

GGR382H Field Course

Montreal

Thursday, 31 August to
Monday, 4 September 2017



This course is designed for students who are keen to explore Montreal in an intensive five-day field experience. We will walk the streets and ride the subways, learn from local people, visit museums, watch films and read popular and scholarly writing. We will undertake these efforts in order to explore diverse perspectives and experiences of this phenomenal city.

Instructor | Deborah Cowen | Sid Smith Room 5033 | deb.cowen@utoronto.ca

When | The field trip runs from August 31 - September 5, 2017 (but you must arrive in Montreal on August 30 so we can begin in the morning the next day). We will also meet 2-3 times in Toronto in the fall term.

Where | Montreal, QC

Credit | Students receive 0.5 credit for successfully completing the course.

Content | The course will explore present-day Montreal in order to investigate how the city's contested physical, social and political landscapes were produced over time. The course will approach Montreal as a deeply contested and divided space that is undergoing both slow and dramatic transformation. One central lens on the city will be gentrification and a number of related processes such as the racialization, de-industrialization, segregation, and financialization of urban space. We will consider Montreal a transnational space, and investigate the multiple ways in which this city is connected to other places, historically and in the present. We will also continuously be asking about the politics and geographies of race, status, gender and sexuality. We will examine how uneven power relations and the different interests and desires of groups produce the contemporary urban landscape.

The second part of the course will consist of a small number of meetings in Toronto to discuss the fieldwork and readings, and prepare for the final paper. Times and dates for these meetings will be determined collectively.

Course Logistics | **The course will meet in Montreal for the first time at 9am on Thursday August 31.** We will then explore the city for four days (Thursday through Monday). We will meet at 9am each morning to go over the day's itinerary and to discuss issues related to the course. You will receive more detailed information about the itinerary and other matters over the summer.

Accommodations | Course participants will stay at the M Montreal
1245 Rue Saint-André, Montreal Quebec, Canada H2L 3T1
We have dormitory rooms booked that will only hold GGR382 course participants.

Travel: There are a number of ways you can travel to Montreal. Busses, trains, and flights depart daily from Toronto. I encourage you to book your travel early given that we are travelling close to the long weekend. Rates are often much lower for travel if tickets are purchased in advance. If you would like to travel with other students, please let me know and we will facilitate connections.

Accessibility: The course involves a lot of walking, and long, active days. You will be riding the subway and exploring diverse neighbourhoods. You are expected to bring comfortable clothes and shoes, raingear, and any sun protection you may need.

Please contact me ASAP if you have any concerns about the course, or require any accommodations with the agenda.

Evaluation

Participation		30%
Biography	Due July 10	10%
Reading summaries	Due August 14 & 28	10%
Paper proposal	Due September 19	10%
Term Paper	Due October 27	40%

G U I D E L I N E S

General: Please engage the readings and the Montreal environment with an open mind and critical eye. Please share your ideas and experiences, and ask questions when you have them. Please show respect for your colleagues, your instructors, and the people we meet along the way, and expect the same in return.

Class Participation: Participation in this field course is extremely important so we will work to foster an engaged and inclusive mobile environment. Participation will be not be graded according to the *amount* you speak, but according to the thoughtfulness of your contributions, the constructiveness of your engagement with your peers, the reading material, and the social and built environment we encounter along the way, as well as your overall contribution to making GGR 382 a productive learning experience.

Reading responses: You are expected to do all the required readings before you travel to New York. The readings will provide crucial context and make our time in Montreal much richer. In order to encourage a careful reading of the texts, I am asking you to submit 10 one-page, double-spaced reading summaries. **At least five of these summaries** must be sent to the instructor and TA by August 14. **The remaining 5** must be submitted to us by August 28. You will receive a 1% grade for each completed summary received on time.

Paper Proposal: Two weeks after we return from Montreal, you will be asked to submit a short research proposal (maximum 2 double spaced pages, plus bibliography). This means you should be actively working on the paper and proposal while we are in Montreal and making the best use of your time there possible.

A research proposal should explain the topic you have chosen for your research paper, the time period(s) and place(s) you will cover, and provide a rationale for why this is an important topic. It should include a tentative overview of the structure of your paper and a bibliography of potential sources. In order to produce a strong research proposal, you must spend time thinking about your topic and doing some preliminary investigation. The proposal provides you with an opportunity to get feedback on your paper topic and is therefore a crucial step in the larger assignment.

Your proposal should be analytic not descriptive; it should raise critical questions about an issue and not simply describe it. This means you will need to explore 'how' and 'why' questions. I encourage you to discuss your paper topic with me before submitting your proposal. This is a perfect thing to

do as we walk the streets of Montreal!

Your proposal should include the following sections:

1. Your research question or problem. What will your paper explore or explain?
2. A brief review of relevant literature. What has already been written about the issue?
3. A discussion of how your analysis relates to or differs from existing arguments.
4. A preliminary overview of the paper structure; the different sections you expect to develop in the final paper.
5. A bibliography.

Term Paper: With feedback on your proposal you will write a final paper of 10-15 pages (plus bibliography, double-spaced). Your paper can focus on any topic that is addressed in the readings and/or fieldwork.

Readings: I will circulate a list of required readings and films, and access to files in early July.