University of Toronto

CONCEPTUALIZING CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

COURSE OUTLINE
JPF 455H1/ JPF 2430H

2021, Thursdays, 10 am to 12 noon

Prof. Patricia McCarney, Political Science
patricia.mccarney@globalcities.ca
TITLE OF COURSE: CITIES
JPF 455H1 / JPF 2430H

COURSE DESCRIPTION
With over half of the population on this planet being urban, the significance of improving our understanding of cities in a global context has never been greater. This course is designed to improve awareness of cities as approached by different disciplines and in different international contexts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE
The course will introduce theoretical frameworks for understanding city development and then move to the key issues and challenges confronting cities globally. The role of cities as new sites of governance in a global context will be examined through the lens of these core challenges. More generally, the course will explore cities and global change; cities and urban design; cities and social justice; cities and climate change; cities and poverty; state reform and city politics; cities and citizenship; cities and immigration; cities and economic development; cities and governance; and, cities and the political-economy of urban space.

By bringing together leading faculty members on campus and experts in the field who focus on cities in their work, be it within Political Science, Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Environment and Health, Management, Geography or Social Work, the course will explore, through different disciplinary perspectives, just how the study of cities is evolving for a renewed understanding of the subject, for research and for teaching at the University of Toronto.

The course design is undertaken also in recognition of the importance of bringing together area studies, where the study of cities of Latin America, Asia and Africa, are brought together in comparative context with the study of cities of Europe and North America.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE
The course will be offered as a combined fourth year and graduate level course. This offering has been selected in order to accommodate senior undergraduate and graduate students from different departments like Political Science, History, Literature, Geography, Sociology, and Economics as well as students from specific programmes like the design programmes of the Daniels Faculty of Architecture.

The course will be structured as a mixed format—offering students lectures, power-point presentations, city photographs and images, data tables, web-links to international agencies and related reports. Case Studies will be appended to a number of units as illustrations of lecture material.

As a cross-disciplinary course, the aim will be to improve understanding of different disciplinary approaches to the study of cities and consider common veins which run
through these approaches and require improved understanding, deeper investigation, and future collaborative work. While disciplinary focus will propel the course, the intent is to bridge traditional disciplinary divides which have tended to obscure significant discourse on cities. This will be achieved in part again by course design wherein panel discussions, guest instructors leading seminar discussions and cross disciplinary faculty will help us to identify and address inter-disciplinary links, divides and areas of resonance in the urban field.

The course will also involve invited guests, urban specialists and practitioners from outside the university to help bridge students and faculty to the broader academic and city community. By mixing formats which include for example lectures, panel discussions, and student only seminars (for discussion and debate on readings and arguments posed by lectures and panellists), the course will allow for movement in our ideas which govern the study of cities.

The course will be organized according to units, each with core and optional reading lists; discussion questions for consideration; and periodic assignments.
**SUMMARY OF COURSE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITS</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>JPH455H1/JPF2430H – Conceptualizing Cities in a Global Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sept 16 Welcome and Introduction to the Course</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Sept 23 Conceptualizing Cities in A Global Context</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Sept 30 Frameworks for Defining Global Cities</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Oct 7 Early Theories of Urban Politics in North America: Elitists vs Pluralists</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Oct 21 City Design Before World War II</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Oct 28 City Design After World War II</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Nov 4 Policy Diffusion from Cities of the South to the North</td>
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<td><strong>Nov 8-12</strong></td>
<td><strong>READING WEEK</strong></td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Dec 2 The Shenzhen Experiment</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Dec 9 Final Roundtable and Submission of Final Papers</td>
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EVALUATION & MARKS BREAKDOWN

IN-CLASS DISCUSSION 20% OF TOTAL GRADE
Contributions to the weekly discussions will be worth 20% of the grade.

PERIODIC ASSIGNMENTS 45% OF TOTAL GRADE
For a number of units (3 in total), each student is expected to submit a short assignment. The assignment must be submitted by email on the day that topic is indicated and addressed on the course schedule. Assignments should be typed using 12-point font, Times New Roman and one-inch margins (2 pages double spaced or one page single spaced). Page length does not include title page, graphs, tables, charts, endnotes or bibliography. Assignment questions for these particular units are provided in the reading list attached. Each assignment will be graded out of fifteen points and converted into a grade for a total of 45% (15% each x 3).

**Deadlines:** Students must submit a copy of each of the three periodic assignments at the beginning of the class on the date it is due by email (in Word). The assignment shall be emailed to all three instructors by no later than 9:30 am before the class it is due for. Emails are on the cover sheet of this course outline.

Since these assignments are the basis for in-class discussion, students cannot receive an extension without penalty. The late penalty is 5% per day for one week. No papers will be accepted after one week. This penalty commences at the end of class after 12:00 pm.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT 35% OF TOTAL GRADE — Due December 9, 2021
Final assignment due by email on December 9, 2021

Drawing on materials and lectures from this course that address the relationship between global issues and trends and the local, answer the following question:
Why study cities in a global context? This paper should include specific examples of issues and trends being considered globally and locally (for example inclusive cities and global poverty, immigration, etc., or climate change, etc.).

Students will discuss their ideas for the final assignment in class as part of the roundtables. Students should come to the roundtable prepared to present their research outline and preliminary research. This assignment will be limited to 2000 words. A penalty of 2% per day will be enforced for any late papers.
## READING LIST

<table>
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<tr>
<td>JPF455H1/JPF2430H – Conceptualizing Cities in a Global Context</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Sept 16</td>
<td><strong>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Sept 23</td>
<td><strong>CONCEPTUALIZING CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT</strong></td>
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<td>No readings or Assignment are due for this unit. Students are encouraged to consult the following websites:</td>
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<td>• UN Habitat <a href="http://www.unhabitat.org">www.unhabitat.org</a></td>
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<td>• UN World Cities Reports <a href="http://wcr.unhabitat.org/">http://wcr.unhabitat.org/</a></td>
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<td><strong>Suggested Reading:</strong></td>
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<td>3. Sept. 30</td>
<td><strong>FRAMEWORKS FOR DEFINING GLOBAL CITIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Required Readings:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Suggested Readings:</strong></td>
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<td>It is recommended that students review the Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network at <a href="http://lboro.ac.uk/gawc">http://lboro.ac.uk/gawc</a>. This site is an excellent resource on global cities, as it has a range of on-line papers, as well as other relevant data sources.</td>
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**ASSIGNMENT**

How is the term “Global City” defined? How useful is this concept in thinking about cities globally and in measuring and ranking cities worldwide?
4. Oct 7  EARLY THEORIES OF URBAN POLITICS IN NORTH AMERICA: ELITISTS VS. PLURALISTS

Required Readings:

Suggested Reading:

5. Oct 14  CURRENT CONCEPTUAL ISSUES: REGIMES, GOVERNANCE, MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND PARADIPLOMACY

Required Readings:
- Barber, Bernard. (2013). TED Talk, “Why mayors should rule the world”, see at: [http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_barber_why_mayors_should_rule_the_world](http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_barber_why_mayors_should_rule_the_world)

ASSIGNMENT
Explain the notion of governance at the local level. Do you think it is a useful concept? Why (or why not)? And do you agree with Barber that mayors should be ruling the world?

6. Oct 21  CITY DESIGN BEFORE WORLD WAR II

Required Readings:
7. **Oct 28**  
**CITY DESIGN AFTER WORLD WAR II**

**Required Readings:**

**ASSIGNMENT**

Identify three issues that distinguish approaches to City Design before and after World War II

8. **Nov 4**  
**POLICY DIFFUSION FROM CITIES OF THE SOUTH TO THE NORTH**

**Required Readings:**

**NOV 8-12**  
**READING WEEK**

9. **Nov 18**  
**THINKING ABOUT CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT – NEW RESEARCH FRONTIERS**  
Student Presentations

Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.

10. **Nov 25**  
**THINKING ABOUT CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT – NEW RESEARCH FRONTIERS**  
Student Presentations

Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.

11. **Dec 2**  
**THE SHENZHEN EXPERIMENT**

**Suggested Reading**

12. **Dec 9**  
**FINAL ROUNDTABLE AND SUBMISSION OF FINAL PAPER**

Final Assignment Due (As per course outline)
FURTHER READINGS:

CONCEPTUALIZING CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

- Van Vliet W. "Cities in a globalizing world: from engines of growth to agents of change.” Environment and Urbanization, Volume 14, Number 1, 1 April 2002, pp. 31-40(10).

FRAMEWORKS FOR DEFINING GLOBAL CITIES


DESIGN AND CONTEMPORARY URBANISM

- Baird, George: Public Space; Cultural/Political Theory Street Photography, SUN Publishers, Amsterdam, 2011.
- Koolhaas, R: "Junkspace" in Koolhaas, R: Content, Taschen, Koln, 2004,
- Saunders, Doug: Arrival City, Knopf Canada, Toronto, 2011

METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE