

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
University of Toronto
GGR 359: Comparative Urban Policy
Spring Term 2015: W 12-2
Location: UC 163

Professor:

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Office Hours: Wednesday 3-5pm, and by appointment

Course website:

Blackboard (updated frequently)

Course description:

This course considers the various policy approaches devised to ameliorate urban social problems. The theoretical emphasis is on the production of urban policy, and how it differs across space. Simply put, urban policy is not natural or inevitable result of urban problems; it is actively produced (and contested) by an array of voices, institutions, and social forces. Actualized urban policies are thus best understood and evaluated as products of these influences. The first half of the course will cover broad theoretical matters pertaining to the production of urban policy. The second half of the course will focus more intensively on one problem—urban decline—and explore the actualized approaches that have been brought to bear to manage it.

Readings:

Most readings are available through the University of Toronto Library (online). All other readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Policies:

Email: Generally I prefer that you come to see me during my office hours rather than asking in-depth questions (that require in-depth responses) over email.

Blackboard grades: I will attempt to post grades on blackboard as quickly as possible to inform you of your standing in the class. It should be noted however that the grades you see on Blackboard are not official. If you notice a discrepancy between the grade recorded on Blackboard, and the mark listed on one of your assignments or tests, you should assume that the hard copy is correct (not Blackboard). If you notice discrepancies of this sort, please bring them to my attention as soon as possible.

Absences from class or examinations: Attendance for the lecture period during the term will not be recorded. It is your responsibility to obtain and retain the course material, which includes lecture. Examinations and scheduled presentation absences are however a very different matter. The only excusable absences from the midterm exam or your presentation date is a *documented* medical or family emergencies. For medical absences, have your doctor fill out an illness verification form (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>) that clearly excuses you for work *on the day of the exam or presentation* (i.e. a note saying that you were sick the week before the exam is not sufficient). The form

should be delivered to the instructor *within three days* of the presentation or examination date. Family emergencies vary more in nature, so please contact the instructor as soon as possible about necessary documentation should you find yourself in this situation.

Without proper documentation for missing a presentation or being absent from an exam, you will receive a grade of zero for the piece of work in question.

The guidelines pertaining to the final exam are set and enforced independently by the Faculty of Arts and Science. If you have not done so already, please familiarize yourself with these rules:
http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html#exams

Hard copies of exams: It is your responsibility to retain a hard copy of all graded work at least until you have received an official mark for the class. I generally bring graded hard copies of assignments/tests to class the week after I mark them. After that point, they are available during office hours.

Penalties for late term work: Written term work (the handout for your policy presentation) will incur a penalty of 10 percent per day (with nothing accepted one week after the deadline).

Academic integrity: 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>.

Disability services: 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.

Grade breakdown:

Comparative Policy Assignment (20 percent): You will be required to present a report on an urban policy that has been implemented in two different cities of your choosing. See the assignment sheet for more details (posted on portal). Your mark will be based on the depth of your research, and the quality of your summary sheet and presentation. Depending on the size of the course, you may be asked to work in a group for this assignment. Due: variable.

Midterm Test (30 percent): A midterm test, consisting of a mix of essay and fill-in-the-blank questions, will occur on February 25. Approximately 90 percent of the content will be derived from the course readings. A review sheet consisting of possible essay questions will be circulated one week prior to the test.

Final Exam (50 percent): This course will hold a final exam during the regular university-scheduled exam period in April. The exam will be similar in design to the midterm test. The date, time and location will be announced midway through the term by the Faculty of Arts and Science. Details TBA.

Schedule:

* Reading posted to the course Blackboard site (all other readings available directly from Robarts Library-online)

Week 1 (January 7): Introduction to the course

Required Reading:

* John, P. (2009). "Why study urban politics?" Pp. 17-23, in J. Davies and D. Imbroscio (eds) *Theories of Urban Politics*, second edition. London: Sage.

Week 2 (January 14): Urban as form of public policy

Required Reading:

* Sancton, A. (2011). "Central governments and local governments." Pp. 26-40 (Chapter 3), and "Conclusion: Change, importance, complexity", Pp. 306-316 (Chapter, 15) in *Canadian Local Government: An urban perspective*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press Canada.

* Weir, M. (1995). "Poverty, social rights, and the politics of place in the United States." Pp. 329-354, in S. Leibfreid and P. Pierson (eds) *European Social Policy: Between fragmentation and integration*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution.

Week 3 (January 21): History of policy paradigms

Required Reading:

Gruening, G. (2001). Origin and theoretical basis of New Public Management. *International Public Management Journal*, 4: 1-25.

Kearney, R. and Hayes, S. (1998). Reinventing government, the new public management and civil service systems in international perspective. *Review of Public Personnel Administration*. Fall: 38-54.

Week 4 (January 28): Political economy of urban policy

Required Reading:

Harvey, D. (1989) From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: The transformation of urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler*, 71: 3-17.

* Peterson, P. (1981). Pp. 17-38, in *City Limits*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Tiebout, C. (1956). A pure theory of local expenditures. *Journal of Political Economy*, 64: 416-424.

Week 5 (February 4): The politics of policy formation

Required Reading:

* Abelson, D. (2009). Pp. 49-76, in *Do Think Tanks Matter? An assessment of the impact of public policy institutes*. Montreal-Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press.

* Rabrenovic, G. (2009). "Urban social movements," Pp. 239-254, in J. Davies and D. Imbroscio (eds) *Theories of Urban Politics*, second edition. London: Sage.

Stone, C. (1995). Looking back to look forward: Reflections on urban regime analysis. *Urban Affairs Review*. 40: 309-341.

Week 6 (February 11): The politics of evaluation

Required Reading:

Bovens, M., Hart, 't P. and Kulpers, S. (2008). "The politics of policy evaluation," In R.E. Goodin, M. Moran, and M. Rein (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Public Policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Online book available through University of Toronto Library System.

* Fainstein, S. (2010). Pp. 23-56, *The Just City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Wyly, E. 2011. Positively radical. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(5): 889-912.

READING WEEK: no class on February 18

Week 7 (February 25):

MIDTERM TEST

Week 8 (March 4): Declining cities: Detropia film, with discussion (no presentations today)

Required Reading:

Dewar, M. and Weber, M. (2012). "City abandonment." In R. Crane and R. Weber (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Online book available through University of Toronto Library System.

Week 9 (March 11): Declining cities: setting the scene

Required Reading:

* Donald, B. and Hall, H. (2010). "Slow Growth and Decline in Canadian Cities," Pp. 276-292, in T. Bunting, P. Fillion, and R. Walker (eds), *Canadian Cities in Transition* 4th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

* Peck, J. (2015) "Framing Detroit," In M.P. Smith and L.O. Kirkpatrick (eds), *Reinventing Detroit*. New Brunswick, N.J. and London: Transaction Publishers, forthcoming.

Week 10 (March 18): Declining cities: the economics, ethics, and efficacy of intervention

Required Reading:

Glaeser, E.L. (2007). Can Buffalo ever come back? Probably not—and government should stop bribing people to stay there. *City Journal*, Autumn. http://www.city-journal.org/html/17_4_buffalo_ny.html

Molotch, H. (1976). The city as a growth machine: Toward a political economy of place. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 82(2), 309-332.

Week 11 (March 25): Declining cities: land abandonment

Required Reading:

Akers, J. (2013). Making markets: Think tank legislation and private property in Detroit. *Urban Geography*, 34(8): 1070-1095.

* Hackworth, J. (2015). "Detroit, land abandonment, and the normalization of market-fundamentalism," In M.P. Smith and L.O. Kirkpatrick (eds), *Reinventing Detroit*. New Brunswick, N.J. and London: Transaction Publishers, forthcoming.

Week 12 (April 1): Declining cities: planned shrinkage

Required Reading:

* Hackworth, J. (2015). Right-sizing as spatial austerity in the American Rust Belt, *Environment and Planning A*, forthcoming.

LaCroix, C. (2011). Urban green uses: The new renewal. *Planning and Environmental Law*, 63: 3-13.

Final Exam: During regular exam period (date, time, and location to be announced)