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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:00-10:00am

Teaching Assistant: TBA

POL 349: GLOBAL URBAN POLITICS

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

Texts

The texts (readings, videos, audio) are the foundation of the course. Students should engage all the required texts and should be prepared to discuss and analyze the major issues raised in the material. Students are thus expected to read (or watch or listen) closely and with a critical eye.

Participation

In addition to posted lectures and texts, on-line discussions will comprise a major part of our class engagement. Each week, students are required to participate in conversations related to

the week's themes. Students are required to make a minimum of three meaningful contributions to discussion each week (approximately 200 words each).

Our electronic 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.

Assignments

There are two major assignments in the course. The first assignment is a short essay (5-7 pages) examining the global forces behind Toronto's urban development (due May 18). The second assignment is a group debate (due June 8). These debates will explore key issues of global urban politics. Assignment details will be posted on Quercus.

Evaluation

The grade for the class will be determined as follows:

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| Discussion Participation | 30% |
| Global Toronto Assignment | 35% |
| Urban Issues Debate | 35% |

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 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. 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 prompt) and would like your assignment to be re-graded, you should submit to me and the TA 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 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 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

Readings will be made available through the course Quercus site, or through the U of T library system.

Course Schedule

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| <p>May 4-10 Week One: What is Urban Politics?</p> | <p>Julie-Anne Boudreau (2016) <i>Global Urban Politics</i>, New York: Polity Press, Introduction, 1-22.</p> <p>Warren Magnusson (2010) “Seeing like a City: How to Urbanize Political Science.” In Jonathan Davies and David Imbroscio (eds.) <i>Critical Urban Studies: New Directions</i>. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, pp. 73-88.</p> | <p>Allan Cochrane (2011) Urban Politics Beyond the Urban. <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>, 35(4), 862–863.</p> <p>Manfred Steger (2017) <i>Globalization: A very short introduction</i> (4th Edition). Oxford University Press. pp 1-37.</p> <p>George Monbiot (2016) “Neoliberalism – the ideology at the root of all our problems” <i>The Guardian</i>, https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/apr/15/neoliberalism-ideology-problem-george-monbiot</p> |
| <p>May 11-17 Week Two: Global Cities and Global Slums</p> | <p>Saskia Sassen (2001) <i>The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-15.</p> <p>Saskia Sassen (2018) Interview with Dallas Rogers. City Road Podcast, https://cityroadpod.org/2018/10/18/global-cities/#more-1056</p> <p>Kearney (2019) 2019 Global Cities Report. https://www.kearney.com/global-cities/2019</p> | <p>Mike Davis (2004) “Planet of Slums” <i>New Left Review</i> 26.</p> <p>Ananya Roy: (2013) “World Class Urbanism” TedCities 2.0, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3xxzo4K5HM</p> |
| <p>May 18-24 Week Three: Urban Citizenship and Governance</p> | <p>Ranier Bauböck et al. (2019) Cities vs States: Should Urban Citizenship be Emancipated from Nationality? http://globalcit.eu/cities-vs-states-should-urban-citizenship-be-emancipated-from-nationality/ (read any 2 contributions to the forum)</p> <p>Li Zhang (2002) Spatiality and Urban Citizenship in Late Socialist China. <i>Public Culture</i>, 14(2), 311-334.</p> | <p>Michael Storper (2014) Governing the Large Metropolis. <i>Territory, Politics, Governance</i> 2:2, 115-134</p> <p>Steve Paikin et al. (2018) The Megacity at 20, <i>The Agenda</i>, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqG0J5pnuxQ</p> |

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| <p>May 25-31 Week Four: Urban Infrastructure I: Transit</p> | <p>Deborah Cowen (2017) Infrastructures of Empire and Resistance. <i>Verso Blog</i> https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/3067-infrastructures-of-empire-and-resistance</p> <p>Andra Chastain (2019) The Metro as a microcosm of Chile. <i>North American Congress on Latin America</i>, https://nacla.org/news/2019/10/28/santiago-metro-chile-protests</p> | <p>Theresa Enright (2015) “Contesting the Networked Metropolis” in <i>Transport, Mobility and the Production of Urban Space</i>, edited by Julie Cidell and David Prytherch, New York: Routledge. 172-186.</p> <p>Société du Grand Paris (2016) “Lets Create the Metropole du Grand Paris Together” https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLrTVdloHpSdW-RomE4D2Mxw0653silOOe&time_continue=19&v=79ftfoWHllw&feature=emb_logo</p> |
| <p>June 1-7 Week Five: Urban Infrastructure II: Housing</p> | <p>David Madden and Peter Marcuse (2016) <i>In Defense of Housing</i> New York, Verso. 1-13.</p> <p>Fredrik Gertten (director) (2019) <i>Push</i>. WG Film, https://utoronto.kanopy.com/product/dear-mandela-0</p> | <p>Nigel Gibson (2007) “Zabalaza, Unfinished Struggles against Apartheid: The Shackdwellers' Movement in Durban,” <i>Socialism and Democracy</i>, 21(3), 60-96.</p> <p>Dara Kell & Christopher Nizza (Directors) (2012) <i>Dear Mandela</i>. Sleeping Giants Production. https://www.tvo.org/video/documentaries/push-feature-version</p> |
| <p>June 8-14 Week Six: Urban Futures</p> | <p>Harriet Bulkeley (2013) <i>Cities and Climate Change</i>, New York: Routledge, 1-17.</p> <p>Rita Padawangi (2012) Chapter 13: climate change and the north coast of Jakarta: Environmental justice and the social construction of space in urban poor communities. In <i>Urban areas and global climate change</i> (pp. 321-339). Emerald Group Publishing Limited.</p> | <p>Shannon Mattern (2017) The City is not a Computer, <i>Places Journal</i>, https://placesjournal.org/article/a-city-is-not-a-computer/</p> <p>Ayona Datta (2014) India's smart city craze: big, green and doomed from the start? <i>The Guardian</i>, https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/apr/17/india-smart-city-dholera-flood-farmers-investors</p> |

Covid-19 Resources

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| <p>May 4-10 Week One: Covid-19 and Urban Politics</p> | <p>https://theconversation.com/what-does-the-coronavirus-pandemic-sound-like-the-voices-of-people-struggling-secluding-and-surviving-around-the-world-135539</p> <p>https://theconversation.com/outbreaks-like-coronavirus-start-in-and-spread-from-the-edges-of-cities-130666?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=bylinetwitterbutton</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/15/how-did-the-coronavirus-start-where-did-it-come-from-how-did-it-spread-humans-was-it-really-bats-pangolins-wuhan-animal-market</p> <p>https://spectrejournal.com/how-just-in-time-capitalism-spread-covid-19/</p> |
| <p>May 11-17 Week Two: Global Cities and Slums in a Pandemic</p> | <p>https://twitter.com/CAAS_ACEA/status/1242828793997377537</p> <p>https://www.digitaltrends.com/news/coronavirus-rural-internet-access-digital-divide/</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/15/opinion/covid-farmworkers-paid-leave.html?smid=tw-share</p> <p>https://www.directrelief.org/2020/04/learning-from-ebola-as-covid-19-gains-ground/</p> <p>https://www.newyorker.com/news/our-columnists/the-black-plague</p> |
| <p>May 18-24 Week Three: Managing Covid-19: from Above and Below</p> | <p>https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2020/04/14/commentary/japan-commentary/coronavirus-japans-constitution/?fbclid=IwAR17du5_hFHm_8TmYCiA-dcdrKRvu01eO7uRe7_zkmlQtjgk1-6CF1qFTp4#.XpcCZ0N7lxi</p> <p>https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/06/04/2020/worry-governance-coronavirus-and-emergency-politics</p> <p>https://mondediplo.com/2020/04/11cities</p> <p>https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/hepl-blog-series-covid19-pandemic</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/nyregion/coronavirus-queens-corona-jackson-heights-elmhurst.html</p> <p>https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/covid-19-caremongering-1.5518092</p> |

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| | <p>https://www.vice.com/en_ca/article/y3mkjv/what-is-mutual-aid-and-how-can-it-help-with-coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.blogto.com/city/2020/04/how-black-lives-matter-making-difference-toronto-during-pandemic/</p> |
| <p>May 25-31 Week 4: Critical Urban Infrastructure</p> | <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/09/upshot/transit-battered-by-coronavirus.html</p> <p>https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2020/04/coronavirus-transit-workers-strike-risk-subway-bus-drivers/609328/</p> <p>https://www.citylab.com/perspective/2020/04/coronavirus-public-transit-subway-bus-ridership-revenue/609556/</p> <p>https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/mta-transit-driver-covid/</p> |
| <p>June 1-7 Week Five: Sheltering in Place—With and Without Shelter</p> | <p>https://nowtoronto.com/lifestyle/real-estate/ontario-bans-airbnb-coronavirus/#.XoutWwZ-dqE.twitter</p> <p>https://www.wired.com/story/coronavirus-covid-19-homeless/</p> <p>https://reclaimingourhomes.org/</p> <p>https://ca.finance.yahoo.com/news/blackstone-raises-10-7-billion-160253628.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly90LmNvL1ZmZXRqYVNDbG4_YW1wPTE&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAIUSivGLcqd90kBrCycM2y90Re-FFBv1ey4Uza74xMw7z5-ysIIDBvOoDEMe84hC4VB_j_jplQda5X7In8t_Cr2bbDun10BLcJo7fW8pTa54E15odh0F4s11coTw-MCCNWHJ_tpbximwbpQFLvsbQyc4CarerzPNaDKIagsvmiiu</p> <p>https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/unsheltered-in-place/</p> <p>https://torontolife.com/city/people-are-sleeping-in-the-streets-or-ravines-because-shelters-are-unsafe-this-doctor-is-helping-restructure-homeless-shelters-during-the-covid-crisis/</p> |

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| <p>June 8-14 Week Six: Urban Futures After the Crisis</p> | <p>https://www.directrelief.org/2020/04/the-world-is-rapidly-urbanizing-that-may-mean-more-epidemics/</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/content/10d8f5e8-74eb-11ea-95fe-fcd274e920ca</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/14/las-vegas-strip-closed-coronavirus</p> <p>https://www.ft.com/content/d5f05b5c-7db8-11ea-8fdb-7ec06edeef84</p> <p>https://urbanpolitical.podigee.io/19-talja_blokland</p> <p>https://www.citylab.com/design/2020/04/coronavirus-urban-planning-cities-architecture-history/609262/</p> <p>https://theconversation.com/we-dont-know-what-weve-got-till-its-gone-we-must-reclaim-public-space-lost-to-the-coronavirus-crisis-135817</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/26/life-after-coronavirus-pandemic-change-world</p> |
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