

Department of Geography & Planning
University of Toronto
GGR374H
Urban Dynamics
Summer 2018

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:00pm-2:00pm.

Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00pm-4:00pm in SS2127.

Teaching Assistants:

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Recommended Preparation:

GGR124H, GGR221H, GGR270H

Description:

Nearly four billion people, or more than one-half of the global population, currently lives in cities and, according to Storper et al. (2015), more than 85 million people move to cities each year, with most of this rural-to-urban migration taking place in the developing world.¹ Even more striking, in our life-time, the global urban population will likely grow to more than 6 billion souls and represent more than two-thirds of the global population!²

This rapid shift of the global population over a relatively short period of time brings with it many benefits, but also many challenges. Sassen (2012) refers to the juggernaut of urbanization as '*an acute crisis*'. Specifically, she notes that "[t]here has been extreme growth in inequality and extreme growth in financial profits. The sons and daughters of the middle classes earn less than their parents, get less education, and are less likely to own a home. The number of global cities has grown, with both a massively internationalized very rich professional class and a very low-wage service class." We have also seen an erosion of the political will and means to protect the physical and social environments in and around our cities, and an increase in the degree to which cities have become places of conflict (armed and otherwise).³ Edward Glaeser, in his 2011 book entitled "Triumph of the City:

¹ Storper, M., Kemeny, T., Makarem, N.P., and Osman, T. (2015). "The Rise and Fall of Urban Economies: Lessons from San Francisco and Los Angeles." Stanford University Press, Stanford California. (p. 1)

² <http://www.globalcitiesinstitute.org/about>

³ Sassen, S. (2012). "Cities in a World Economy (Fourth Edition)." Sage Publications Inc., Los Angeles. p.ix

How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier” offers a very different view of our urban future, though he still acknowledges that this tectonic shift in the nature of life on Earth will not come without significant challenges.⁴

This course has been designed against this backdrop. GGR374H provides an economic-geographic examination of the processes giving rise to this trend toward rapid and globally pervasive urbanization, the associated consequences on social and economic systems, and possible avenues for policy intervention.

Grading:

Task	Weight
Research Proposal	10%
Research Paper	35%
Discussion Group Work (weekly & special lectures 4 & 5)	15%
Final Exam (during exam period)	40%

Required Reading:

We will make use of a listing of scholarly journal articles (see below) instead of a solitary text book. Note that no hard copy of these articles is being made available. All of the required readings are available through your “My Access” account with the University of Toronto Libraries (UTL). You can access all of the required readings through the course portal page (or via this link:

<https://cr.library.utoronto.ca/librarytab>.

Once you are logged into your “My Access” account (i.e., logged into the Portal or Quercus), you will be able to follow these links to pdf versions of the papers/books in question.

As you read the assigned materials, you may come across references to terms or techniques that are entirely new to you. When this occurs, try to see “the forest and not just the trees”, in other words, try not to get bogged down in the details, but rather try to appreciate what the author(s) is(are) trying to show and why. In each case, you may see models or methods with which you are not entirely comfortable. If so, try to extract as much value as possible.

Penalty for Late Work:

A late penalty of 5 percent per day will be applied to assignments up to a maximum of 7 consecutive days (including weekends and holidays). After 7 days, the assignment will be assessed at zero unless extenuating (and properly documented) circumstances exist.

⁴ Glaeser, E. (2011). “Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Healthier and Happier.” The Penguin Press, New York. (p. 1).

A Note on Academic Integrity at UofT:

The following is a quotation taken from the Academic Integrity policy for the University of Toronto: “The University of Toronto is committed to the values of independent inquiry and to the free and open exchange of ideas. Academic integrity underpins these values and is thus a core part of the University’s commitment to intellectual life. Extending beyond our immediate intellectual community of students, faculty, and staff at the University of Toronto, our intellectual community embraces all who have contributed to the sum of human knowledge.”⁵ In keeping with this, the University of Toronto expects all students, staff and faculty to abide by the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#). All students are expected to make themselves aware of the code and of strategies to ensure compliance with its terms.

About Doctor’s Notes:

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

Submitting Essays Using Turnitin.com:

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays 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](#) web site. As of September 1, 2013, UofT instructors and students will have direct access to Turnitin through Blackboard/Portal course accounts.

Details:

Research Proposal (1-page @ 10%)

Based on the topics covered in this course, and on your experience craft a research proposal that represents a topic you would like to explore further in your essay. Treat this as a statement of interest – something you want to explore more deeply.

Final Research Paper (Essay) (3,500 words @ 35%)

The essay will be a formal essay of no more than 3,500 words and it will comprehensively discuss and critique the chosen issue on the basis of relevant scholarly sources. You are **not** expected to gather and analyze data; rather, this is intended to be a review of the literature.

Final Exam (2 hours @ 40%)

Scheduled by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in the examination period. Coverage will be cumulative, and questions can ask for short answer, essay and/or analytical responses. All

⁵ <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>

“REQUIRED READINGS” are fair game for the exam, as is all material presented during lectures.

Discussion Group Work (15%)

Before we meet for our third session, I will divide the class into teams (one team for each of 6 lectures – weeks 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10). Each week (for 6 weeks) one group will be responsible for offering a summary and critique the readings selected for the week. **The idea will be to have the group promote class-wide discussion of the key theses/findings/conclusions in the readings. Each member of a group should participate and the group should meet (in person or virtually) to discuss the readings before the assigned class.** The first 10 minutes of each class will be dedicated to this “Discussion Group Work”. **Each group will participate for ONE WEEK ONLY.** The degree to which you are prepared and make a real and effective effort to synthesize information and engage will determine your grade out of 15%. **[Note: If you are absent when your group “presents”, then you forfeit this component of your grade.]** Weekly participation will also figure into this component. **Note that in weeks 4 & 5 this activity will be replaced by a facilitated breakout session** and following forum discussion. All of these participatory activities will contribute to the “Discussion Group Work” component of your final grade.

Writing Support in the Faculty of Arts & Science

1. Students can find information about college writing centres at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. The teaching approach of the college writing centres is described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning>.

2. The home page for the website "Writing at the University of Toronto" is www.writing.utoronto.ca. This resource includes:
- More than 60 Advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice. A complete list of printable PDF versions are listed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links-for-students>.
- Advice on "How Not to Plagiarize" and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources; these are listed in the section at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.

3. Details re the Writing Plus workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>

4. Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>

You might particularly want to recommend the following activities:

- the Communication Cafe, which meets weekly at four different times and locations for the first five weeks of each term for practice with oral skills like class discussion and

presentations.

- Reading eWriting, an online program that helps students engage course readings more effectively. You can also find further instructional advice files for students and for classroom instruction on this site. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator at ell.newcollege@utoronto.ca.

Lecture Schedule:

#	Date	Topic	Readings ⁶
0	5/7	Introduction	
1	5/9	Conceptualizing Cities	Scott and Storper (2015)* Glaeser (2011) – Introduction*
2	5/14	An Emerging Urban Form: The Polycentric Urban Region	Vicino et al. (2007)* Hall (2009)* Musterd et al. (2006)*
5/14 – Research Proposal Due – Upload to Turnitin.com			
3	5/16	Urban Structural Economic Change	Warrian and Mulhern (2009)* Polese (2012)* Glaeser (2011), ch. 2*
5/16 – Reading Discussion Groups Start			
Lectures 4 & 5 will consist of an introductory presentation by Professor DiFrancesco and then the class will break out into groups to discuss the reading materials with respect to certain assigned themes/questions. The groups will then be brought together to discuss their responses in a group forum environment. <u>Everyone is expected to do all of the reading and to participate in the discussion.</u>			
5/21 – Victoria Day – University Closed			
4	5/23	A Case of Diverging Economic Structures: Los Angeles vs. San Francisco	Storper et al. (2015) chs. 1-4*
5	5/28	Two Very Different Business Cultures and Two Very Different Urban Growth Trajectories: Silicon Valley versus Route 128	Saxenian (1996) chs. 1-3* Storper et al. (2015) ch. 5*
6	5/30	Cities, Industrial Districts and Clusters: the Role of Knowledge in Urban Change	Gabe et al. (2012) Wolfe (2009) Wolfe and Gertler (2004)* Feldman (2001)*
7	6/4	Global Production Networks and Urban Change	Gereffi and Lee (2012)* Coe et al. (2004)* Glaeser (2011), ch. 1*
8	6/6	Creative Class and Human Capital Perspectives on Urban Economic Growth and Change	Knudsen et al. (2008) Mellander (2009)* Donegan et al. (2008)* Stolarick and Florida (2006)*
9	6/11	Film Screening of “Last Ride through Regent” Directed by Mr. Dwayne Sybbliss. Discussion and Q&A with Mr. Sybbliss (12-1pm) followed by lecture.	
9	6/11	Gentrification vs. Re-urbanization	Rose (2004) Ley and Dobson (2008)

⁶ Required readings are marked with an asterisk (*).

			Hackworth and Smith (2001)* Lees (2008) Catungal et al. (2009)* Walks and Maaranen (2008)*
6/11 - Final Essays Due - Upload to Turnitin.com			
10	6/13	Polarization and Segregation in Cities	Preston et al. (2009)* Fong and Shibuya (2000)* Ades et al. (2012)* Hiebert (2009)* Brail and Kumar (2017)* Hulchanski (2010)

Reading List:⁷

All course readings are available in digital form at:

<https://cr.library.utoronto.ca/librarytab>

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