DEPARTMENT OF
GEOGRAPHY University of
Toronto

GGR 241
GEOGRAPHIES OF SOCIAL URBAN EXCLUSION
WINTER 2018

Instructor: Gwen MacGregor
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Class Times: Monday 1-3pm, Sidney Smith SS2117
Office Hours: Monday 3:30 – 5:30; Wednesday 2-4pm or by appointment.

Course Description
Social exclusion and segregation are defining elements of contemporary cities. These are not new phenomena; they have been significant features of cities from the beginning of urban history. However, the geography of urban inequalities, exclusion and segregation has taken distinctive forms with the rise of industrial capitalism and European colonialism. This course roams across the history of urban development between 1700 and the present day to examine examples of social exclusion and segregation. The course focuses on linking the history of urban growth, social inequality, and geographic divisions to present challenges within five cities impacted by colonialism. It starts with an examination of the impact of European colonization on North American societies and peoples and the lasting legacies in the current urban environments of Chicago and Mexico City. The course then moves to examine the development of the colonial and post-colonial city in Africa and Asia through the case studies of Nairobi and Panaji, Goa. The course finishes with a look at the city of Venice and explores some of the historical and colonial legacies that inform its current identity as a centre of tourism.

Course Readings
Class readings are available on Blackboard. Other required reading may be posted during the term. You are expected to read all of the class readings and the added required reading. Lectures will not summarize the class readings, but rather expand on issues raised in them. Lecture slides of class lectures will be posted on Blackboard after each lecture.

Course Requirements
Assignment 1 (short essay; Feb 2nd) 20%
Assignment 2 (essay; March 19th) 40%
Final exam (during faculty exam period) 30%
Participation 10%
Term Assignments
There are two written assignments (one of five pages and one of ten pages, double spaced). Both explore aspects of the historical geography of urban social exclusion and inequality. They require academic research, reading and contemplation. You will be assessed on your ability to summarize, analyze and synthesize research literature in geography (and social science and humanities more broadly). As always, evaluation of your written work (assignments and exam) rests on your ability to write a critical-interpretative essay using clear, correct English, which shows a basic command of diction, grammar, syntax and punctuation.

Both assignments must be turned in on Blackboard as a Word document (.doc) and titled with your full name.
Paper #1 is due February 2nd by midnight.
Paper #2 is due March 17th by midnight

Final Exam
The final exam consists of three essays and is based on course readings and class lectures. You will be given six possible essay questions on the last day of class, out of which three will be chosen by the instructor for the exam. The exam is managed by the Faculty of Arts and Science. The date of the final exam will be posted during the term. If you miss the exam you must file a formal petition with FAS: http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules_&_Regulations.html.

Participation
Attendance is important in this course. However the participation mark will not be based on simply showing up. Throughout the term there will be in-class activities and small group discussions that students are expected to actively participate in.

Class Policy
To foster a positive learning environment and do well in the course, you will:
(1) Come to class on time, prepared, and ready to engage. Complete all readings and assignments before class. You are expected to arrive and be settled in your seat by the beginning of class and to remain until the end of class. Unless you become ill, do not begin packing up books or stand to leave before the end of class, because this is distracting to all. If you know you cannot stay for the entire period, please notify the instructor before class, then sit near the door and leave very quietly.

(2) Invest approximately two to four hours per week to complete the readings, take notes, and reflect before or after class – this is in addition to time in the classroom and time needed to complete assignments. All readings are essential to this course and your attendance at all class meetings is recommended, although not required. You will not be equipped to participate in the class if you neglect to do the required readings.

(3) Consider which uses of technology support your learning and which distract or isolate you and others in the room. Laptops/tablets are permitted in class, but only for note-taking. Students taking notes on laptops are asked to turn Internet access off and to
sit near the front of the class. This will discourage electronic multi-tasking, which detracts from learning outcomes. Use of cell phones, cameras, and other devices are not permitted during class. If you are managing an urgent work or personal matter that requires your cell phone, feel free to quietly leave the room to do so.

Course Policies and Procedures

Accessibility
U of T and Accessibility Services are committed to the full participation of students with disabilities in all aspects of campus life. If you require accommodations for a disability, have accessibility concerns about the course, classroom, or course materials, or would like information about services and procedures, consult the Accessibility Services website http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/ or email them at disability.services@utoronto.ca.

Policy on Religious Observances
It is the policy of the University of Toronto to arrange reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays. Students have a responsibility to alert the instructor in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances that may affect any ability to meet required deadlines.

Recording lectures
Taking photos or videos of lectures is not permitted under any circumstance. Audio recording are not permitted unless prior permission is granted from the course instructor. Non-compliance with these terms will be subject to disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct.

Handing In assignments
Late assignments will be penalized 10% for every day late, up to a maximum of 5 days. Assignments will not be accepted if they are handed in later than six days after the due date. Extensions will be granted only in the case of documented illness (see http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/) or personal emergency. If either prevents you from submitting your assignment within 5 days of the deadline, contact your College Registrar immediately. Without proper documentation from the Registrar for missing an assignment or exam you will receive a grade of zero.

Plagiarism and academic integrity
Plagiarism is an academic offense (see Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters). It involves, but is not limited to, quoting or paraphrasing the work of an author (including fellow students) without proper citation, and submitting work for which credit has already been obtained, or is being sought. It is your responsibility to understand and adhere to the following policies: http://life.utoronto.ca/get-smarter/academic-honesty/

English language support
The English Language Learning offers support to students whose first language is not English, as well as those who consider English their first language but find informal, academic English challenging and want to improve their skills. In either case, you can find
assistance here: http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell.

Academic skills
Research, writing, reading, studying, note taking, citing, etc., require practice. Resources at U of T are available for the development of your intellectual skills and professional development, and they will help you far beyond one course. The following are strongly recommended:

a) Robarts Library research and reference services (book an appointment, online chat, or walk-in to a reference desk) https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/ask,
b) Writing Centres http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/, and
c) Academic Success Centre http://www.asc.utoronto.ca/.

Communication and email policy
Conduct as much course business in person during office hours or after class. You are encouraged to ask questions in class, visit the office hours of the instructor and TAs, and to be in contact with each other. Check your U of T email and Blackboard for course announcements. Email contact with the instructor is limited to questions requiring simple yes - no answers, to making appointments, and to dealing with emergency situations. If email is necessary, it should be directed to the course instructor, with GGR241 in the subject line.

The TAs will have limited office hours near assignment deadline dates in order to help you with your assignments and readings. These will be announced in class. Please come to office hours if you wish to discuss matters related to the course that require more than a one-sentence response.

Class Topics

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Reading List

January 8th Introduction


January 15th Venice 1


Martinie, Vittoria. “A brief history of I Giardini: Or a brief history of the Venice Biennale seen from the Giardini.” Art and Education. Accessed at http://www.artandeducation.net/paper/a-brief-history-of-i-giandini-or-a-brief-history-of-the-venice-biennale-seen-from-the-giardini/ (note: this link is no longer active, there is a copy on Blackboard)

January 22nd Venice 2


Staiff, R. (no date) Contemporary tourism issues Venice: A case study. Faculty of Environmental Management and Agriculture, University of Western Sydney.

January 29th New Orleans 1


February 5th New Orleans 2


February 12th Mexico City 1


February 19th Family Day

February 26th Mexico City 2


Guest lecture by Isabelle Urrutia

March 5th Panaji, Goa 1


March 12th Panaji, Goa 2


March 19th Nairobi 1


March 26th Nairobi 2


April 2nd Wrap Up