

CITIES AND URBAN LIFE | GGR124

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Lecture (L0501): Wednesday 6-8pm, ES1050
Lecture (L0101): Thursday 2-4pm, MC102
Tutorials: Weekly, **starting week 2**
For details see: <https://timetable.iit.artsci.utoronto.ca>

DESCRIPTION

Welcome to 2018 edition of GGR124! This course offers an introduction to North American cities and urbanization in a transnational context. We will explore a wide range of key forces (social movements, labour markets, finance capital, government policy, arts and culture, the environment, the media), processes (globalization, migration, dispossession, gentrification, accumulation, polarization, racialization), and events (fiscal crises, demonstrations, fires, elections) that shape and are shaped by contemporary urbanism. The course examines the role of cities in key current planetary challenges: economic inequality, global warming, migration and refuge, and housing. The last four weeks of the course will investigate creative ways that cities can be remade to respond to these challenges in order to build just and sustainable urban futures.

The course adopts the lens of 'fixity' and 'flow' to examine how the movement of people, ideas, goods, and capital, as well as their materialization and containment in the infrastructure and space of the city, give rise to particular urban forms. We will pay careful attention to questions of power and inequality, the relationship between different visions of the past, present, and future of urban space, and competing claims on the city.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- To critically engage pressing issues affecting contemporary North American cities.
- To enhance understanding of the connections between urban change locally and globally.
- To develop a better awareness of how cities are built, governed, and transformed.
- To explore diverse experiences and theories of urban change and urban life.
- To develop analytical skills and conceptual tools that connect urban experience with public policy.
- To consider, or even contribute, ideas and approaches for making cities more just and sustainable.



Irving Norman, 1984, Awakening of a City

EVALUATION

Tutorials	Tutorial participation	10%	Weekly
Assignment 1	The Local and the Global Home	15%	January 31
Assignment 2	Neighbourhoods, Mobility & Affordability	25%	February 28
Assignment 3	Urban Crisis/Urban Futures?	15%	March 14 – April 4
Final Exam		35%	TBA (exam period)

READINGS (+)

Required weekly preparation for this course draws on diverse media – scholarly writing, podcasts, videos, and popular articles. All required media is available on Blackboard and must be engaged BEFORE you come to the lecture and tutorials. The final assignment for this course involves reading and responding to a work of popular fiction. We will be reading Octavia Butler’s *The Parable of the Sower*, which you can purchase at **A Different Booklist**, 779 Bathurst Street (a short walk from the UTSG campus).

GUIDELINES

Please come to class, engage the material, share your ideas and experiences, and ask questions when you have them. Please show respect for your classmates and the teaching staff, and expect the same in return.

Lectures are important! Please come to lectures and tutorials with your required preparation done, your questions and comments ready, and your minds open. I am committed to both hard work and having fun as we learn together and I endeavor to make lectures lively and interactive, but your active engagement is key.

Accessibility is a commitment of this course and of the University of Toronto. This course considers difference a source of value and aims to welcome and support diverse learning styles and needs. If you have suggestions for making the course more accessible, or if you have a consideration or circumstance that needs specific accommodation, please see me as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. For more information on services and resources, please contact Tanya Lewis, Director of Academic Success and Accessibility Services, (416) 978-6268; tanya.lewis@utoronto.ca

Participation is extremely important, so we will work to foster a supportive and respectful space in our lecture hall and tutorial rooms. You are expected to do the required preparation before class and to actively engage in discussion. Participation is not assessed according to the amount you speak, but by the thoughtfulness of your contributions, the constructiveness of your engagement with your colleagues and course material, and your contribution to making GGR124 a generative learning experience.

Tutorials will be your ‘home’ in the course and the site of key components of your learning. In your tutorials, you will have the time to dig deeper into course readings, and to work together and get feedback on assignments. Tutorials are mandatory and meet weekly from the second week of the course through the end of March. You must attend the same tutorial group each week.

Working groups will allow us to practice skills that are important for urban, scholarly and professional life including: *collaboration, teamwork, coalition building, and networking*. They are small groups of 4-6 students that you will get to know in your weekly tutorial through discussion of course material. You are encouraged to make use of your working group to think about assignments, share notes, and study.

‘Exam elections’ will take place at the end of each lecture, starting in week 2. This will be an opportunity for the class to elect one concept or issue from each week’s class to appear on the final exam.

Communication outside of the classroom will take place primarily through Blackboard. **Email** must be used judiciously. In accordance with university policy, only emails from UToronto accounts will be returned, and **you MUST place 'GGR124' in the subject line** of any emails you send to me or your TA. You will receive occasional course updates by email, so you must check your UToronto account regularly. Please do not expect an immediate response to your email, and do not ask questions over email that cannot be answered with one or two sentences. Please bring larger questions to tutorial or office hours. Your TA will provide their contact details and protocols at your first tutorial meeting.

Assignments must be submitted according to the instructions provided on each assignment outline. Some assignments must be submitted through Blackboard and some will be submitted in tutorial. Details about assignments will be provided in lecture hall and tutorials.

Extensions will be granted sparingly in the case of illness and you must present a medical certificate completed by a healthcare professional. Please consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties during term that prevent you from completing your course work.

Late penalty is 5% (of the assignment grade) for each weekday that an assignment is late (weekends count as one day). Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Please discuss extensions with your TA.

Assignment reassessment: you have 2 weeks from the day an assignment is returned to you to request a re-grade. *Please be aware that your grade could go down or stay the same when your work is reassessed.* There is no guarantee your mark will go up, so be sure you have substantial reasons to make the request. If you wish to have an assignment reassessed, please carefully review the Teaching Assistant's comments and the assignment outline, and then submit a 1-2 paragraph explanation of your concerns. You must submit this with the original graded assignment to your TA in their tutorial or office hours. The assignment will first be reviewed by the TA who originally marked it. If you are still dissatisfied, you may then bring it the course instructor for reconsideration.

COURSE PLAN:

URBAN FOUNDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. introduction 2. where are we? (in time) 3. where are we? (in space) 4. who are we?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. housing and the crisis of shelter 6. work and the crisis of livelihoods 7. migration and the crisis of sanctuary 8. nature and the crisis of sustainability 	URBAN CHALLENGES
URBAN FUTURES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. rebuilding infrastructure 10. remaking urban nature 11. re-inhabiting home 12. repairing urban futures (& wrap up)

URBAN FOUNDATIONS

week 1 | JANUARY 10/11 | introduction

This session will provide students with an overview of the plan for the term including the learning objectives and pedagogical approach of the course, as well as practical details regarding topics, assignments, readings and other required preparation.

week 2 | JANUARY 17/18 | where are we? (in time)

What role do cities and urban space play in an era of globalization? Has society become 'completely urbanized'? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes and concepts such as: *Globalization, urbanization and the rise of 'global cities'* | *Expansion of the built and vertical form of the city* | *The reorganization of space within and between cities* | *Transnational flows and im/mobilities* |

Massey, D. (1994) "A Global Sense of Place." *Space, Place and Gender*. Minneapolis: UMP.

Sassen, S. (2010) "Swoons Over Miami." *Foreign Policy*. August 27.

week 3 | JANUARY 24/25 | where are we? (in space)

On whose land are North American cities built, and with whose labour? What are the histories of these cities, and how do these histories shape the present? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes and concepts such as: *Settler colonialism and/as the foundation of Canadian cities* | *Dispossession, displacement, and slavery* | *Contemporary conflicts over (urban) land* | *Reconciliation, reparation, and the city* |

Howard, H. & Bobiwash, A. (2008) "Toronto's Native History." *First Nations House Magazine*.

Keefer, T. (2014) "A Short Introduction to the Two Row Wampum." *Briarpatch Magazine*.

DaCosta, J. (2014) "Toronto aka Tkaronto Passes New City Council Protocol." *Muskrat Magazine*.

CBC Radio (2017) "The little-told history of Canadians as slave owners, not just slave rescuers." *The Sunday Edition*.

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/thesundayedition/the-sunday-edition-december-10-2017-1.4439351/the-little-told-history-of-canadians-as-slave-owners-not-just-slave-rescuers-1.4439365>

TUTORIAL PREPARATION:

First Story – get the app here and **explore 3 sites**:

Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/ca/app/first-story-toronto/id665936832?mt=8>

Android & Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ca.comap.firststory&hl=en>

week 4 | JANUARY 31/FEBRUARY 1 | who are we?

ASSIGNMENT 1 DUE

Who lives in the contemporary city? Whose visions and interests are prioritized in the construction and governance of urban space? Why are cities becoming more 'securitized'? How does the social life of the city implicate this course? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes and concepts such as: *Social geographies of the city* | *Power, inequality and social polarization* | *Gender, race and space* | *Intersectionality & positionality* |

Hulchanski, D. (2010) "The Three Cities Within Toronto: Income Polarization Among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005." <http://www.urbancentre.utoronto.ca/pdfs/curp/tnrn/Three-Cities-Within-Toronto-2010-Final.pdf>

Federal Reserve Bank (2017) "The Color of Wealth in Boston." Duke University and The New School.

TUTORIAL PREPARATION:

Badger, E. (2013) "Are Global Cities Really Doomed to Become 'Citadels' for the Rich?" *CityLab*, June 17.

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2013/06/are-global-cities-really-doomed-become-citadels-rich/5929/>

URBAN CHALLENGES

week 5 | FEBRUARY 7/8 | housing and the crisis of shelter |

How do people access housing in the city? Who builds, finances, and regulates the housing market? How does segregation take shape, and why are some groups more impacted by others? What shapes the affordability of neighbourhoods? How has all this changed over time? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes and concepts such as: *Gentrification | Financialization | Race, segregation and the distribution of housing | Homelessness |*

There Goes the Neighbourhood (2017) "I Didn't Want to Evict You." <https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/i-didnt-want-evict-you> [27minute podcast]

Coates, T. (2014) "The Case for Reparations." *The Atlantic*. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Zuk, M., & Chapple, K. (2015). "Gentrification Explainer Video." *Urban Displacement Project*. [7minute video] <http://www.urbandisplacement.org/gentrification-explained>

TUTORIAL PREPARATION:

Kay, M. (2017) "The Toronto Housing Crisis is a Student Issue." *The Strand*. September. <http://thestrاند.ca/the-toronto-housing-crisis-is-a-student-issue/>

week 6 | FEBRUARY 15/16 | work and the crisis of livelihoods |

How has economic globalization changed local labour markets? What kind of economy makes the contemporary North American city? How has work changed over time, and how does this impact the urban landscape? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes and concepts such as: *'De-industrialization' and the rise of the 'new economy' | Precarious work | Gender, race and labour market restructuring | The 'sharing economy', the 'gig economy' and cities |*

PEPSO (2013) *It's More than Poverty: Employment Precarity and Household Well-being*. 4-11.

CBC Radio (2017) "The Disappearing Company Job." *Ideas*. <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/the-disappearing-company-job-1.4433392> [54min podcast]

TUTORIAL PREPARATION:

Mojtehdzadeh, S. (2017) "Toronto's 'gig economy' fueled by young workers starved for choice." *The Star*, April 7.

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/04/07/torontos-gig-economy-fueled-by-young-workers-starved-for-choice.html>

reading week | FEBRUARY 21/22 | NO CLASS OR TUTORIALS

week 7 | FEBRUARY 28/MARCH 1 | migration and the crisis of sanctuary | **ASSIGNMENT 2 DUE**

How does immigration shape the city? Where do immigrants to Canadian cities come from and where do they settle? How has this changed over time? Why are so many people moving today? Is asylum a right or a privilege? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes such as: *National borders and urban space | Local conflicts over transnational migration | Cities and the crisis of refugees |*

Price, Marie (2008) "Migration and Settlement" Ch. 11 in *The Sage Companion to the City*. Eds. Tim Hall, Phil Hubbard and John Rennie Short. Los Angeles: Sage.

Katz, B. & Brandt, J. (2017) "The Refugee Crisis Is a City Crisis." *CityLab*, October 27.

<https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/10/the-refugee-crisis-is-a-city-crisis/544083/>

TUTORIAL PREPARATION:

Spacing Radio (2017) <http://spacing.ca/toronto/2017/04/23/podcast-spacing-radio-011-migration/> A discussion of (No) Access T.O. Segment begins at 28:48.

week 8 | MARCH 7/8 | nature and the crisis of sustainability |

Are cities bad for 'nature'? What kind of nature does the contemporary city *build*? What are the connections between social and ecological crises? Could cities be a solution to (instead of a source of) our environmental problems? How might we build cities that support just and sustainable social and ecological futures? We will explore these questions through an engagement with themes and concepts such as: *The production of nature | Urban ecosystems |*

Rees, W. (2015) Getting Serious about Urban Sustainability: Eco-Footprints and the Vulnerability of Twenty-First Century Cities. Chapter 4 in *Canadian Cities in Transition*. Oxford University Press.

TUTORIAL PREPARATION:

Bliss, L. (2017) "Los Angeles is Burning, Again and Again. *CityLab*, December.

<https://www.citylab.com/environment/2017/12/los-angeles-is-burning-again-and-again/547637/>

Kennedy, M. (2016) "Lead-Laced Water in Flint: A Step-By-Step Look at The Makings of a Crisis." *NPR*.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/04/20/465545378/lead-laced-water-in-flint-a-step-by-step-look-at-the-makings-of-a-crisis>

URBAN FUTURES

week 9 | MARCH 14/15 | rebuilding infrastructure | ASSIGNMENT 3.1 DUE

From Bus Riders Union to Bus Rapid Transit: Race, Class, and Transit Infrastructure in Los Angeles

<https://www.kcet.org/departures-columns/from-bus-riders-union-to-bus-rapid-transit-race-class-and-transit-infrastructure>

LA Bus Riders' Union Rolls Over Transit Racism

<http://www.reimaginerpe.org/files/17.JGeoff.Ray.pdf>

Does Your City Need a Transit Riders Union?

<http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2012/10/does-your-city-need-transit-riders-union/3722/>

week 10 | MARCH 21/22 | remaking urban nature |

Building the Ecological Food System: From Hunger to Health, Ecosystems & Communities

http://foodshare.net/custom/uploads/2015/11/Building_the_Ecological_Food_System_CED_Works.pdf

Fighting Global Warming at the Farmers Market

http://foodshare.net/custom/uploads/2015/11/Fighting_Global_Warming_at_the_Farmers_Market.pdf

The Colour of Food

https://www.raceforward.org/sites/default/files/downloads/food_justice_021611_F.pdf

Parkdale Food Centre

<http://parkdalefoodcentre.ca>

week 11 | MARCH 28/29 | reassembling 'home' | ASSIGNMENT 3.2 DUE

In South L.A., a Common Front to Fend Off Gentrification

<http://www.citylab.com/housing/2016/11/in-south-la-a-common-front-to-fend-off-gentrification/506213/>

Sanctuary City Vancouver, Principles

<http://www.sanctuarycityvan.com/sanctuary-city-principles/>

Inside Vancouver's Sanctuary City Movement

<http://theyee.ca/News/2014/07/08/Vancouver-Sanctuary-City/>

5 lessons for tenants from the successful Parkdale rent strike

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2017/08/14/5-lessons-for-tenants-from-the-successful-parkdale-rent-strike.html>

week 12 | APRIL 4/5 | repairing urban futures (and wrap up) | ASSIGNMENT 3.3 DUE

Framework for City of Reconciliation (Vancouver)

<http://council.vancouver.ca/20141028/documents/rr1.pdf>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report: Call to Action

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf