*\*\***

Week 6 (February 14): Urban Youth Politics and Policy: The Toronto Youth Cabinet

- Toronto Youth Cabinet Orientation Manual (City Hall)  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/564be1d3e4b08e5f0e45876f/t/57277cab27d4bd23efdf3c4c/1462205663992/TYC+Orientation+Manual+2016+%28City+Hall%29.pdf>
- Toronto Youth Cabinet Orientation Manual (Strategies)  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/564be1d3e4b08e5f0e45876f/t/57277e72ab48de3c50afd685/1462206437977/TYC+Orientation+Manual+2016+%28Strategies%29.pdf>
- Guest Speaker: Tom Gleason

Week 8 (March 7): Engaging Youth in Policymaking in Toronto

- City of Toronto. 2006. "Involve Youth 2: A guide to meaningful youth engagement."  
<http://youthcore.ca/download.php?id=114>

- Norris, Pippa. 2003. "Young People and Political Activism: From the politics of loyalty to the politics of choice?" Report for the Council of Europe Symposium
- Banaji, Shakuntala. 2008. "The trouble with the civic: a snapshot of young people's civic and political engagements in twenty-first-century democracies," *Journal of Youth Studies* Vol. 11, No. 5, pp. 543-560.

Week 7 (February 28): Youth and Transit Policy in Toronto

- O'Brien, Catherine et al. 2009. "Youth and Sustainable Transportation: A review of the literature," Centre for Sustainable Transportation, University of Winnipeg
- Toronto Youth Cabinet "Move Youth" Platform (read about the different dimensions of fare equity, health and safety, future projects, and accessibility)  
<http://thetyc.ca/moveyouth/>
- StudentMoveTO:  
<https://www.utoronto.ca/news/taking-public-look-toronto-transit>  
[http://www.studentmoveto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/StudentMoveTO.Handout\\_4Uni.v2.pdf](http://www.studentmoveto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/StudentMoveTO.Handout_4Uni.v2.pdf)

**\*\*\*Second Critical Response Due**

Week 9 (March 14): Urban Climate Change Mitigation: An Introduction

- Hughes, Sara. 2017. "Reducing Urban Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Effective Steering Strategies for City Governments," *IMFG Perspectives* No. 16. University of Toronto.
- ICLEI. "Cities for Climate Protection," International Progress Report.
- Ryan, Daniel. 2015. "From commitment to action: a literature review on climate policy implementation at city level," *Climatic Change*, 1-11.

Week 10 (March 21): Climate Change Mitigation in New York City

- Cohen, Steven, Courtney Small and Madeline Silva. 2013. *Sustainability in a Post-Bloomberg New York City*, Columbia University.
- Schaller, Bruce. 2010. "New York City's congestion pricing experience and implications for road pricing acceptance in the United States," *Transport Policy*, Vol. 17, Issue 4, pp. 266-273.
- Rosan, Christina D. 2011. "Can PlaNYC make New York City "greener and greater" for everyone?: sustainability planning and the promise of environmental justice," *Local Environment* Vol. 17, No. 9, pp. 959-976.

Week 11 (March 28): Urban Climate Change Mitigation: Comparing New York City to Other Places

- Aylett, Alex. 2014. "Progress and Challenges in the Urban Governance of Climate Change: Results of a Global Survey, Cambridge, MA: MIT.

- Monstadt, Jochen. 2007. "Urban Governance and the Transition of Energy Systems: Institutional Change and Shifting Energy and Climate Policies in Berlin," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 31(2), 326-343.
- Iwano, Joseph and Abraham Mwasha. 2010. "A review of building energy regulation and policy for energy conservation in developing countries," *Energy Policy*, 38(12): 7744-7755.

**\*\*\*Third Critical Response Due**

Week 12 (April 4): Synthesis

- TBA

**\*\*\*Final Project Due**