

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**University of Toronto**  
**GGR 359: Comparative Urban Policy**  
Spring Term 2018: W 12-2  
Location: SS 2125

**Professor:**

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

**Course website:**

Blackboard (updated frequently)

**Course description:**

This course considers urban public policy. Urban policy is not natural or inevitable response to 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 several applied policy genres.

**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. 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 absence are different matter. The only excusable absences from the midterm exam or your presentation date is a *documented* medical or family emergency. 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* (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 the 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](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. They are available during office hours.

**Penalties for late term work:** Written term work (the policy paper) 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 includes quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper attribution. Students also should not submit 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](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: April 4 (but presentations will occur on three days: March 21, March 28, and April 4).

**Midterm Test (30 percent):** A midterm test, consisting of a mix of essay and fill-in-the-blank questions, will occur on **February 14**. 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, but it will be comprehensive. The date, time and location will be announced midway through the term by the Faculty of Arts and Science. Details TBA.

### **Schedule:**

**Week 1: Wednesday, January 10**

- intro to class

**Week 2: Wednesday, January 17**

First hour: urban as a form of public policy, part 1

Second hour: Farewell to Oak Street and discussion during second half

Required readings

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.

\* Smith, K, and Larimer, C. (2013). "Public policy as a concept and a field (or fields) of study." Pp. 1-24 (Chapter 1), in *The Public Policy Theory Primer*. Boulder CO: Westview Press.

**Week 3: Wednesday, January 24**

First hour: Urban as a form of public policy, part 2

Second hour: The local policy-making process in North America

Required readings

\* 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 4: Wednesday, January 31**

First hour: The public interest and policy formation\* (add group threat to set up Dresden film)

Second hour: Dresden film on group threat and provocation and development of fair accommodations act

Required readings

Peck, J. (2006). Liberating the city: between New York and New Orleans. *Urban Geography* 27(8): 681-713.

\* Bacchi, C. (2009). Chapter 1, in *Analysing policy: What's the problem represented to be?* Frenchs Forest, NSW: Pearson Australia.

**Week 5: Wednesday, February 7**

First hour: Political economy of urban policy

Second hour: Africville Film and Discussion

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

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 6: Wednesday, February 14**

- Midterm test

**Reading Week: February 19-23, no classes**

**Week 7: Wednesday, February 28**

- Case 1 (short lecture, film & discussion): the rise and fall of public housing (voices of Cabrini or Pruitt Igoe myth and discussion)

Required reading

August, M. (2015). Revitalization gone wrong: Mixed-income public housing redevelopment in Toronto's Don Mount Court. *Urban Studies*, 53(16): 3405-3422.

Bristol, K. (1991). The Pruitt-Igoe myth. *Journal of Architectural Education*, 44(3): 163-171.

**Week 8: Wednesday, March 7**

- Case 2 (short lecture, film & discussion): racial housing restrictions in the US (Spanish Lake film and discussion)

Required reading

\* Massey, D., and Denton, N. (1993). Chapter 2, in *American Apartheid: Segregation and the making of the underclass*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.

Hackworth, J. (2016). Why there is no Detroit in Canada. *Urban Geography*, 37(2): 272-295.

**Week 9: Wednesday, March 14**

- Case 3 (short lecture, film & discussion): right-sizing the post-industrial city (Detropia and discussion)

Required reading

Hackworth, J. (2015). Right-sizing as spatial austerity in the American Rust Belt. *Environment and Planning A*, 47(4): 766-782.

Schilling, J., and Logan, J. (2008). Greening the rust belt: A green infrastructure model for right sizing America's shrinking cities. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 74(4): 451-66.

**Week 10: Wednesday, March 21**

- Final presentations (5 minutes each)

**Week 11: Wednesday, March 28**

- Final presentations (5 minutes each)

**Week 12: Wednesday, April 4**

- Final presentations (5 minutes each)