JPG 1512  Place, Politics and The Urban
University of Toronto
Department of Geography and Programme in Planning
Autumn 2014

Instructor: Alan Walks
Email: alan.walks@utoronto.ca
Seminar Time/ Location: Fridays, 10:30am – 1pm, in SS 2124A
Offices: Sid Smith Hall 5023, UTM Davis 3258
Phone#: 905-828-3932 (UTM)
Office Hours: Fridays, 1-2pm (Sid Smith 5023), or by appointment

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>Weight</th>
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<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 10)</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: The Politics of Gentrification and the New Urban Middle-Class

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Week 7: Politics of Social Mix and Social Housing Redevelopment

Special Guest: Dr. Martine August

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Week 8: Fragmentation and the Politics of Suburbia

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


**Seminal Work:**


**Week 9: Aesthetics and Geographies of Exclusion**

**Primary Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


Week 10: The Politics of Automobility and Velomobility

Common Reading:


Additional Readings:


Week 11: Gated Communities and the Privatization of Space

Primary Reading:


Recommended Reading:


Week 12: 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


