

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

**GGR 382H: FIELD COURSE IN HUMAN GEOGRAPHY  
NEW YORK CITY**

**FALL 2019**

**Instructors**

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**Content**

The focus of the trip is on the socio-economic dynamics producing New York City's built environment. It explores present-day New York in order to investigate how the city's landscapes have changed over time. The main themes to be covered are planning, securitization, public space, immigrant spaces, gentrification, urban redevelopment, and segregation.

The course consists of two components: a field trip in New York City and class meetings in Toronto. The field trip component consists of an evening meeting (5-7 pm, August 30), four full days (9am-5pm, August 31 to September 3) and one half day (9am-1pm, September 4). This will involve walking city streets in three city boroughs (Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens), visiting museums (Queens and the Lower East Side Tenement), places (such as Wall Street, Peter Stuyvesant Town, Forest Gardens), and districts (such as the Lower East Side, Jackson Heights, Williamsburg, Greenwich Village). The second part consists of class meetings back in Toronto. Two have been scheduled: Thursday, 5-8 pm on September 19 and October 17. We may organize another class meeting at a later date.

**Logistics for New York City**

You are to arrive in New York no later than the afternoon of Friday, August 30. The class will meet for the first time at 5 pm that evening. We will then explore the city for four and a half days (9am, Saturday to 1 pm, Wednesday). We will meet each morning to go over the day's itinerary and to discuss issues related to the course. You will receive more information about the where's, whys and whens of the course in a series of Bulletins over the spring and summer.

The course involves all-day walks and long days. The class will be out every day (Saturday through Wednesday), regardless of the weather. You must bring comfortable walking shoes and clothes, a good raincoat (or umbrella), and sun protection (hat and sun cream).

New York is one of the most expensive cities in the world. In order to make the trip as accessible as possible, you will stay in the Hostelling International hostel (891 Amsterdam, NYC). All students will share rooms. You are responsible for making your own way to New York. Others costs, including food, tuition and course readings, are not included in this price.

**Evaluation**

The evaluation for the course is as follows:

Participation	20%
Reading summaries (10)	10% (due August 2 and August 26, 2019)
Field trip report	20% (due September 13, 2019)
Proposal-literature review	10% (due October 4, 2019)
Term paper	40% (due November 1, 2019)

## **Course work**

All of the New York City activities are mandatory. You are expected to begin work on your term paper while in New York. You will be assigned mandatory readings in preparation for the trip.

*Participation:* participation is more than just turning up to walk the streets or to sit in class. It also involves constructive engagement with the class material, the other students, the instructor, and the teaching assistant. You are to contribute to the discussion as we explore New York City and as we talk around the class table back in Toronto. The concern here is not with the ‘amount’ of talking you do (although you do have to do some), but with the usefulness and thoughtfulness of your contributions.

*Reading summaries:* You are required to read all of the class readings before you arrive in New York City. You are also required to submit 10 one-page (double-spaced) summaries of the readings. At least five of the summaries must be sent to us by August 2. The remaining five must be sent no later than August 26. You will receive grades of 1% for each completed summary received on time for a total of 10%. Those that are not received on time will not receive a point. The summaries are to be short reviews of the readings. What we would like to see is an outline of the writers’ main aims and arguments.

*Field trip report:* The field trip report is focused on what you observed and the class discussions during the tours on the field trip. Pick 3-5 sites that we explored. It is up to you what constitutes a “site”. For example, it could be an individual building, a discreet public space, or a larger district. Draw from at least two of the course readings to tie your observations together between the sites you pick and the larger themes in the course: public space, securitization, gentrification, urban redevelopment, planning, segregation, immigrant spaces. Note that the term paper will be a more typical academic essay based on scholarly sources. In contrast, the field trip report should be heavily focused on your field observations. Ideally, the ideas in the field report will help you define your term paper topic. Format: The report should be between 1,000-1,500 words not including bibliography, tables, and illustrations such as photos and sketches (encouraged). Use double spacing with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1” (2.5 cm) margins. Use APA format citations and bibliography.

*Proposal-literature review:* The proposal-literature review consists of general statement of your topic for the term paper and how it relates to one of the course themes. It should specifically identify your research question or argument and review no more than six articles that are not found in course readings. The review should describe and evaluate the articles in terms of the theories and information they provide relevant to your topic. Finally, include an annotated bibliography that individually identifies the topic and argument of each article and a short statement of how it relates to your topic. Format: The proposal should be 500-1,000 words, not including the citations and annotations. Use double spacing with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1” (2.5 cm) margins. Use APA format citations and bibliography.

*Term Paper:* The term paper should explore and report on one of the course themes as you specified in your proposal-literature review. Evidence should be primarily drawn from the secondary literature. A starting point will be your course readings and annotated bibliography, but you should do a thorough search and add to these sources as required. You should also refer to the areas we explored in New York and may draw on your own observations and class discussion, but, unlike the field report, this will contribute to your argument and not be your primary source of evidence. Photographs, sketches, tables, images, etc. are welcome. Format: The report should be between 2,500-3,000 words not including bibliography, tables, and illustrations such as photos and sketches (encouraged). Use double spacing with Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1” (2.5 cm) margins. Use APA format citations and bibliography.