

GGR300: Special Topics - Infrastructure

Summer, 2018

Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 to 2:00 pm, room SS 2127

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Office hours: Tuesday, 10am – 12pm

Course Description

Infrastructure is the term that describes the transportation systems, sewers, pipes, and power lines that provide urban dwellers with necessary public services. In recent years, billions of dollars of public money have been spent upgrading existing infrastructure, and planning and delivering new facilities. Infrastructure has many impacts on the way that people in cities live. The way that infrastructure systems are planned, financed, and distributed impact on environmental sustainability, job creation, social equity, economic development, and urban livability. Moreover, infrastructure has the potential to both serve existing populations, and shape the way that future communities are built.

Through lectures, discussions, workshops, readings of scholarly articles and case studies, the course will aim to engage students in the key topics and debates related to the provision of urban infrastructure. Topics to be covered will include: project planning, causes and cures for cost overruns, funding models, financing mechanisms such as public-private partnerships, and the politics of facility planning and management.

A Few Ground Rules:

1. Please use e-mail judiciously. All emails can be directed to the professor. Please use email only to ask questions that can be answered with a short reply. If you have a longer question, I will be happy to answer them during my office hours.
2. Assignment Submissions: All assignments are to be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the specified due date. Assignments will not be accepted via email.
3. Late Penalty: Five (5) percentage points (of assignment grade) will be deducted for each day (Saturday and Sunday count as one day each) on all late assignments. Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date. *Assignments by e-mail or fax will not be accepted.* All late assignments must be submitted to the assignment drop box located outside the Department of Geography main office, room SSH 5047. *Please note that the drop box is only available until 5:00PM on weekdays* and is not available on weekends.
4. Course Learning Management Site: This course has a Quercus site where PowerPoint Slides, readings and other materials from class lectures will be posted. Please make use of Quercus as a useful reference point for this course.

5. Readings: Readings for this course are drawn from journal articles and other published material. They can be downloaded for free from the University of Toronto library website.
6. Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Any cases of plagiarism or cheating on exams or assignments will be handled in accordance with the University of Toronto's policies.
7. Test and essay questions will be drawn from the material in the readings and the content presented in the class lectures.

Evaluation and Key Dates

Assignment 1, 25%: May 22, 2018

Major Term Essay: 40%, June 14, 2018

Final Exam: 25%, TBA

Class Participation: 10% (attendance + participation in class discussions and case studies)

Detailed descriptions of each assignment will be distributed to students in class during the term. All assignments are due at the beginning of class, and will not be accepted by email. There will be a 5% penalty per day for late assignments, which counts on weekends as well. Assignments will only be accepted for one week after the deadline.

Course Schedule and Readings

Day 1: Introduction: Concepts, Challenges, Opportunities, May 8

Stimulus spending; ‘do no harm planning’; rent-seeking; infrastructure financing and funding

Siemiatycki, M. (2013). Riding the wave: explaining cycles in urban mega-project development. *Journal of Economic Policy Reform*. 16(2), 160-178.

Day 2: Infrastructure, Economic Growth, Land Use and Sustainability, May 10

History of infrastructure – developed and developing countries; Importance of connectivity; economic growth; social equity for those excluded; peak oil; climate change; disasters;

Graham, S. and Marvin, S. (2001). *Splintering urbanism: networked infrastructures, technological mobilities and the urban condition*. New York: Routledge. Prologue and Introduction, p1-36. (Available as electronic book through UofT library website).

Day 3: Mega-Projects and Risk, May 15

Cost overruns; delivery delays; unmet expectations;

Flyvbjerg, B. (2009). Survival of the unfittest: why the worst infrastructure gets built—and what we can do about it. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 25(3), 344–367.

Day 4: FIELD TRIP – TORONTO WATERFRONT TOUR, May 17

Review plans and proposals on Waterfront Toronto website.

* We will meet at 12pm at Queens Quay and Spadina (on the south side of the street on the Spadina WaveDeck). The trip will involve a walking tour of the Toronto waterfront that will take approximately 3 hours.

Day 5: Evidence Based Infrastructure Planning, May 22

Program and project appraisal approaches; Procurement strategies

Annema, J. A. (2013). The use of CBA in decision-making on mega-projects: empirical evidence. In *International Handbook on Mega-projects*. Priemus, H. and van Wee, B (eds). Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Assignment 1 Due

Day 6: Infrastructure Planning and Community Engagement, May 24

Public participation; deliberative planning; social marketing; opposing infrastructure projects

Lehrer, U. and Laidley, J. (2008). Old mega-projects newly repackaged? Waterfront redevelopment in Toronto. *International journal of urban and regional research*, 32(4), p. 786-803.

Day 7: Innovation in the Infrastructure Sector, May 29

Revolutionary and Evolutionary Innovation; Productivity;

Himmel, M. and Siemiatycki, M. (2017). Infrastructure public-private partnerships as drivers of innovation? Lessons from Ontario, Canada. *Environment and Planning C. First View*.

Day 8: Who owns, regulates and plans infrastructure projects? May 31

Role of the public, private and non-profit sectors; diversity in the infrastructure industry

Kessides, I.N. (2005). *Infrastructure Privatization and Regulation: Promises and Perils. The World Bank Research Observer*. 20(1), p.81-108.

World Economic Forum Infrastructure Gender Gap Report
<http://reports.weforum.org/future-of-jobs-2016/basic-and-industry/>

Day 9: Politics of Urban Infrastructure, June 5

Stimulus spending; ‘do no harm planning’; rent-seeking; strategic misrepresentation

Altshuler, A. and Luberoff, D. (2003). The Changing Politics of Urban Mega-Projects. *Land Lines*. 15(4), 1-4. (Available Online at: http://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/850_The-Changing-Politics-of-Urban-Mega-Projects)

Day 10: Infrastructure Public-Private Partnerships, June 7

Hodge, G. and Greve, C. (2010). Public-Private Partnerships: Governance Scheme or Language Game? *Australian Journal of Public Administration*. 69(1), p. 8-22.

Day 11: Infrastructure in Indigenous Communities, June 12

Condition of infrastructure in Indigenous communities; who plans infrastructure, owns and operates infrastructure

McCullough, J and Farahbakhsh, K. (2012). Square Peg, Round Hole: First Nations Drinking Water Infrastructure and Federal Policies, Programs, and Processes. *The International Indigenous Policy Journal*. 3(1).

Day 12: Infrastructure in Developing Countries, June 14

Role of international development agencies such as the World Bank and IMF; economic growth; social equity

Estache, A. (2004). Emerging infrastructure policy issues in developing countries: a survey of the recent economic literature. World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 3442, World Bank Publications.

Major Term Essay Due