COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

Over the last decades, cities and local governments have received more and more attention from scholars as the importance they have in citizens’ lives. The role of cities is now acknowledged by the literature as key actors in several domains such as climate change, public health, and social inequality. In this context, the goal of this course is to increase students’ understanding of Canadian urban politics as well as to give an overview of the main urban theories used in the literature. Thus, this course is divided in three parts: the first one provides an introduction to three major theoretical frameworks – urban regime theory, urban governance, and multilevel governance. The second part of the course focuses on municipal governance in the Canadian context by exploring municipal structures, city finances, urban public policy, and public participation. The last section explores specific topics in urban literature with a focus on the Canadian context: urban development and metropolitan governance, climate change, and multiculturalism.

Student attending this course will:

1. Learn about the theoretical foundations of the literature in urban politics;
2. Get a deep understanding of urban politics in the Canadian context;
3. Become aware of specific topics Canadian municipalities faced in today’s context.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK


The book can be purchase at the UofT bookstore. It is also at the book reserve of Robarts library for on site consultation. All other reading requirements (scientific articles, reports, and book chapters) can be found on Quercus.
REQUIREMENTS & EVALUATIONS

Reading response (30%) – Three reading responses to the readings are required (10% each). These are a one page critical response (single spaced) to the readings assigned to specific lectures: May 13, May 27, and June 3 before the end of the day (11:59 PM). These are not summaries of the readings, the goal is to compare and contrast the readings.

Research Paper (25%) – The research paper is 10 pages long, double spaced, exploring an aspect of urban politics in depth. The final paper must be submitted online via Quercus at 11:59 PM on June 10 at the latest.

Participation Questions (20%) – For each lecture from May 6 to June 8, students are asked to post two questions about the readings on the discussion board on Quercus before the end of the day (11:59 PM). Students may ask questions related to the additional readings if they wished.

Take-home examination (25%) – The take home will on June 15 and students will have 24 hours to write their answers and submit their exam on Quercus.

More details about each assignment and the take-home exam is available on Quercus.

COURSE POLICIES

Website. All information about the course material, the readings and the assignments is available on the course website through Quercus: http://toolboxrenewal.utoronto.ca

Submitting assignments. All assignments must be submitted online before 11:59 PM on the date the assignment is due via Quercus as well as on Turnitin (http://www.turnitin.com). Turnitin is used to monitor any academic offences and detect possible plagiarism. The terms of use of Turnitin is available through their website. If as a student, you object to submit your paper through this website, you are welcome to email the instructor to find an alternative.

Late penalty. A 2% late penalty per day will be applied to any assignment that is handed after the due date (penalty applies also during weekends). Any assignment submitted later than 10 days after the deadline will not be accepted. Extensions are available on the ground of medical conditions or an accessibility form. In the latter case, prior notice is required (i.e., the instructor must be aware of the extension a week before the due date of an assignment).

Turnitin. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays 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.

Accessibility. Student accessibility is offered by the University of Toronto. If you need addi-
tional time to meet your deadline, make sure to consult Accessibility Services as soon as possible at: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

Grade appeal. Students who wish to appeal their grade for an assignment must submit a written request explaining why they think their grade is unfair to the instructor within one week after the grade has been posted. The instructor may decline the request. If granted, the instructor will review the assignment and may adjust the grade. Please note that the grade can either go up or down following as a result of a grade appeal.

E-mail policy. All emails sent to the instructor should be done with your UofT address and indicate POL 382 in the subject line. Email will be answered within 48 hours whenever possible.

Academic integrity. The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your University of Toronto degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment (this includes working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work).
- Submitting an altered assignment for re-grading.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else’s answers.
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
• Misrepresenting your identity.
• Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

• Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor’s notes.
• Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
• Provide unauthorized assistance to another student. This includes showing another student completed work.

There are other offences covered under the Code, but these are the most common. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect. For further clarification and information, see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism at utoronto.ca/academicintegrity or

www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information or other available campus resources:

• Writing Centres: writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres
• Academic Success: studentlife.utoronto.ca/asc

CLASS SCHEDULE & READINGS

For each class, the material needed will be posted online through Quercus at 4 PM on Mondays and Wednesday according to the schedule below. Short videos will be recorded and posted to review the material necessary for the completion of the course and the final exam. Additional readings are listed for students’ interest but will not be discussed in class and will not be needed in preparation of the final exam.

May 4: Why Cities Matters?


Additional Readings


PART I: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE ON URBAN POLITICS

May 6: Urban Regime, Urban Governance & Multilevel Governance


Additional Readings


PART 2: URBAN GOVERNANCE IN THE CANADIAN CONTEXT

May 11: Local Government


Additional Readings


May 13: Local Government Finances

*** Reading Response 1 is due before 11:59 PM.


Additional Readings


May 18: No class

May 20: Urban Public Policy


Additional Readings


Fenn, Michael, and David Siegel. 2017. The Evolving Role of City Managers and Chief Administrative Officers. Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto: IMFG Papers on Municipal Finance and Governance.

May 25: Public Participation


Bherer, Laurence, and Sandra Breux. 2012. ”The Diversity of Public Participation Tools:
Complementing or Competing With One Another?” Canadian Journal of Political Science 45 (2):379–403.

Additional Readings


Cahuas, Madelaine C., Sarah Wakefield and Yun Peng. 2015. ”Social change or business as usual at city hall? Examining an urban municipal government’s response to neighbourhood-level health inequities.” Social Science & Medicine, 133: 366-373.

May 27: The Canadian city in a comparative context

*** Reading Response 2 is due before 11:59 PM.


Additional Readings


PART 3: TOPICS IN URBAN POLITICS

June 1: Urban Development and Metropolitan Governance


Additional Readings


June 3: Climate Change

*** Reading Response 3 is due before 11:59 PM.


Additional Readings


Zeemering, Eric S. 2016. ”What are the challenges of multilevel governance for urban sustainability? Evidence from Ottawa and Canada’s national capital region.” Canadian Public Administration 59 (2):204-23.

June 8: Multiculturalism


Additional Readings


**June 10: General Overview**

*** The final paper is due before 11:59 PM.

**June 15: Take-home Exam**

The final exam will be posted online on June 15 at 4 PM and students are asked to submit their answers on June 16 at 3:49 PM at the latest. Answers submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. Students are allowed to use any documentation they may judge useful. However, any discussion or collaboration among students about the final exam is prohibited.