GGR217: Urban Landscapes & Planning

Course Logistics

Lecture:
M 10am-12pm; W 10am-12pm
Classroom: SS1070

Tutorials:
TUT0101 W 12-1pm (LM 123)
TUT0102 W 12-1pm (BF 315)
TUT0201 W 1-2pm (LM 123)

Course Instructor

Instructor: Travis Bost
Office: Sid Smith Hall, Rm 5038
Contact: travis.bost@mail.utoronto.ca
Office Hours: M 2-4pm; W 2-3pm

Teaching Assistants

Courtney Balaz-Munn
Nicholas Lombardo

Description

This course considers the role of planning in shaping the urban landscape through historical and contemporary examples that illustrate the interplay of competing and sometimes contradictory approaches to city building. It traces the origins, wide-ranging rationalities and lingering effects of planning in the production of urban space. And it broaches possibilities for engaging planning critically to address challenges of social and environmental justice in cities today.

Course Objectives

- To inspire an interest in the discipline of urban planning and a critical understanding of its historical development.
- To engage a range of voices related to planning, from academic sources, to professional planners, to its vocal lay critics and popular journalistic accounts.
- To develop critical research and writing skills, including using primary and secondary sources and developing reasoned and well-substantiated written arguments.
Course Format

The course is organized around twice weekly lectures, supplemented with short films, class discussion, and small group work. In addition, students will be asked to attend three tutorial meetings to review course material and to prepare for upcoming written assignments.

Assignments & Evaluation

- Participation 10%
- Quizzes (x5) 20%
- Short Essays (x2) 30%
- Final Exam 40%

Participation

Participation in this course is assessed on the basis of attendance and active engagement in these course lectures and tutorials. Tutorials will meet only three (3) times during the course for the purpose of reviewing concepts from the readings and from course lectures and, primarily, to help students prepare for upcoming assignments and the final exam. Attendance at these tutorials is required.

Quizzes (x5)

Students will complete five short quizzes during the course. These quizzes are designed to allow students to demonstrate and retain knowledge of the assigned readings and lecture materials in a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false questions. Questions will draw from the course lectures and readings from that week. Quizzes will be posted online, via Quercus, and will be available for 48 hours. Each quiz is worth four points of your overall mark for a total of 20%. NOTE: Quizzes are to be completed individually; students may not work in groups in their responses.

Short Essays (x2)

Students will write two short essays during the course. Essay prompts will ask students to discuss key concepts of urban planning through specific examples discussed in lectures and course readings. Essays must be uploaded (.docx or .pdf format) to Quercus, via the relevant assignment tab by the deadline. For further details, see Assignment Guidelines, posted on Quercus.

Final Exam

The final exam (2 hours) will cover material from all twelve weeks of the course, including all readings and lecture content. This will be an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of course material through short answer and essay responses.
Schedule

1 — July 3: Introduction
What does it mean to be “urban”? What are “landscapes”? And what is “planning” for?

The Colonial & Industrial Cities

2 — July 8: The “Problem” of the City

3 — July 10: Dreaming Utopias

Tutorial #1.
Quiz #1 Posted. Due July 12, 5PM.

The Modernist City

4 — July 15: Industrial Modernism

5 — July 17: National Modernism

Short Essay #1 Due, 10AM.
Quiz #2 Posted. Due July 19, 5PM.
The Post-Industrial City.

6 — July 22: Suburbanisms


7 — July 24: Crisis and Rebellion


Quiz #3 Posted. Due July 26, 5PM.

The Post-Modern City.

8 — July 29: Disinvestment, Reinvestment, and Revanchism


The Post-City City.

9 — July 31: When Planning Fails


Tutorial #2.
Quiz #4 Posted. Due Aug 2, 5PM.

August 5: HOLIDAY, NO CLASS
10 — August 7: The Retreat of Planning


Short Essay #2 Due, 10AM.

Tutorial #3.

Quiz #5 Posted. Due Aug 9, 5PM.

Conclusion.

11 — August 12: The Right to the City & Exam Review


This is a make-up class for the Aug. 5 holiday. No lecture. Attendance is optional. I will hold office hours during course hours and the classroom will be available for group study in advance of the final exam.

Course Administration

Course Website & Readings

The course website can be found on Quercus at https://q.utoronto.ca/. From the Dashboard tab, navigate to GGR217H1 S. All course information can be found here, including the syllabus, quizzes, assignment guidelines, and announcements. All assignments, except for the final exam, will be submitted through Quercus, via the Assignments tab. No paper copies are necessary. Student grades will also be posted on Quercus throughout the semester as well as final course grades at the end of the term.

Office Hours & Correspondence

Office hours are available for you to meet with me one-on-one for discussing course-related issues and/or assignments (See hours listed above). All course-related email correspondence must use your official University of Toronto email account and should contain “GGR217” in the subject line. Please allow two days for a response.

Late Penalty

Assignments will be penalized 5% of the assignment grade for each weekday it is late. Unless an extension is allowed, assignments later than one week will not be accepted.

Extensions may be granted in the event of illness or emergency. Students must present a medical certificate completed by a healthcare professional (see http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/). If a
personal emergency arises or you are experiencing difficulties that prevent you from completing coursework, contact your College Registrar. Wherever possible, ask for an extension before an assignment is due.

Assignment Re-assessment Requests

Students may request a re-grade of an assignment up to two weeks after the day an assignment is returned to them. In order to request a re-grade, please carefully review the comments from the initial assessment and the assignment outline, then submit a short explanation of your specific concerns to the course instructor along with a copy of the original graded assignment. Please be aware there is no guarantee that your mark will increase.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/). The University of Toronto treats cases of alleged academic misconduct as matter of grave concern. Academic offences may include:

- Plagiarism: quoting or paraphrasing the work of someone else without appropriate acknowledgment or citation
- Resubmitting the same work to multiple courses without the instructor’s permission
- Receiving unauthorized assistance, including having someone else complete work for you or completing individual work as a group
- Falsifying or altering documentation such as doctor’s notes

Alleged academic misconduct will be investigated by the Office of Student Academic Integrity. Please familiarize yourself with U of T’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters) and check the “How not to plagiarize” website (http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

Accommodation

If you have accessibility concerns or require accommodations to ensure adequate learning conditions, please visit Accessibility Services (http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as) as soon as possible.

Academic Resources

- The Writing Centre (https://writing.utoronto.ca/news/writing-centre-summer-openings/)
- English Language Support (http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell)
- Academic Success Center (http://www.asc.utoronto.ca/)