DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
University of Toronto
GGR 359: Comparative Urban Policy
Spring Term 2020: W 2-4
Location: SS 2125

Professor:
Jason Hackworth
Office: SS 5010
T: 416-946-8764
E: jason.hackworth@utoronto.ca
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 11-12, and by appointment

Course website:
Quercus (updated frequently)

Course description:
This course considers urban public policy. Urban policy is not natural or inevitable response to urban problems. It is actively produced (and contested) by an array of voices, institutions, and social forces. Actualized urban policies are thus best understood and evaluated as products of these influences. The first half of the course will cover broad theoretical matters pertaining to the production of urban policy. The second half of the course will focus more intensively on several applied policy genres.

Readings:
Most readings are available through the University of Toronto Library (online). All other readings will be posted to Blackboard.

Policies:

Quercus grades: I will attempt to post grades on quercus as quickly as possible to inform you of your standing in the class. It should be noted however that the grades you see online are not official. If you notice a discrepancy between the grade recorded on Quercus, and the mark listed on one of your assignments or tests, you should assume that the hard copy is correct. If you notice discrepancies of this sort, please bring them to my attention as soon as possible.

Absences from class or examinations: Attendance for the lecture period during the term will not be recorded. It is your responsibility to obtain and retain the course material, which includes lecture. Examinations and scheduled presentation absence are different matter. The only excusable absences from the midterm exam or your presentation date is a documented medical or family emergency. For medical absences, have your doctor fill out an illness verification form (http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/) that clearly excuses you for work on the day of the exam or presentation (a note saying that you were sick the week before the exam is not sufficient). The form should be delivered to the instructor within three days of the presentation or examination date. Family emergencies vary more in nature, so please contact the instructor as soon as possible about necessary documentation should you find yourself in this situation.
Without proper documentation for missing a presentation or being absent from the exam, you will receive a grade of zero for the piece of work in question.

The guidelines pertaining to the final exam are set and enforced independently by the Faculty of Arts and Science. If you have not done so already, please familiarize yourself with these rules: http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules&_Regulations.html#exams

**Hard copies of exams:** It is your responsibility to retain a hard copy of all graded work at least until you have received an official mark for the class. They are available during office hours.

**Penalties for late term work:** Written term work (the policy paper) will incur a penalty of 10 percent per day (with nothing accepted one week after the deadline).

**Academic integrity:** Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism includes quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper attribution. Students also should not submit any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please consult the “Rules and Regulations” section of the Arts and Science Calendar (http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/Rules&_Regulations.html) for further information and check the ‘How not to plagiarize’ website at: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize.

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

**Grade breakdown:**

**Comparative Policy Assignment (20 percent):** You will be required to present a report on an urban policy that has been implemented in two different cities of your choosing. See the assignment sheet for more details (posted on portal). Your mark will be based on the depth of your research, and the quality of your summary sheet and presentation. Depending on the size of the course, you may be asked to work in a group for this assignment. Due: April 1 (but presentations will occur on three days: March 18, March 25, and April 1).

**Midterm Test (30 percent):** A midterm test, consisting of a mix of essay and fill-in-the-blank questions, will occur on **February 12.** Approximately 90 percent of the content will be derived from the course readings. A review sheet consisting of possible essay questions will be circulated one week prior to the test.

**Final Exam (50 percent):** This course will hold a final exam during the regular university-scheduled exam period in April. The exam will be similar in design to the midterm test, but it will be comprehensive. The date, time and location will be announced midway through the term by the Faculty of Arts and Science. Details TBA.
**Schedule:**

**Week 1: Wednesday, January 8**  
- Introduction to the course

**Week 2: Wednesday, January 15**  
First hour: power and policy  
Second hour: Africville film and discussion during second half

**Required readings**


**Week 3: Wednesday, January 22**  
First hour: the public interest  
Second hour: Dresden Film

**Required readings**


**Week 4: Wednesday, January 29**  
First hour: Capital influences  
Second hour: film and discussion

**Required readings**


**Week 5: Wednesday, February 5**  
First hour: Whiteness, othering, policy
Second hour: film and discussion


**Week 6: Wednesday, February 12**
- Midterm test

**Reading Week: February 19-23, no classes**

**Week 7: Wednesday, February 26**
- Case 1 (short lecture, film & discussion): the rise and fall of public housing (“unarmed verses” and discussion)

**Required reading**


**Week 8: Wednesday, March 4**
- Case 2 (short lecture, film & discussion): racial housing restrictions in the US (Spanish Lake film and discussion)

**Required reading**


**Week 9: Wednesday, March 11**
- Case 3 (short lecture, film & discussion): right-sizing the post-industrial city (film and discussion)

**Required reading**


Week 10: Wednesday, March 18
- Final presentations (5 minutes each)

Week 11: Wednesday, March 25
- Final presentations (5 minutes each)

Week 12: Wednesday, April 1
- Final presentations (5 minutes each)