Department of Political Science  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  

INNOVATION AND GOVERNANCE  
POL 408H 1 F / POL 2338H 1 F  
Fall 2019

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30-3:30 PM and 6:00-7:00 PM  
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Lecture Hours: Tuesday, 4:00-6:00 PM  
Lecture Room: UC 148 (University College)

Course Description:

The course discusses a broad range of topics related to innovation and governance including (i) technological change and its social and economic consequences, (ii) the spatial effects, which result from this, and (iii) necessities for innovation policies at different territorial levels. As the international competitiveness of industrial economies cannot be based on cost advantages alone, future growth in the knowledge-based economy will increasingly rely on capabilities related to knowledge generation and innovation. As a consequence, questions of performance in innovation and economic support policy will become decisive at the firm, regional-state and national-state levels.

The seminar is divided into three main parts. The first part deals with conceptual foundations of innovation, and explores the connection between economic learning, knowledge creation and innovation processes. In the second part, innovation and governance are investigated in territorial context, ranging from national and subnational innovation systems to permanent and temporary clusters and varieties of capitalism. The third part of the course discusses aspects of transnational innovation processes and multilevel governance challenges. The seminar develops a relational perspective of institution-building and territorial governance, which helps to understand corporate, inter-firm, trans-local and cross-national innovation processes.

The course is inter-disciplinary in nature and uses literature from a number of different fields dealing with innovation, governance and its consequences in economic and social life. The course is, thus, also of interest to students in Economics, Geography, History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, Management and Sociology.
Course Structure:

This course has a seminar format. Course evaluation will be based on a seminar presentation and a research assignment (including a proposal and a research paper). Active seminar participation will also be marked.

For the research assignment, students are expected to choose a topic, which is closely linked to the context of the course, and relate this topic to empirical studies in Canada and/or the US (if possible). Students should aim to conduct a comparative study. This could be an investigation of an industry in two countries or in two regions; a study of the differences in the organization of regional innovation conditions; or a study comparing specific aspects of two innovation systems. For instance, students could compare the organization of innovation in two regional clusters in Canada, or compare the institutional basis of innovation in a specific industry in Canada and/or the US (or a specific region in both countries). Often the rule is: the more specific the research question, the better.

The 2-page (double-spaced) paper proposal should introduce the topic, put forward the main question or problem to be addressed, provide a structure of the argument to be advanced, and indicate the conceptual framework used to structure the research. An annotated bibliography should be attached to the 2-page proposal that gives an overview of the sources to be used. It is expected that this proposal and the comments received on it will provide the basis for the research paper. Undergraduate students should hand in a 15-20-page paper (double-spaced) and graduate students a 20-25-page paper (double-spaced) in the last week of classes. To conserve paper, please print all assignments double-sided.

Assignments should be handed in on the due date. Students should bring a hardcopy to class (or, if not possible, to the Political Science Main Office, SS Room 3018). The due dates for the assignments are noted below. For lateness, a penalty of 3% per day will be deducted from the mark for the first 7 days. After this 7-day period, papers will receive a grade of 0%. (Special arrangements can only be made based on proper and timely documentation, such as a doctor’s note.) Students are strongly advised to keep all rough and draft work as well as hard copies of their research papers and assignments until the marked assignments have been returned and the grades been posted on ACORN. The research paper (NOT the proposal) also needs to be submitted online through the Quercus-based course website.

Students who miss two or more classes without acceptable reasoning and documentation, such as a doctor’s or a registrar’s note, will receive 0% on their seminar participation mark.

Quercus:

The course uses the management system Quercus which helps to establish efficient communication between instructor and students. One of its advantages is that students can access their marks at any time on an individual basis. Questions related to the course should be directed to the instructor. An answer will usually be provided within 2-3 days, except for the
weekend. In urgent cases, students should discuss issues with the instructor in person or by telephone.

To access the Quercus-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The Help Desk at the Information Commons and telephone assistance under 416-978-HELP can also answer other related questions.

Once you have logged into the portal using your UTORid and password, you will find a link on the Quercus “Dashboard” to this course website, along with links to all your other Quercus-based courses. At times, the instructor or teaching assistant may decide to send out important course information by e-mail. To this end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT e-mail address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT e-mail address is set up AND properly entered in the ACORN system.

Academic integrity
Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the UofT degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. For further details and information on academic integrity, see https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity and http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/facultyandstaff/Pages/Academic-Integrity.aspx.

Turnitin.com:

The course uses Turnitin.com, a web-based program to deter plagiarism and ensure academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their research papers (NOT the proposals) to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website. The submitted hardcopy of the research paper and electronic version must be identical.

If, as a student, you object to using Turnitin.com, please see the course instructor to establish appropriate alternative arrangements for submission of your written assignments. This must be done at least 4 weeks before the submission deadline.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism, see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/.
The submission of the final research paper to Turnitin.com is done through the Quercus-based website, without the need to register separately with Turnitin.com. Students have to select “Assignments” from the Quercus course menu and click the “Research Paper” link to upload and submit their research papers (“Submit Assignment”). Help regarding this process is available through portal.help@utoronto.ca (see also the information in the Quercus “Help” menu).

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/.

Required Readings:

The readings for this course consist of chapters from an edited book plus additional readings:

(a) All required readings are accessible online by clicking the link “Library Course Reserves” on the Quercus-based course website.


Further details about the course and suggestions from students will be discussed in class.

Course Evaluation:

The course evaluation will be based on the following aspects:

- 20% 2-page paper proposal plus annotated bibliography (due class 7: October 22)
- 20% presentation and seminar participation
- 60% research paper (due class 12: December 3)

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TOPICS: Fall Term 2019

A. Learning, knowledge creation and innovation

1. Innovation as a process
2. Concept and measurement of innovation
3. Innovation and creativity
4. Innovation and institutions
5. Innovation, learning and networking

B. Innovation and governance in territorial context

6. Spatiality of innovation and innovation systems
7. Different dynamics in national innovation systems
8. Varieties of capitalism and institutional complementarities
9. Innovation in permanent and temporary clusters
10. Subnational innovation and governance

C. Transnational innovation and multilevel governance challenges

11. Global networks of innovation
12. Multilevel governance and innovation policy
Readings by Topic: Fall Term 2019

Readings marked by an asterisk (*) are core readings on each topic which all students are required to read. Graduate students are expected to read 1-2 additional texts per week.

1. Innovation as a process


2. Concept and measurement of innovation


3. Innovation and creativity


4. Innovation and institutions


5. Innovation, learning and networking


6. Spatiality of innovation and innovation systems


61-74.


7. Different dynamics in national innovation systems


8. Varieties of capitalism and institutional complementarities


9. Innovation in permanent and temporary clusters


10. Subnational innovation and governance


11. Global networks of innovation


12. Multilevel governance and innovation policy


