

**Winter 2019**  
**POL 464/2364 H1S**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00**

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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 urban policies and investment priorities. In this course we will examine the *intergovernmental* or *multi-scalar* dimensions of urban policy as a way of explaining and evaluating 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 the position of city governments in multi-scalar governance and how these dynamic systems shape the development and implementation of urban policies.

The course is divided into five parts. First, during Weeks 1 - 3, we will familiarize ourselves with scholarship that positions urban policy and city governments in a multi-scalar context. We will then turn our attention to three particular urban policy challenges. During Weeks 4-6, we will focus on the Flint water crisis and the policy choices and responses that have contributed to this public health disaster, from the federal to the local levels. We will also consider the likelihood of this happening in other cities. Third, during Weeks 7 and 8 we will focus on climate change mitigation policy in New York City: the strategies the city is using and how these intersect with the powers and preferences of other actors. We will spend Weeks 9 and 10 focused on transit policy in Toronto and the role that federal, provincial, and local politics have played in shaping outcomes in the city. Finally, in Weeks 11 and 12 you will be presenting the results from your own research on the multi-scalar 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 Quercus 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, two 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 **two** critical reading responses due on **January 15** and **January 22**. These should be approximately 500 words long (12 point font, double spaced) and critically evaluate the arguments and findings from the week's assigned readings. These are not to be summaries only; they must engage the readings and evaluate them in relation to one another and your own thinking. Reading responses should be turned in during class in hard copy barring exceptional circumstances.

### Final Project

The aim of this project is for you to write an authoritative assessment of a specific urban policy issue and the role that multiple levels of government are playing in producing and/or responding to it. You can focus on any city you like, or a group of cities, but it should be every specific about what the issue is, where it can be found and with what evidence, and the specific actions being taken by city, national, or subnational governments and their consequences.

#### *Paper (Due April 2, 2019)*

The final product should be around 15 pages in length, not including references. 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 a consistent and established citation style. Final papers should be submitted via Quercus. The paper 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 role policy decisions at local, national, and/or subnational (state/provincial) levels are playing in causing the problem *or* in helping to solve the problem. Examples include planning tools, regulations, incentives, services or requirements. You should include your own assessment of the policymaking landscape and have a clear argument or thesis throughout your paper.

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

#### *Presentation (March 26 and April 2, 2019)*

Each student will give a 8-10 minute presentation in class on their findings. You are welcome to use Power Point or other presentation software. Your presentation should mirror the structure of your paper.

## **GRADING**

Reading Responses .....	25% (12.5% each)
Final Project Paper.....	35%
Final Project Presentation.....	20%
Participation.....	20%

## **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

Reading responses should be submitted in class as a hard copy. Your final papers should be submitted electronically via Quercus.

### Late Assignments

Late assignments will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day (including weekends) of the total marks for the assignment. Assignments submitted five calendar days beyond the due date will be assigned a grade of zero. Assignments handed in AFTER the work has been returned to the class cannot be marked for credit. Accommodations due to late registration into the course will not be approved.

### 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 8): Introduction to Urban Policy and Policymaking: Policy *IN* Cities vs. Policy *FOR* Cities

- 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.
- Wolman, Harold. 2012. "What Cities Do: How Much Does Urban Policy Matter?" In *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Politics*, by Peter John, Karen Mossberger, and Susan E. Clarke. Oxford and Cambridge, MA: Oxford University Press.
- Andrew, Caroline. 2001. "The Shame of (Ignoring) the Cities." *Journal of Canadian Studies* 25(4): 100–110.

Week 2 (January 15): Powers in Multi-scalar Urban Policy

- Barber, Benjamin. 2013. "Chapter 1: If Mayors Ruled the World: Why they should and how they already do," In *If Mayors Ruled The World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities*, pp. 3-28 and pp. 83-105. New Haven & London: Yale University Press.
- Musso, Juliet and Christopher Weare. "Citizen and City: Institutional Reform and Self-Governance in Los Angeles," in Sorenson, Eva and Peter Triantafillou (Eds.) *The Politics of Self-Governance*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 95-116.
- Pierre, Jon. 1999. "Models of Urban Governance: The institutional dimension of urban politics," *Urban Affairs Review* 34(3): 372-396.

**\*\*\*First Reading Response Due\*\*\***

Week 3 (January 22): Process in Multi-scalar Urban Policy

- 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.
- Clarke, Susan E. 2016. "Local Place-Based Collaborative Governance Comparing State-Centric and Society-Centered Models." *Urban Affairs Review*, 1078087416637126.
- Beal, Vincent, and Gilles Pinson. 2013. "When Mayors Go Global: International Strategies, Urban Governance and Leadership." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(1): 302-317.

**\*\*\*Second Reading Response Due\*\*\***

## Part II. Urban Policy Challenges

### Week 4 (January 29): The Flint Water Crisis: It's contours 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 5 (February 5): 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.
- Pulido, Laura. 2016. "Flint, Environmental Racism, and Racial Capitalism," *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism*, 27(3): 1-16.

### Week 6 (February 12): 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*.

### Week 7 (February 26): 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.
- Bulkeley, Harriet and Michele Betsill. 2010. "Rethinking Sustainable Cities: Multilevel Governance and the 'Urban' Politics of Climate Change," *Environmental Politics* 14(1): 42-63.
- Castán Broto, Vanesa. 2017. "Urban Governance and the Politics of Climate Change." *World Development* 93: 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2016.12.031>.

Week 8 (March 5): Urban Climate Change Mitigation in New York City

- Bagley, Katherine, and Maria Gallucci. 2013. *Bloomberg's Hidden Legacy: Climate Change and the Future of New York City*. InsideClimate News.  
<https://insideclimatenews.org/content/bloombergs-hidden-legacy>.
- 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.
- 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.

Week 9 (March 12): Toronto Transit Policy

- Altshuler, Alan. 2010. "Equity, Pricing, and Surface Transportation Politics," *Urban Affairs Review* 46(2): 155-179.
- Foth, Nicole, Kevin Manaugh, and Ahmed M. El-Geneidy. 2013. "Towards Equitable Transit: Examining Transit Accessibility and Social Need in Toronto, Canada, 1996-2006." *Journal of Transport Geography* 29: 1-10.
- Bateman, Chris. 2014. "Who's really funding new transit in Toronto?" *BlogTO*, April 13, 2014.  
[https://www.blogto.com/city/2014/04/whos\\_really\\_funding\\_new\\_transit\\_in\\_toronto/](https://www.blogto.com/city/2014/04/whos_really_funding_new_transit_in_toronto/)

Week 10 (March 19): Toronto Transit Policy: Light Rail vs. Subways

- Pagliaro, Jennifer. 2017. "How chief planner Jennifer Keesmaat tried to stop the Scarborough subway," *The Star*, September 2, 2017.  
[https://www.thestar.com/news/city\\_hall/2017/09/02/how-chief-planner-jennifer-keesmaat-tried-to-stop-the-scarborough-subway.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/city_hall/2017/09/02/how-chief-planner-jennifer-keesmaat-tried-to-stop-the-scarborough-subway.html)
- McGrath, John Michael. "The Scarborough subway cannot be killed and will never die," *TVO*, September 8, 2015.  
<https://tvo.org/article/current-affairs/the-scarborough-subway-cannot-be-killed-and-will-never-die>
- Schrag, Zachary M. 2000. "'The Bus Is Young and Honest': Transportation Politics, Technical Choice, and the Motorization of Manhattan Surface Transit, 1919-1936." *Technology and Culture* 41 (1): 51-79.

Week 11 (March 26):

Presentations

Week 12 (April 2):

Presentations

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