Calendar Description
The interdependence of political processes and institutions, public policy and urban geography. The political economy of federalism, urban growth, planning and public services as they shape the urban landscape. The spaces of the city as the negotiated outcomes of variously empowered people and the meanings they ascribe to localities and places. Approaches informed by post-colonial, post-modern, and feminist perspectives. Canadian, U.S. and European comparisons.

Recommended Preparation: 8.0 FCE’s including GGR124H1, GGR246H1/GGR254H1

Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Social Science course

Breadth Requirement: Society and its Institutions (3)

Course Overview
This course is about the “urban political geography of space”. It addresses the spatial processes and power relations that form urban cities. The understanding of cities as a “nexus” through which multiple forces and processes intersect – conflicts and struggles in urban planning, municipal governance, federalism, urban growth, capital investments, state power, and policymaking. The combined effects of these power shifts fundamentally shape cities spatially. Most importantly, the course will reveal the underlying power struggles and processes of urbanization as inherently political, and that the contemporary cities in which we live is a manifestation of politically-driven forms of spatiality. As the course draws on students’ knowledge from prior urban geography courses, the following modules will be applied:

A. Theoretical Concepts (4 classes) – the first module will provide students with the foundational knowledge required for understanding the structure of urban political power, the politics of space, and their spatial relationships.

B. Topical Issues in Urban Political Geography (4 classes) – the second module will allow students to explore and investigate the complex interplay of a city’s relentless power struggle through an examination of special topics. Central to all these topics is their intrinsic effect to forming complex spatial relationships.

C. Select Case Studies (4 classes) – The final four lectures will culminate student’s knowledge with a review of selected case studies of central cities or urban regions as comparison.

Evaluation

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<td>Assignment 1 – Contemporary Issues Log &amp; Reflection</td>
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<td>Assignment 2 – Proposal</td>
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| 1    | Jan 7 | **Course Administration & Introduction to Urban Political Geography** | Background reading:  
**READING WEEK ~ FEB 17 TO 22**

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<th>Date</th>
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✓ Jamie Peck (2013) Pushing austerity: state failure, municipal bankruptcy and the crises of fiscal federalism in the USA. |
Film: City Limits |
| 12 Apr 1 | Summary & Course Review | Assignment #3 – Research Paper DUE |

**FINAL EXAM TBA**
Assignments Overview

All three assignments are cumulative and have been designed to bridge theoretical concepts with applied critical analysis of urban political issues. All three assignments will be done individually. Additional details will be provided throughout the term on a separate assignment handout.

Assignment 1 – Contemporary Issues Log & Reflection (20%)

The first assignment reinforces the relationship between geography and urban politics – the geography of urban politics and the politics of urban geography – as two sides of the same coin. Given the wide array of urban political issues that have been at the forefront of City Hall’s agenda, you will be choosing 1 (one) or a few complementary subtopics and explore its development in the past 10 years from an urban political geography lens. You may want to begin your search with a site in the Toronto area that has some political-geographic significance either historically or in the present. This could be a place where a controversy over new development has taken place, it could be the site of a racist or anti-racist rally, it could be an obvious or hidden space of political power, etc. With your chosen topic and site, you should immediately collect “current” news articles, press releases, magazine readings, news video (provide links or transcript), and other forms of printed and online media. It is preferred that you collect media that can be printed (e.g., newspaper article found online that can be printed and submitted). Each “article” is considered to be a log “entry.” Please make it easy for the instructor to read your articles. Time span/cover is roughly 2002 to present time, with Canada as the geographical context. Your articles should reflect one geographical area (the same city or region). In addition to assembling a log book of articles relevant to your topic, you will also write a reflection of no more than 5 pages single spaced, exclusive of cover pages or appendices, and excluding the log book itself. The log entries should support your paper/reflection and not be treated as separate items. Think of this paper as addressing the past, present, and future state of your topic.

Assignment 2 – Essay Proposal (10%)

Building on the topic that you have explored from Assignment 1, you will develop a short research proposal for your Final Essay. Your proposal will be maximum 2 pages, single spaced, with an annotated list of bibliography that you will consult for further reading. It should clearly outline which of the two options you intend to work on, the theoretical approaches, the city/region, as well as a general discussion of what you intend to explore. For the proposal, you will be expected to examine your topic using one of the two options:

1. Investigation of your topic using a recognized theoretical approaches in urban political geography – examples include: The Marxist Tradition; the Regulation Approach; Urban Regime Theory; Urban Growth Machines; Postmodern Urbanism; Governmentality; Democracy and Citizenship; Transnational Urbanism; and Urban Representation. If you have a preferred theoretical approach that you would like to examine which is not listed here, please do consult with the instructor in advance. Suggested readings pertaining to these theoretical approaches will be provided later in the term.

2. Based on the city (or urban region) you have chosen from Assignment 1, you will compare it with another city/region from the Global North. You may choose another Canadian city/region provided that the urban political dynamic is substantially different. Your goal is to draw on the similarities and differences of their political power structure and the resulting spatial relationship of your chosen topic. How have city leaders, civic groups, citizens, and other groups dealt with the issues in their own city. What can be learned from the experiences of both city-regions? How have the issues manifested through spatial relationships?
Assignment 3 – Research Essay (30%)
The final essay is the capstone project for this course. It should build on your proposal outline and the feedback provided by the Instructor/TA. The length is max 8 pages single spaced, exclusive of cover pages, references and/or appendices.

Final Exam (35%)
The final exam is comprehensive, and covers all aspects of the course from the readings, lectures, to the class discussions. It will be held during the University’s official examination period.

Guidelines

General: Please come to class, engage the material, share your ideas and experiences, and ask questions when you have them. Please show respect for your classmates and for me, and expect the same in return.

Class Participation [5%]: You are expected to do the required readings before class each week and to actively engage in discussion. Participation is extremely important so we will work to foster a supportive classroom space. Participation will be not be graded according to the amount you speak, but according to the thoughtfulness of your contributions, the constructiveness of your engagement with your peers and the course material, and your overall contribution to making GR339 a productive learning experience. As the class is composed of topical readings, it is expected that learners will attend all scheduled classes, and actively contribute to class discussions. You may also be asked to provide a summary of the articles assigned for a week’s reading, either individually or in small groups. Attendances may also be taken at random.

Accessibility: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any concerns, please visit http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility as soon as possible.

Assignments should be submitted beginning of class. Late assignments must be submitted through the drop box outside the Main Office of the Department of Geography (SSH5047). The office is open Monday-Friday, and closes at 5pm sharp. Assignments will not be accepted by email or fax. In order to conserve paper, please print double-sided (see: printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca). Please do not plagiarize. Consult the University of Toronto calendar, Section Six for further information.

Turnitin: All course assignments must be submitted to BOTH in class (hard copy), and uploaded to turnitin (digital copy). The link can be found on the course website. You will be expected to have both submission formats on time. Any students that have a preference to not use turnitin should speak to the instructor by the third week of the course.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism is a serious academic offence at the University of Toronto. Please note that according to the University’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, it is an offence for a student to:

1. “represent as one’s own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e., to commit plagiarism.” Plagiarism is quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper use of citation. Quotation marks are required when using an author’s words.
2. “submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.”
3. “submit for credit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.”

It is the responsibility of all students to become acquainted with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters on the U. of T. Governing Council’s website (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm) and to inform themselves on how to avoid plagiarism (see Margaret Proctor’s (2009) How Not to Plagiarize handout at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize). Cases of suspected plagiarism will be addressed in accordance with the procedure established by the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

Extensions: will be granted sparingly in the case of illness and you must present a medical certificate completed by a health care professional. (available online here http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/) Please consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties during term that prevent you from completing your course work.

Late penalty: 5% (of the assignment grade) will be deducted for each weekday that an assignment is late (weekends count as two days). Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date.

Communication for GGR339, outside of the classroom, takes place through the Blackboard Course Website. To access the GGR339 website, go to http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you’ll find the link to the GGR339 course website. module, where you’ll find the link to the GGR339 course website. Forwarding your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

Email: must be used judiciously. Please do not expect me to respond immediately to your emails and do not ask questions over email that cannot be answered with one or two sentences. Please visit me during office hours for questions of this sort. Students are expected to communicate electronically using their UTOR email accounts only.