PLA 1101

ISSUES IN PLANNING HISTORY, THOUGHT AND PRACTICE

Tuesdays 9am to noon, Winter 2019
Sid Smith Hall, Room 2125
Anna Kramer
anna.kramer@utoronto.ca
Office hours, Room 5063 - Tuesdays, 1:30-2:30 pm & Wednesdays, 12:30-2:30 pm, or by appointment.

Course Description

This core course will introduce incoming planning master’s students to planning history, thought and practice in land use, transportation, social, economic and environmental planning. If planning is a collective, deliberative effort to address urban issues including inequality, climate change, gentrification and unaffordability, then it supposes a commons, right to the city, a social contract, and a concept of public good(s) that are contested and renegotiated. We cover defining theory and ground these with case studies from the history, present and future of planning. Guest talks from planners working in a variety of fields bring perspectives from practice.

Evaluation & due dates

The assignments are scaffolded, which means that they build on each other. The reading reflections, review and class participation will generate ideas for your briefing paper topic and outline, which will prepare you for your presentation, which will help to refine your briefing paper. The skills that we are developing in this class are verbal and written communication and critical thinking.

Reflections (15) – due the day before class

For 3 out of the 9 weeks of readings, write a 500-word reflection responding to the reflection question. Your choice of weeks. (5 points each)

Reading review and discussion (10) – in class

Briefly review one reading in class and discuss with others presenting readings, seminar-style. Readings will be assigned/chosen in the first class.

Participation (15) – in class

In class attendance, listening, discussion, debate, engagement, questions for guest speakers, activities.

Presentation and discussion (15) – March 26 and April 2

You will present your paper topic to the class, followed by questions and a discussion.

Briefing paper (45) – Outline February 19 and Briefing paper April 9
The final paper allows you to explore an idea, question or issue on planning history, thought and practice in greater depth. It will be written as a ‘briefing’ paper, by selecting, synthesizing, and evaluating multiple sources. A briefing paper provides in depth analysis on a subject – think of a hybrid of an essay and long-form journalism. It should be readable and informative.

Outline and annotated bibliography (15) – February 19

A 2-page outline, describing the question, idea or issue you will be writing about and how you will organize and structure the briefing note, along with a list of references and one or two sentences describing each reference.

Briefing paper (30) – April 9

The paper should be between 3,000 and 5,000 words, not including the bibliography. The rubric will consider the selection selection, synthesis and evaluation of sources, and on the clarity, logic and coherence of the writing. Bibliography should be in APA format.

Course contract

Accessibility Needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. 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 let me know and contact Accessibility Services: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility

Course Website

The course website is available through the University of Toronto course website (q.utoronto.ca). All students enrolled in the class should be able to view the link to the course with yourUTORID and password. All course materials will be posted on the website and assignments will be uploaded there.

Academic Integrity and Respect

Plagiarized work (which includes the submission of someone else’s work as your own and the re-submission of academic work that had been previously submitted in another course for credit) is not accepted. Please consult the “Rules and Regulations” section of the Arts and Science Calendar here for further information and check the ‘How not to plagiarize’ website here. Your essays will be submitted to Turnitin software to compare it to other known writings and a database of student papers.

In class discussion, we operate on principles of respect and reciprocity. We listen to each other and take turns contributing to the discussion. We encourage a diversity of perspectives.

Writing

Clear and effective communication is essential. The University has writing centres and online resources.
January 8  
**Introduction to planning history, thought and practice**

Introduction to planning history, thought and practice. Review course design and contract. What is planning? Concepts of public good(s), social contract, democratic governance. Current urban issues of growth, high rents, and employment trends.

Reference:


January 15  
**Land, infrastructure, worldview**

We discuss the history of settlement through colonialism, the history of planning in Canada, differences in land rights in common and indigenous law, concepts of ecosystem, treaties and reciprocity. We review the pre- and post- Columbian cultural landscapes in the Americas (historical ecology) and compare these practices to the current theory and practice of landscape infrastructure. Reflection question: How are ecological concepts of land and relationship relevant to planning challenges today?


January 22  
**Urban form, urban design, and development models**

We review the history of land use planning, from the industrial city reforms to the suburbanization of space from the garden city and automobility to current ideas of growth management, intensification and mixed use. Infrastructure in the history of the city; urban form variations and models. Reflection question: What are some important considerations in urban design?

Guest speaker: Andrew Davidge, Gladki Planning

Topic: Reimagining the mall in Mississauga, and the evolution of suburban design

Readings:

January 29  History of the street

We discuss the battle for the streets, as seen through the history of transportation planning, from Haussmann’s Parisian Avenues to Robert Moses’ expressways to current policy efforts such as Complete Streets and Vision Zero. Reflection question: How does transportation planning shape public space, everyday life and access to the city?

Guest speaker: Joshua Bassett, Transportation Planning
Topic: Case studies of street redesigns

Readings:


February 5  Inequality and equity: Innovative planning in marginalized neighbourhoods

We discuss spatial patterns of neighbourhoods, inequalities in access to amenities and exposure to dis-amenities, and issues of polarization and social exclusion, and how planning practice shapes environmental injustice. Toronto context of post-war apartment neighbourhoods. The impact of redevelopment and infrastructure investment on neighbourhoods can exacerbate or ameliorate these inequalities. Planning strategies such resident participation and value capture for community benefits are discussed. This week we have two guest speakers, a resident community organizer and a community planner, to offer perspectives on planning for greater equality. Because we have two guest speakers today, we will shift our discussion and reflections on the readings to next week.
Guest talk: Shannon Holness, Toronto Community Benefits Network
Topic: Resident and community organizing for better planning in Firgrove/Finch

Guest speaker: Francis Kwashi, Community Planning, Scarborough
Topic: Outreach and community engagement in Neighbourhood Improvement Areas; Challenging the norms of community planning

Readings:


February 12  Inequality and equity: difference in the diverse city

We follow up on last week’s guest talks to continue our discussion on difference in the diverse city, and strategies for democratizing economic planning and development. We discuss last week’s readings and this week’s in an extended seminar. Written reflections can address a selection of last week’s and this week’s readings, and respond to one of the questions below.

Recognition of how people’s access to the city and everyday lived experience often differs by intersections of race, gender, class, immigration status, queerness, mental health, and age. Concept of environmental (in)justice. Processes of urbanization and globalization that lead to uneven development, inter-regional competition, and agglomeration economies. Theories of city as growth machine, spatial fix. The impact of major investments such as transit infrastructure, real estate redevelopment, or major employment locations on local communities and city finance. Methods for democratizing planning practice towards greater equality: Case studies include Montreal’s Collective Impact Project and Cities X Citizens, social urbanism in Latin America, and Parkdale organizing.

Reflection questions: What is the right to the city and how could it be practiced? What would it mean to democratize economic planning and development? How can planning both recognize difference and increase equality?
Readings:


February 19  Reading week (no class). Paper proposal and annotated bibliography due.

February 26  Planning and unplanning climate change

We discuss planning and climate change, both towards mitigation (carbon reduction) and adaptation to new realities of flooding, rising seas, droughts, heat, fire, and extreme weather events. How the impacts of climate change are felt unevenly and how that relates to the concept of environmental justice. Edward Said’s ‘third nature’; Detroit’s ‘blue and green infrastructure’ as vehicle of racialized displacement. The distinction between economic migrant and refugee, and how that may be problematized by climate change. Reflection question: How can and should we respond to climate change?

Readings:

Indigenous Strategies for Transformative Change. (Theme 3, Treaty, Relationship & the Land) Yellowhead Institute, Ryerson University, 2018. Online link here.


March 5  Current issues in transportation

We discuss socio-economics and transportation planning using case studies in Toronto, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Guangzhou among others. The potential for major, transformational mode shift from automobiles; and achieving transportation equity. How urban form and land use planning, rents and location of housing and employment, relates to transportation patterns and modes. Reflection question: Is major mode shift possible, how and what impact would it have?
Guest conversation: Deanna Chorney, SIPA Housing with Steven Dixon, SIPA Official Plan
Topic: Inclusionary zoning and rental replacement policy, major transit station area planning

Readings:
Farber, S. & Allen, J. (2018) Transit in Toronto: Socioeconomic Status and Transit Availability (Storymap here)


March 12  Current issues in housing and land use regulation

We discuss processes of public participation in land use regulation, multi-level policy shaping housing affordability, supply and demand issues, and multi-scalar gentrification, displacement, eviction and banishment. Reflection question: Describe some of the issues of development, growth and affordability in land use planning.

Guest speaker: Cheryll Case, CP Planning
Topic: Housing in Focus workshops

Readings:


March 19  Ethics, politics and agency in planning practice

Ethics are intrinsic to all planning practice, whether working in the public sector, for private consultants or developers, or non-profit community and advocacy groups. We discuss the different kinds of challenges and pressures that planners may face in practice. The need for a moral compass in planning, the responsibility to the commonweal, communication and accountability, public freedom, balancing the voices of influential interests with those excluded, the application of human rights and civil liberties to planning, and accurate, representative use of evidence. Drawing from case studies in practice such as Victor Doyle, the planner for Ontario’s Greenbelt, and community democracy in Barcelona en Comú. Reflection question: What principles would an ethics of planning practice be based on?

Guest speaker: Victor Doyle, RPP
Topic: Experiences in the public service

Readings:


March 26  Presentations

April 2  Presentations