

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

University of Toronto

Fall 2015

GGR 124H1F L5101 / L2001

**URBANIZATION, CONTEMPORARY CITIES AND URBAN LIFE:
AN INTRODUCTION TO URBAN GEOGRAPHY**

Instructor: Dr. Damian Dupuy, M.A., Ph.D. SSH 5061 email: damian.dupuy@utoronto.ca

Lectures: Wednesday, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
PB B250, Leslie Dan Pharmacy Building, 144 College Street.

Office Hours: Instructor will be available immediately after lecture in MP 103 to meet with students. In certain circumstances, students wishing to meet privately can do so, by appointment. TA office hours will be made available after the course begins.

Tutorials: Will not be held weekly. Instead, they will be scheduled in advance of assignment due dates. Details on how these are scheduled will be presented in lecture.

Objectives:

This course provides a broad introduction to the urbanization process, the bases of urban growth, and the internal structure, dynamics and living environments of contemporary cities. Particular attention is paid to recent trends in urban growth and development, to the policy issues, social tensions and political conflicts that flow from these trends, as well as to current planning practices in Canada and abroad. The course serves as the main entry point for specializations in urban studies, regional analysis and urban-economic and social geography. It also provides part of the necessary background for more advanced courses in urban, economic, social, and political geography, as well as for parallel courses in housing, urban historical geography and planning.

Contact:

The instructor and TAs are happy to discuss course material and answer questions during office hours. The instructor's office hours are scheduled after lecture in MP103. Short questions can also be addressed to the instructor immediately before lecture commences or during the lecture break. Short questions that require only a one or two sentence answer can also be emailed directly to the instructor. Please use your University of Toronto email address (@utoronto.ca) to do this. Other email addresses may be filtered as spam, and we do not promise to respond to them.

In certain circumstances (e.g issues of a personal or private nature) an appointment can be made to speak with the instructor privately. Please speak to the instructor after lecture or send an email to the instructor's address to schedule an appointment.

TA office hours will be provided to students during the first scheduled tutorial, and will subsequently be posted on Blackboard.

Blackboard:

This course uses Blackboard for the purposes of distributing course specific information including assignments to students (no paper copies are distributed). In addition, assignment and mid-term grades will be made available on the system after the papers have been handed back to students. Students are expected to check Blackboard regularly for any course changes, updates and for receipt of assignments.

Readings:

There is no required text for this course. However, much of the lecture material is drawn from two editions of the same text: Bunting, T. & Filion, P.(eds.) 2010. *Canadian Cities in Transition, 4th edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, and Filion, P. Moos, M. Vinodrai, T. and Walker R.(eds.) 2015. *Canadian Cities in Transition, 5th edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press. Either edition is acceptable. Both texts are available at the Campus Bookstore or through the U of T libraries, including course reserves at Robarts.

There are a number of good references sources on concepts in human geography. These will serve you well in future geography courses as well. Some of these dictionaries are available through the library, including via online access. You might also consider purchasing one as a reference, new or used. An example is Gregory, D. Johnston, R. Pratt, G. Watts, M. and Whatmore, S (eds.) 2009 *The Dictionary of Human Geography* London : Wiley-Blackwell publishers.

You should also pay close attention to articles from newspapers and magazines that deal with contemporary urban issues as this will help place the course material in context.

Requirements:

Written assignments examining particular course themes (3 @ 10% each)	30%
Mid Term Exam (held in class October 21 st)	25%
Final Examination (During faculty exam period)	45%

Due dates for assignments are tentative and as follows:

Assignment 1	October 14th
Assignment 2	November 4th
Assignment 3	November 25th

More details on the assignments will be provided during the term. Due dates will be finalized next week and posted on Blackboard.

Late Penalty:

All assignments will be distributed to students well in advance of the due date. Completed assignments must be handed into the instructor before the lecture begins. Assignments handed in after the lecture begins will be deemed to be late.

5% (of the assignment grade) will be deducted for each weekday that an assignment is late (weekends count as one day). Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date. Assignments **will not** be accepted by email or fax.

Extensions will be granted sparingly in the case of illness, and you must present a medical certificate completed by a health care professional. Please see <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/> for more information.

Please consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties that prevent you from completing your course work during term.

Course Format and Academic Supports:

The principal format for this class is lectures, with many opportunities for discussion. The course is organized around key themes in urban geography and on the relationships between the themes. Lecture topics are supported at times by specific readings from the recommended course textbook (Bunting and Filion). In addition to lectures, students participate in tutorial sessions held to correspond with written assignments.

Here are some other sources of support:

- For course- and content-related queries, please e-mail or speak to Professor Dupuy (damian.dupuy@utoronto.ca).

- For department - or program-related queries, you can e-mail Geography Department Undergraduate Counsellor Dr. Ben Potruff (potruff@geog.utoronto.ca)

The University of Toronto provides a number of resources to assist students improve their writing and research skills. Consult www.writing.utoronto.ca and especially the 'Academic Writing' section for information on planning and organizing, reading and research, using sources and guidance on specific types of writing.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation. Quotation marks are required when using an author's words. Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor.

Please consult the "Rules and Regulations" section of the Arts and Science Calendar (http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html) for further information and check the 'How not to plagiarize' website at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

Accessibility Needs:

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Use of Electronic Resources:

Electronic communications technology can often enhance the learning experience for students. However, recent studies have demonstrated that use of personal computers and other devices can often distract us and detract from learning, and negatively affect marks. (See e.g. this recent McMaster University study <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/laptop-use-lowers-student-grades-experiment-shows-1.1401860>.)

Based on the above, I strongly encouraged students to come to class prepared with non-electronic writing and note-taking supplies. If you do bring a computer or tablet to class, please ensure you are using it in a way that doesn't distract your neighbours. Use of computers or tablets for anything other than taking notes during lecture will not be tolerated.

The lecture theatre is a phone-free space. Cell phones should be silent or off and stowed away during the entirety of the class.

Taking photos and video recordings are not permitted. Audio recording requires permission of the instructor. Non-compliance with these rules on recording will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. Students should note that since audio recordings of lecture are to be permitted, their voice may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak to the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Other Policies:

If You Miss a Test or
Assignment due date

The following steps must be completed in order to be considered for academic accommodation for any course work such as missed tests, or late assignments:

1. Students must inform their instructor in writing (e-mail is acceptable) within 24 hours of a test date/assignment due date, of any circumstances that prevent them from writing a test, or submitting an assignment on time.
2. Students who miss a test due to circumstances beyond their control (e.g. illness or an accident) can request special consideration. You must inform your instructor within 24 hours and you have up to one (1) week from the date of the missed test to submit your request (late requests will NOT be considered without a "letter of explanation" as to why the request is late).
3. Original supporting documentation (e.g. Verification of Student Illness or Injury form, accident report, etc) must be submitted to the instructor before any consideration is given.
4. If your reason for absence is due to a last minute flight due to a family emergency (illness/death etc.) you must provide your flight itinerary INCLUDING the date the flight was purchased as well as boarding passes in addition to proof of death/illness/accident.
5. **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** forms MUST include the statement "This Student was unable to write the test on date(s), or submit an assignment for medical reasons". Documentation MUST show that the physician was consulted within ONE day of the test date or assignment due date. A statement merely confirming a report of illness made by the student is NOT acceptable (such as, "This patient tells me that he was feeling ill on that day."). **Verification of Student Illness or Injury** forms can be found on the Office of the Registrar's webpage
<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/getattachment/index/Verification-of-Illness-or-Injury-form-Jan-22-2013.pdf.aspx>.

Note that holidays and pre-purchased plane tickets, family plans, your friend's wedding, lack of preparation, or too many other tests are not acceptable excuses for missing a quiz, a test, or an item of term work.

There will be no re-writes or make-ups for a term tests, Instead, the final exam will be re-weighted by the value of the missed item.

Students **CANNOT** petition to re-write a test once the test has begun. If you are feeling ill, please leave the room **before** starting your test and seek medical attention immediately. You must have a physician fill out a U of T Student Medical Certificate and submit a request to the instructor within 24 hours.

Requests for
Extension of Time

Students MUST submit a request for extension in ADVANCE of the deadline in order to receive a decision.

If you require more time to complete an assignment you will be required to make your request directly to the instructor. You will be required to provide supporting documentation.

In the event of an illness, if you are seeking a one-day extension, medical certificates or doctor's notes must confirm that you were ill on the due date of the assignment; if you are requesting a longer extension, your documentation must specify exactly the length of the period during which you were unable to carry out your academic work.

Verification of Student Illness or Injury forms can be found on the Office of the Registrar's webpage (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/getattachment/index/Verification-of-Illness-or-Injury-form-Jan-22-2013.pdf.aspx>).

If You Want to Query Your Mark on a Test or Assignment

Please note that you have one month from the date an item is returned to you, during which time you may submit the item for re-marking. Contact Prof. Dupuy (damian.dupuy@utoronto.ca) for all queries. No item will be re-marked after the one-month period has passed.

Material submitted for remarking must be accompanied by a brief written explanation detailing your reasons for dissatisfaction with the original mark (such as an addition error, or something you think the marker may have missed). Normally, the item will first be returned to the TA who originally marked it. If you are still dissatisfied, it may then go to the course instructor for reconsideration. A re-grade of any item of work may result in no change in the grade, an increase in the grade or a reduction in the grade.

Expectations for Conduct in this course

Our expectation of you is that you will show respect to us, our TAs, other faculty, staff, and fellow students. This includes arriving on time and staying for the entire class (so you don't disturb others by your late entry or early departure); listening quietly (so you don't disturb others by your chatting); contributing your thoughts when invited to; approaching your course work with an open, honest spirit and enthusiasm; putting an appropriate amount of effort into the course work; and otherwise adhering to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

In turn, you can expect us and our TAs to show respect to you and your fellow students; deliver the best course that we possibly can; communicate our enthusiasm for the material; maintain fairness in all aspects of course delivery and assessment; and otherwise adhere to the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

Fall Term 2015 – KEY THEMES

note: recommended readings refer to particular editions of Canadian Cities in Transition

I. Introduction – The City and the Study of Urban Geography

1. What is a city,
2. What is urban geography

Recommended Readings: 5th edition Chapter 1

II. The Origin and Growth of Cities

1. Historical development of urban settlements?
2. The North American City in a global context

Recommended Readings: 5th edition Chapter 2

III. Cities as Centres of Production, Service Delivery, and Innovation

*Recommended Readings: 4th edition Chapters. 6 - 7
5th edition Chapters 3, 5 - 6*

IV. Urban Housing – from Urban Sprawl to Neighbourhood Change

1. Population growth/change, and urban sprawl
2. Neighbourhood change - Gentrification

*Recommended Readings: 4th edition Chapters 15, 20, 23.
5th edition Chapters 12, 17, 19, 24*

V. The City as a Social Space

1. Patterns of sociospatial differentiation
2. Descriptive models of urban structure-social space

*Recommended Readings: 4th edition Chapters 9 - 10
5th edition Chapters 7 - 9*

VI. Human Interventions in Cities – Architecture, Planning, Engineering

1. Historical development of urban planning
2. Contemporary planning issues/solutions
3. Urban transportation and commuting

*Recommended Readings: 4th edition Chapters 11, 16, 18.
5th edition Chapters 10, 14, 15, 17, 18,*

VII. Urban Governance

1. The role of government in urban development
2. Urban policy

*Recommended Readings: 4th edition, Chapters 12, 25
5th edition Chapters 11, 24, 25*