POL 378: CITIES AND CITIZENS

Thursday 10:00am-12:00pm

Course Description
More than half the world's population now live in cities. This so-called ‘urban age’ raises profound questions about the nature of politics and democracy: about how we live together and about how we collectively build, manage, and govern our societies. This course responds to these crucial inquiries with a focus on the interaction of cities and citizens. It begins with a critical examination of classical theories and institutions of citizenship—grounded in the modern nation state—exploring their relevance for our contemporary global urban society. This is followed by a survey of contemporary practices of civic engagement and city building, both formal and informal. Thematic topics include local government reform, DIY urbanism, radical municipalism, urban social movements, sanctuary cities, smart cities, public space design, and ecological citizenship. Examples will be drawn from Toronto and from cities around the world.

Course Objectives
• To establish a solid understanding of substantive issues, key trends, and timely developments related urban citizenship
• To foreground the highly uneven and differentiated geographies of urban citizenship rights, responsibilities, and activities; 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 citizenship studies and to evaluate the strengths and weakness of various disciplinary approaches
• To engage with various kinds of city builders and urban commentators and thus to become better informed 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 three 5-7 page essays and a final exam. The essays are to be submitted to Quercus on October 3, October 31 and November 28 respectively. 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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<tr>
<td>Short essays (x3)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</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 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/or the assignment rubric) and would like your assignment to be re-graded, you should submit to the TA and me a detailed written 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 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
All readings will be made available through Quercus or the U of T Libraries.

Course Schedule
Theories of Citizenship

September 5: Liberal Citizenship and its Limits
September 12: From Civil Disobedience to Radical Democracy

September 19: The ‘Post-Political’ City
Stuart Hall and Alan O’Shea (2014) Common-sense neoliberalism,
https://www.lwbooks.co.uk/sites/default/files/s55_02hall_oshea.pdf

Institutions of Citizenship

September 26: Local Government in a Global Era

October 3: Freedom is an Endless Meeting

***ESSAY 1 DUE

October 10: DIY Urbanism
Nathan McClintock (2014) “Radical, reformist, and garden-variety neoliberal: coming to terms with urban agriculture’s contradictions” Local Environment 19(2) 147-171.

Spaces of Citizenship

October 17: Cities and Colonialism

**October 24: Segregated Publics**


**October 31: Designing Democracy**


*** ESSAY 2 DUE

**Acts of Citizenship**

**November 7**

(reading week)

**November 14: Urban Social Movements**


**November 21: The Right to the City**


**November 28: Maintaining the City of the Future**


***ESSAY 3 DUE***