University of Toronto

CONCEPTUALIZING CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

COURSE OUTLINE
JPF 455H1/ JPF 2430H

Fall 2023, Tuesdays, 3 pm to 5 pm
Daniels Faculty
Room DA230
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. This course is recommended to be taken in conjunction with the Spring offering of JPF 456H1 / JPF 2431H.

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 global experts in the field who focus on cities in their work, be it within Political Science, Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Real Estate Development, 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 global 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>UNIT</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Sept 12 Welcome and Introduction to the Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sept 19 Conceptualizing Cities in A Global Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Sept 26 Frameworks for Defining Global Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Oct 3 Early Theories of Urban Politics in North America: Elitists vs Pluralists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Oct 10 Current Conceptual Issues: Regimes, Governance, Multilevel Governance, Leadership and Para diplomacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Oct 17 Introduction to the History of Modern City Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Oct 24 City Design - Shifting Principles and Challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Oct 31 Guest Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Nov 6-10 READING WEEK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Dec 5 Final Roundtable and Submission of Final Papers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 the 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 2:30 pm 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 5:00 pm.

FINAL ASSIGNMENT 35% OF TOTAL GRADE – Due December 5, 2023
Final assignment due by email on December 5, 2023

Drawing on materials and lectures from this course that address the relationship between global issues and trends as they hit the ground in cities locally, 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 global poverty and inclusive cities, immigration and local governance, climate change and sustainable cities, 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITS</th>
<th>TOPICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JPF455H1/JPF2430H – Conceptualizing Cities in a Global Context</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 1. Sept 12

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

### 2. Sept 19

**CONCEPTUALIZING CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT**

No readings or Assignment are due for this unit. Students are encouraged to consult the following websites:
- UN Habitat [www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)
- United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) [https://www.undrr.org/](https://www.undrr.org/)
  [https://mcr2030.undrr.org/](https://mcr2030.undrr.org/)

**Suggested Reading:**

### 3. Sept. 26

**FRAMEWORKS FOR DEFINING GLOBAL CITIES**

**Required Readings:**

**Suggested Readings:**

It is recommended that students review the Globalization and World Cities Study Group and Network at [http://lboro.ac.uk/gawc](http://lboro.ac.uk/gawc). 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.

**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?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
<th>Suggested Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
### CITY DESIGN IN A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT: THE STRUGGLE OVER PLACE

**Required Readings:**

**ASSIGNMENT**
Identify three physical and social pressures that are particular to the modern city that emerged in the west after the industrial revolution (i.e., from 1850 on). Then identify and describe three physical planning and design approaches/techniques and how they were employed to address these new circumstances. You may choose one particular city, or a larger geographic setting (Canadian Cities, etc.). Then, please identify a circumstance after WWII, where one or more of these approaches/techniques were employed in the planning and design of a non-western city. In which ways were planning and design experts successful or unsuccessful in translating these novel approaches to other contexts?

---

### NOV 6-10
**READING WEEK**

9. **Nov 14** **THinking about Cities in a Global Context – New Research Frontiers** Student Presentations  
Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.

10. **Nov 21** **THinking about Cities in a Global Context – New Research Frontiers** Student Presentations  
Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.

11. **Nov 28** **THinking about Cities in a Global Context – New Research Frontiers** Student Presentations  
Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.

12. **Dec 5** **Final Roundtable and Submission of Final Paper**  
Final Assignment Due (As per course outline – section above)
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

- Avermarte, Tom; Gosseye, Janina: *Urban Design in the 20th Century: A History*, 2021
- Bauer, Catherine: *Modern Housing*. Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1934
- Bruegmann, Robert: Sprawl, *A Compact History*, University of Chicago, 2005
- Crawford, Margaret; Chase, John; John, Kaliski: *Everyday Urbanism*. New York: Monacal Press, 1999
- Davis, Mike: *City of Quartz*, Verso Press, 1990
- Crawford, Margaret; Chase, John; John, Kaliski: *Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory, and Urban Design*, Routledge, London 2013
- Krieger, Alex and Saunders, William (eds.): *Urban Design*, Minnesota University Press, 2009
- Koolhaas, Rem; Mau, Bruce: *SMLXL*, Monacelli Press, New York, 1995
- Masoud, Fadi: Terra-Sorta-Firma: Reclaiming the Littoral Gradient, Actar, 2021
- Mumford, Eric: *Designing the Modern City: Urbanism Since 1850*, Yale University Press, 2018
- Saunders, Doug: *Arrival City*, Knopf Canada, Toronto, 2011
- Smets, Marcel: *Foundations of Urban Design*, Actar, 2022
- Sorkin, Michael: *What Goes Up: The Right and Wrongs of the City*, London, Verso, 2018

ALSO, this highly recommended compendium:
- LeGates, Richard; Stout, Frederick (eds.) *The City Reader, 7th* edition, Routledge, 2020
METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE