

**JPG 1512 Place, Politics and The Urban**  
University of Toronto  
Department of Geography and Planning  
Autumn 2018

**Instructor:** Alan Walks  
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**Seminar Time/ Location:** Thursdays, 3pm (1<sup>st</sup> meeting: Thursday Sept 13)  
**Offices:** Sid Smith Hall 5027a, UTM Davis 3258  
**Phone#:** 905-828-3932 (UTM)  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays after class (Sid Smith 5027a), or by appointment

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course examines the relationship between urban geography, planning and politics. In particular, it seeks to interrogate the theoretical importance of place, space and urban form in the production of political and social values, practices, strategies, and discourses, and in turn, analyze the implications of the place-politics nexus for understanding shifts in the direction and form of urban policy, governance, identity and citizenship. The course begins with a broad examination of the theoretical bases for linking place and politics, particularly as this relates to the construction of urban and non-urban places, with literature drawn from a number of sources, including geography, urban studies, political science, and planning theory. The course then examines a number of specific cases, including but limited to: the politics of automobility, gentrification as a political practice, the politics of community and neighbourhood aesthetics, the politics of homelessness and anti-panhandling legislation, the politics of suburbanization, the privatization of public space, the right to the city... topics that inform and challenge our understanding of the relationship between place and political praxis, and the political construction of the city.

### **COURSE ORGANIZATION**

The course meets once per week in seminar format. Students in the class are asked to make short presentations on the readings in the seminar, participate in class discussion, prepare a term-paper proposal (of approximately 4 pages), and write a full-length term paper (of approximately 20 pages) on a topic of their choosing.

### **TEXT**

There is no specific text for this course. Readings are listed below. Most of the readings are accessible online, and digital copies of book chapters will be made available.

### **GRADING**

Class participation	10%
Seminar Presentations	15%
Term Paper Proposal (due Oct 11)	15%
Term Paper (due last class)	60%

Late proposals and term papers can be assigned a penalty of 10% per day late. Assignments may not be accepted more than one week after the due date.

## **SEMINAR TOPICS**

Course seminars will relate to the following topics (seminar titles and readings may change slightly):

**Week 1: Introduction to the course**

**Week 2: Placing Politics, Placing Ideology - Phenomenological Foundations**

**Week 3: The 'Urban' as a Basis of Politics?**

**Week 4: The City Politic: Urban Community, Citizenship, and the Other**

**Week 5: Contextual Effects, Consumption, and Ideological 'Dealignment'**

**Week 6: Political Fragmentation and the Politics of Suburbia**

**Week 7: The Politics of Automobility and Velomobility**

**Week 8: Urban Aesthetics and Geographies of Exclusion**

**Week 9: Gated Communities and the Privatization of Space**

**Week 10: The Politics of Gentrification and the New Urban Middle-Class**

**Week 11: Politics of Social Mix and Social Housing Redevelopment**

**Week 12: Politics of Homelessness, Public Space, and the "Right to the City"**

The full reading list will be made available on the first day of class.