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POL 349: GLOBALIZATION AND URBAN POLITICS

Thursday 12:00pm-2:00pm, SS1071

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—such as global capitalism, climate change, migration, and inequality—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. Anything covered in lecture will be considered evaluable 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 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 major assignments and a final exam. The first assignment is a group debate. These debates (to be held in-class on various dates) will explore issues related to Toronto politics in the ‘urban age.’ The second assignment is a 15-page research essay assessing a public policy problem in a city outside of Toronto (due in class on March 29th). 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:

Urban Politics Debate	20%
Global Urban Policy Essay	40%
Final Exam	40%

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 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:

- 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 (e.g. 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

The TA 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 the assignment rubric) and would like your assignment to be re-graded, you should submit to me a detailed 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 an extensive collection of 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's *Global Urban Politics*. For background information on Canadian Urban Politics, it is also recommended that you familiarize yourself with Andrew Sancton'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

January 4

What is Urban Politics?

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

Where does urban politics take place?

Why does urban politics matter?

Benjamin Barber (2013) *If Mayors Ruled the World*, New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapter 3

Julie-Anne Boudreau (2016) *Global Urban Politics*, New York: Polity Press, Introduction

Warren Magnusson (2010) “Seeing like a City: How to Urbanize Political Science.” In Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio (eds.) *Critical Urban Studies: New Directions*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, pp. 73-88.

January 11

Globalization and Urbanization: A Framework for Analysis

What do we mean by globalization?

Globalization and/ or neoliberalization?

Allan Cochrane (2011) Urban Politics Beyond the Urban. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(4), 862–863.

Tony Bennett et al. (2005) “Globalization” in *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture*, Malden: Blackwell. pp. 146-151.

Jamie Peck & Adam Tickell (2002) Neoliberalizing Space. *Antipode*, 34(3), 380-404.

January 18

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?

Saskia Sassen (2001) *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-15.

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

Jennifer Robinson (2002) Global and World Cities: A View from Off the Map. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* Vol. 26.3, 531-54.

<i>Debates 1 and 2</i>

January 25

‘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 the global age becoming more alike or more differentiated?*

Li Zhang (2002) Spatiality and Urban Citizenship in Late Socialist China. *Public Culture*, 14(2), 311-334.

Teresa Caldeira (1996) Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation. *Public Culture*, 8(2), 303-328.

Julie-Anne Boudreau (2016) *Global Urban Politics*, Chapters 4, 5

Debates 3 and 4

February 1

From Municipal Government to Metropolitan Governance I: Beyond the Local

*How does power work in a metropolitan context?
What institutions are best suited to manage, organize and service large urban regions?*

Jon Pierre (2011) “The Challenge of Urban Governance” in *The Politics of Urban Governance* London: Palgrave, Chapter 3, pp. 10-28.

Michael Storper (2014) Governing the Large Metropolis. *Territory, Politics, Governance* 2:2, 115-134

Michael Ekers et al. (2014) “Governing Suburbia: Modalities and Mechanisms of Suburban Governance,” In *Suburban Governance*, edited by Pierre Hamel and Roger Keil, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 19-48.

Debates 5 and 6

February 8

From Municipal Government to Metropolitan Governance II: Fragmented and Collaborative Authority

How, and with what consequences, do non-state actors take part in urban decision-making?

Sarah Elwood (2004) Partnerships and Participation: Reconfiguring Urban Governance in Different State Contexts. *Urban Geography*, 25(8), 755-770.

Wael Fahmi and Keith Sutton (2010) Cairo’s contested garbage: sustainable solid waste management and the Zabaleen’s right to the city. *Sustainability*, 2(6), pp.1765-1783.

Lisa Björkman (2014) Becoming a Slum: From Municipal Colony to Illegal Settlement in Liberalization-Era Mumbai. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(1), pp.36-59.

Debates 7 and 8

February 15

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?

Benjamin Barber (2013) *If Mayors Ruled the World*, New Haven: Yale University Press, Chapters 4, 5, 11, 12

February 22: READING WEEK- NO CLASS

March 1

Urban Policy-Making and Knowledge Sharing

To what extent are urban policy-making and planning global processes?

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

Sarah González (2011) Bilbao and Barcelona 'in Motion'. How Urban Regeneration 'Models' Travel and Mutate in the Global Flows of Policy Tourism. *Urban Studies*, 48(7), 1397-1418.

Eugene McCann (2011) Urban Policy Mobilities and Global Circuits of Knowledge: Toward a Research Agenda, *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 101:1, 107-130

Department of Unusual Certainties (2010) Vancouverism is Everywhere. *MONU*, 13.

March 8

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?

Andrew Sancton (2005) The Governance of Metropolitan Areas in Canada. *Public Administration and Development*, 25(4), 317-327.

Carlo Fanelli (2014) How Public Policy is Constraining Ontario Municipalities, Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives.

March 15

Global Toronto II: Megacity and Fragmentation

Was Toronto's amalgamation a good idea?

Where does Toronto end and other political spaces begin?

Is Toronto a divided city? If so along what lines?

David Hulchanski (2010) *The Three Cities within Toronto: Income Polarization among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005*. Toronto: Cities Centre, University of Toronto.

Shawn Micallef (2017) "A City Preoccupied with Dividing Itself" in *Frontier City*, Toronto: Signal Press

March 22

Urban Social Movements

Why are cities hotbeds of political action?

What kind of right is the right to the city?

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

Julie-Anne Boudreau (2016) *Global Urban Politics*, Chapter 2

Margit Mayer (2007) “Contesting the Neoliberalization of Urban Governance” in *Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers*, New York: Guilford Press, 90-115.

March 29

Global Urban Futures

Are cities replacing nation states?

What prospects for our urban world?

UN Habitat III (2016) “New Urban Agenda”

<https://www2.habitat3.org/bitcache/97ced11dcecef85d41f74043195e5472836f6291?vid=588897&disposition=inline&op=view>

<i>Global Urban Policy Essays Due</i>
