**GGR339 H1S**

**Urban Geography, Planning and Political Processes**

**Winter 2018**

**Instructor:** Dr Martine Spinks (martine.spinks@mail.utoronto.ca)

**TAs:** Shalini Mariyathas (shalini.mariyathas@mail.utoronto.ca)
          Andrew Morgan (aj.morgan@mail.utoronto.ca)

**Timetable:** Winter 2018, Mondays 6pm – 8pm

**Venue:** Sidney Smith Hall 1071

**Office hours:** Monday, 5pm-6pm, Room SS 5061, or please email TAs for an appointment

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**General Description**

This course investigates primarily North American urban political geography. It explores competing visions of city life and claims on urban space. The course investigates how these struggles connect to economic, social and environmental politics at different spatial scales, and considers different theoretical frameworks that geographers and planners have developed to make sense of both the persistence of old problems and the emergence of new ones.

**Learning Objectives**

The aim of the course is to provide students with comprehensive overview of the city as a multi-spatial and temporal space, and the demands different urban issues place on it. It also provides an opportunity for students to pursue key issues in-depth through a weekly submissions and a term paper. A final exam enables students to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained over the 12-week course.

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Understand the ways spatial processes and power relations form cities and urban life.
- Appreciate the significance of the urban context as a nexus through which multiple forces and processes intersect.
- Appreciate the complexities of multi-level engagements in urban space and time.
- Identify and articulate different groups occupying the city at different layers of space and time.
- Compare and contrast theoretical frameworks that geographers and planners have developed to make sense of urban issues.
- Critically assess the political context of topical urban issues.
- Understand the importance of both successful and failed approaches to resolving urban issues.

**Teaching & Learning Methods**

The course is taught primarily through weekly lectures, combining a mix of theoretical and conceptual lectures and case study demonstrations. This knowledge is then developed through class discussions, weekly reading summaries, a term paper and a final examination. Students are also encouraged to
read local, regional and national newspapers and consider their weekly themes in relation to reported urban issues. Topical urban issues and current events will be woven throughout the weekly lectures.

Course materials including lecture slides can be downloaded from Blackboard. It is the responsibility of the student to review all relevant materials prior to lectures. Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard before the start of each class.

Course readings are listed below. They are available through the University of Toronto website: https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/. Where possible they will also be posted on Blackboard.

Office hours are held from 5-6pm on Mondays in room SS 5061.

Instructor-student interaction occurs in the classroom and during office hours only. Email contact is limited to questions requiring simple yes/no answers, making appointments, and dealing with emergencies. Please come to the office hours if you wish to discuss matters related to the class, or approach the Instructor or TAs after class.

### Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation component</th>
<th>Assessment value</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issues for Discussion</td>
<td>10% (1% x 10 weeks)</td>
<td>On going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>February 5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>March 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Issues for Discussion – 10%**

Students are expected to do the required readings before class each week and to actively engage in discussion.

To prompt participation, students are required to submit issues for possible discussion in class, which should be handed in at the beginning of each lecture. Only one issue per required reading is expected. For example, if two readings are required for the week, then two issues are due in at the beginning of each class – one issue for each reading. If one reading is required for the week, then one issue is due before class.

Please submit your issues for discussion typed and in hardcopy. These do not need to be overly complex or long winded. If you have done your weekly readings with some degree of care you can write out a question, thought, or item for debate. Students may wish to retain a copy of their issues for discussion for themselves to prompt their participation. The instructor may reference these issues and call on students to elaborate on their ideas during class discussion.

Please ensure you provide your appropriate identification on your weekly submissions. These are not anonymous. No identification = no marks.
Essay Proposal – 15%
Students are required to submit a proposal of their term paper outlining their chosen topic and including an annotated bibliography of at least 5 peer reviewed sources. The proposal shall be 500 words, not including the bibliography, and will be submitted typed and in hard copy at the beginning of class on February 5. Essay topics will be set prior to the reading week.

Again, please ensure you provide the appropriate identification on your proposal. No identification = no marks, and no feedback.

Term paper – 40%
The term paper will be 3000 words, exclusive of references and any appendices. It should be submitted via Turnitin and is due March 26.

Exam – 35%
The final exam is comprehensive, and covers all aspects of the course from the readings, lectures and class discussions. It will be held during the University’s official examination period.

Late Penalty
A late penalty of 5% per day will be applied to assignments that are late by one week (defined as 7 consecutive days including weekends and holidays) or less. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted and the mark will be recorded as 0.

Circumstances always arise which cause some people to legitimately miss a deadline. If you do become ill [or are otherwise incapacitated] you must inform your instructor immediately and submit a completed official UofT medical form with your assignment (note it must be filled in and signed by the attending physician, with a contact number for that physician).

Learning Tools
Lectures
Lectures will be presented in class using a mix of multi-media, for example power point, online streaming, and video. Lecture slides will be uploaded to Blackboard prior to the start of each class.

Readings
Weekly readings are listed on the sheet below. They are divided into required and supplemental readings. The required readings are mandatory, and students are expected to do all required readings before class. Issues for discussion should be based on the required reading material. There will be no more than two required readings per week, except in one instance when four, short newspaper articles are assigned in lieu of journal articles. Supplemental readings are for the interested student to read at their own discretion. They may be a useful departure point for students beginning research for their term paper.

Readings complement lectures and are in no way a substitute for materials covered by the Instructor in class.
Blackboard
It is your responsibility to regularly check Blackboard:
https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/grameset.jsp

A valid University of Toronto email address (your.name@mail.utoronto.ca or your.name@utoronto.ca) is required to access to Blackboard. If you are uncertain of your email address, please reference ROSI.

Turnitin.com
Normally, students will be required to submit their term paper to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Plagiarism
The University of Toronto is committed to the principles of academic integrity. Please review the University’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

There are many tools to help you improve your writing. Please make an appointment with your college’s writing centre and check out the following website:
http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science

Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence and we will be taking measures to identify plagiarised assignments. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Please see:

http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/hot-not-to-plagiarize

Accessibility Needs
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: Disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility

Lecture Outline

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 8</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Revisiting Theories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Utopia/Dystopia and Cities and Difference</td>
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<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>Time, Space and Urban Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 5</td>
<td>Discussion topic: Night-time Economy</td>
<td>Essay topic set</td>
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<td>February 5</td>
<td>Politicising City Space: Social Movements and Occupy Us</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Andrew Morgan</td>
<td>Essay proposal due in</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Power, Networks and Sustainability in the Urban Form</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion Topic: Adopting a Network Approach to Sustainability in Urban Development</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
<td>Reading week – no class</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Safety, Fear and Responses to Threat</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussion Topic: The Politics of Fear and the Practicalities of Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 5</td>
<td>Public Space and Homelessness</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussion Topic: Who Belongs?</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>Processes of Gentrification and Resistance</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film: My Brooklyn (time permitting)</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>Immigration, Ethnicity and the City</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Discussion topic: Poverty and Prosperity in Enclaves</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>Urban Politics in Action: Harm Reduction in Vancouver</td>
<td>Issues for discussion due</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film: Fix: The Story of an Addicted City</td>
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Readings
Readings are divided into required and supplemental.

Week 1 – Introduction


Week 2 – Revisiting Theories


Week 3 – Utopia/Dystopia and Cities of Difference


**Week 4 – Time, Space and Urban Society**


**Week 5 – Politicising City Space: Social Movements and Occupy Us**


**Week 6 – Power, Networks and Sustainability in the Urban Form**


**Week 7 - Safety, Fear and Responses to Threat**

**Required:** Tiesdell, S. and T. Oc (1999) The Fortress, the panoptic, the regulatory and the animated: planning and urban design approaches to safer city centres. In, Landscape Research, 24(3), pp. 265-283.


**Week 8 – Public Space and Homelessness**

**Required:** M Crawford (1995) Contesting the public realm: Struggles over public space in Los Angeles. In, Journal of Architectural Education 49(1), 4-9


Week 9 – Processes of Gentrification and Resistance


Film: My Brooklyn. 2012. (dir. K. Anderson and A. Dean)


Week 10 - Immigration, Ethnicity and the City


**Week 11 - Urban Politics in Action: Harm Reduction**

*Nb: Do not submit issues for discussion for all four articles. Instead, write one issue for discussion based on the information covered in the four articles*


**Film:** Fix: The Story of an Addicted City. 2002. (dir. N. Wild).

