COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines the relationship between urban geography, planning and politics. In particular, it seeks to interrogate the theoretical importance of place, space and urban form in the production of political and social values, practices, strategies, and discourses, and in turn, analyze the implications of the place-politics nexus for understanding shifts in the direction and form of urban policy, governance, identity and citizenship. The course begins with a broad examination of the theoretical bases for linking place and politics, particularly as this relates to the construction of urban and non-urban places, with literature drawn from a number of sources, including geography, urban studies, political science, and planning theory. The course then examines a number of specific cases, including: the politics of automobility, gentrification as a political practice, the politics of community and neighbourhood aesthetics, the politics of homelessness and anti-panhandling legislation, the politics of planning, suburbanization, and the politics of municipal amalgamation, that inform and challenge our understanding of the relationship between place and political praxis, and the political construction of the city.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

The course meets once per week in seminar format. Students in the class are asked to make short presentations on the readings in the seminar, participate in class discussion, prepare a term-paper proposal (of approximately 4 pages), and write a full length term paper (of approximately 20-25 pages) on a topic of their choosing.

TEXT

There is no specific text for this course. Readings are listed below, and will be placed in the geography/planning head office for sign out. Most of the readings are also accessible online.

GRADING

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentations</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper Proposal (due Oct 11)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper (due last class)</td>
<td>60%</td>
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Late proposals and term papers can be assigned a penalty of 10% per day late. Assignments will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.
LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1: Introduction to the course

Week 2: Placing Politics, Placing Ideology - Phenomenological Foundations

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Week 3: The ‘Urban’ as a Basis of Politics?

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


**Week 4: The City Politic: Urban Community, Citizenship, and the Other**

**Primary Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


Week 5: Contextual Effects, Consumption, and ‘Dealignment’ in Electoral Geography

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Seminal Work:

Week 6: Fragmentation and the Politics of Suburbia

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


*Seminal Work:*


**Week 7: Aesthetics and Geographies of Exclusion**

*Primary Reading:*


*Recommended Reading:*


Week 8: The Politics of Automobility and Velomobility

Common Reading:


Additional Readings:


Week 9: Gated Communities and the Privatization of Space

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Week 10:  Politics of Homelessness, Public Space, and the “Right to the City”

Common Reading:


Additional Reading:


Mosher, J.E. and Hermer, J. (Eds.) (2002). (particularly) Chapters 1 (O'Grady and Bright), 3 (Ruddick), and 6 (Martin), in *Disorderly People : Law and the Politics of Exclusion in Ontario*.  Halifax: Fernwood


Week 11: The Politics of Gentrification and the New Urban Middle-Class

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Week 12: Politics of Social Mix and Social Housing Redevelopment

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


