University of Toronto

GLOBAL CITIES —

CORE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

COURSE OUTLINE
JPF 456H1 / JPF 2431H

Winter 2024, Tuesdays, 3 pm to 5 pm
Room DA215

Prof. Patricia McCarney, Political Science
patricia.mccarney@globalcities.ca
TITLE OF COURSE: CITIES
JPF 456H1 / JPF 2431H

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The core issues confronting city leaders across the globe are examined in comparative perspective and in a context of shifting global agendas. 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.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE
With now 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. 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.

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>JPF456H1/JPF2431H Global Cities – Core Issues and Challenges</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Jan 9</td>
<td>Welcome and Introduction to the Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Jan 16</td>
<td>Cities and Poverty: Housing, Basic Services, and Infrastructure Investment</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Jan 23</td>
<td>Urban Design in a Shifting Urban Landscape</td>
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<td>4. Jan 30</td>
<td>Canadian City Managers: Leadership in the Shadows</td>
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<td>5. Feb 6</td>
<td>Cities in Federalism in Canada</td>
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<td>6. Feb 13</td>
<td>Decentralization and Local Democracy</td>
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<td><strong>Feb 19-23</strong></td>
<td><strong>READING WEEK</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Feb 27</td>
<td>Property Markets and City Building – <em>(TBC)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Mar 5</td>
<td>Cities and Climate Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. April 2</td>
<td>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 one-page 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 by no later than 2:30 pm before the class it is due for. Email contact is 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 April 2, 2024
Final assignment due by email on April 2, 2024

Drawing on materials and lectures from this course, answer the following question: Choose a city as a case study and identify what you believe to be the most important challenge in that city. How is it being addressed? How should it be addressed?

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, case study city and challenge identified. This assignment will be limited to 2000 words. A penalty of 2% per day will be enforced for any late papers.
# READING LIST

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<th>UNITS</th>
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<tr>
<td>JPF456H1/JPF2431H Global Cities – Core Issues and Challenges</td>
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<td>1. Jan 9</td>
<td><strong>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Jan 16</td>
<td><strong>CITIES AND POVERTY: HOUSING, BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT</strong></td>
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**Required Readings:**

**Suggested Readings:**

It is recommended that students review the World Bank’s Cities Alliance website [www.citiesalliance.org/](http://www.citiesalliance.org/). Also see the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) transition draft document (see Blackboard).

**ASSIGNMENT**

What are the three key challenges for planners in addressing slums in the world’s poorest cities? Identify and discuss each challenge and describe potential solutions in confronting these challenges.
3. Jan 23  **URBAN DESIGN IN A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE**

**Required Reading:**

**Suggested Readings:**
- Mattern, Shannon, "Post-It Note City,” *Places Journal*, February 2020 [https://doi.org/10.22269/200211](https://doi.org/10.22269/200211)

**ASSIGNMENT**
Identify an emerging urban condition and a related urban technology that will significantly impact cities within the next few decades/generation. Explain how you think the condition and technology you cite will impact/change both the form of cities and how they are occupied, and the role that urban designers can or should play in these transformations.

4. Jan 30  **CANADIAN CITY MANAGERS: LEADERSHIP IN THE SHADOWS**

**Required Reading:**

5. Feb 6  **CITIES IN FEDERALISM IN CANADA**

**Required Reading:**

6. Feb 13  **DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

**Required Readings:**

**ASSIGNMENT**
In cities of developing countries, why is decentralization important? And how does decentralization relate to democratization?
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>7. Feb 27</td>
<td>PROPERTY MARKETS AND CITY BUILDING – A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td>Reading: To be Advised</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Mar 5</td>
<td>CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE</td>
<td>Required Readings:</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Health Canada. 2020. Reducing Urban Heat Islands to Protect Health in Canada—An Introduction for Public Health Professionals. Chapters 1&amp;2</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Suggested: Browse Ch 3 case studies. Available at:</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Mar 19</td>
<td>THINKING ABOUT CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT – NEW RESEARCH FRONTIERS Student Presentations</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Mar 26</td>
<td>THINKING ABOUT CITIES IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT – NEW RESEARCH FRONTIERS Student Presentations</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Roundtable with Students in preparation of final assignment.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. April 2</td>
<td>FINAL ROUNDTABLE</td>
<td>Final Assignment Due April 2, 2024: As per course outline</td>
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FURTHER READINGS:

SUSTAINABLE CITIES: GLOBAL AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

- Building Safer; Cities: The Future of Disaster Risk; Disaster Risk Management Series No. 3; A. Kreimer, M. Arnold, and A. Carlin, eds.; The World Bank, 2003; Table 8.1, p. 103.
- McCarney, P. "Climate Governance” chapter in Climate Adaption in Global Cities: Building Governance for Climate Resilience Washington: World Bank 2011
- McCarney, P. “Cities and Governance: Coming To Terms With Climate Challenges” Chapter in: Climate Governance Joerg Knieling and Walter Leal Filho (eds.) Springer 2011

CITIES AND POVERTY: HOUSING, BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

- Saunders, Doug: Arrival City, Knopf Canada, Toronto, 2011

CITIES AND DIVERSITY: MIGRATION AND THE GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY OF CITIES
• Saunders, Doug: Arrival City, Knopf Canada, Toronto, 2011

CITIES AS OBJECTS AND SUBJECTS OF PLANNING AND DESIGN
• Avermarte, Tom; Gosseye, Janina: Urban Design in the 20th Century: A History, 2021
• 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
• Jackson, Kenneth, T.: Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States, 1988
• Kern, Leslie: Feminist City: Claiming Space in a Man-Made World, Verso, 2019
• 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
• Simpson, Deane; Jensen, Vibeke; Rubing, Anders (eds): The City between Freedom and Security: Contested Public Spaces in the 21st Century 2017
• Smets, Marcel: Foundations of Urban Design, Actar, 2022
• Sorkin, Michael: What Goes Up: The Right and Wrongs of the City, London, Verso, 2018
• Venturi, Robert; Scott Brown, Denise; Isenour Steven: Learning from Las Vegas - The Forgotten Symbolism of Architectural Form (1972), revised edition, MIT Press, 1977
• Waldheim, Charles: The Landscape Urbanism Reader, Princeton Architectural Press, 2006
• ALSO, this highly recommended compendium:
• LeGates, Richard; Stout, Frederick (eds.) The City Reader, 7th edition, Routledge, 2020
CITIES AT RISK: SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES


CITIES AND GOVERNANCE

- Jouve, B. (2007). Urban societies and dominant political coalitions in the

- O’Flynn, Patrick and Tim Mau (2014) “A demographic and career profile of municipal CAOs in Canada: Implications for local governance” Canadian Public Administration (March) 154-70.