

GGR124: Cities and Urban Life

Dept of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto
Summer 2020

<u>Instructor:</u>	Leah Montange
<u>Email:</u>	leah.montange@mail.utoronto.ca
<u>Office Hours:</u>	Wednesday 12:00pm-2:00pm, over BB Collaborate, in course website
<u>Lectures:</u>	Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:45am, over BB Collaborate, in course website
<u>Website:</u>	https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/154426
<u>Course TA's:</u>	Office hours over BB Collaborate, in tutorial section website Travis Bost – travis.bost@mail.utoronto.ca – TUT0102 – office hours: Thurs 1pm Lia Frederickson – lia.frederickson@mail.utoronto.ca – TUT0202 – office hours: Tues 1pm Jandell-Jamela Nicholas – jandelljamela.nicholas@mail.utoronto.ca – TUT0101 – office hours: Thurs 12pm Nicole Van Lier – nickie.vanlier@mail.utoronto.ca – TUT0201 – office hours: Tues at 1pm
<u>Tutorials:</u>	Tutorials conducted over BB Collaborate, in tutorial section website TUT0101: Tuesday 12:00-1:00pm TUT0102: Thursday 12:00-1:00pm TUT0201: Tuesday 1:00-2:00pm TUT0202: Thursday 1:00-2:00pm

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to North American cities and urbanization in a global context. Cities are highly complex and constantly changing entities. They can be places of freedom, excitement, safety, solidarity, expression and innovation, but they can also be places of fear, danger, violence, repression, isolation, segregation and inequality. We will explore a wide range of political, economic, social, and environmental forces that shape contemporary urban life and urban form. We will examine key processes such as globalization, economic polarization, mass migration, gentrification, and racialization play out in urban contexts. We will examine these in the context of patterns of change and crises in urban governance, housing, labor markets, and social reproduction. And, we will attend to how these forces and processes connect urban spaces with elsewhere.

The course serves as the main entry point for specializations in urban, economic, and social geography. It also provides part of the necessary background for more advanced courses in urban, economic, social, and political geography, as well as for courses in housing, urban historical geography and planning.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this courses, students will be able to:

- define and apply key concepts in urban geography.
- describe how urban change manifests at different scales, from the home to the global.
- analyze how various political, economic, social, and environmental processes are embedded in the urban landscape.
- develop analytical skills and conceptual tools that connect urban experience with public policy and social change.

Evaluation:

Tutorial and Discussion Board participation – 10% - Weekly

Assignment 1 – Orienting to the City- 10% - 7/17/20

Assignment 2 – Describing the Urban Landscape – 25% - 7/31/20 (or 8/4/20 for those observing Eid-al-Adha)

Assignment 3 – Analyzing Change in the Urban Landscape – 25% - 8/14/20

Take-home Exam – 30% - Exam opens 8/20 @10am; Exam closes 8/21 @12pm

Course structure:

This is an online course with synchronous and asynchronous elements. All course activities and materials, including lectures, tutorials, office hours, discussion boards, readings, assignments and exams, are organized through the [course website](#).

It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive, welcomes discussion, and fully engages the course material. Please attend class; share your ideas and experiences during lectures, tutorials and on the discussion board; and ask questions when you have them. Please show respect for your colleagues and expect the same in return. Please come to lectures and tutorials with your required preparation done, your questions and comments ready, and your minds open. Please engage with each other online with generosity, and please be careful to make your own communication clear and respectful.

Weekly Rhythm:

****All times given in EST****

Readings – complete before lectures

Tuesday – Live Lecture 10:00-11:45am; Tutorial0101 - 12:00-1:00pm; Tutorial0201- 1:00-2:00pm

Wednesday – Discussion Board question posted – respond and interact by Friday at 4:00pm

Thursday - Live Lecture 10:00-11:45am; Tutorial0102 - 12:00-1:00pm; Tutorial0202- 1:00-2:00pm

Friday – Assignments due (every second Friday: July 17, 31 July 31, and August 14)

Readings:

Course “readings” include scholarly and popular texts along with some podcast, film and videos, and interactive websites. All required media is available on Quercus and must be engaged BEFORE you come to the lecture and tutorials.

Lectures:

Lectures will be given as two 1.75 hour online webinars with discussion and interaction. Students are expected to attend or view lectures prepared, having done the readings. Recordings will be made for asynchronous viewing afterwards, especially for those in another time zone. Students are encouraged to ask questions and engage in the interactive parts of lecture, but participation will not be marked.

Tutorials and Discussion Board:

Students will have one online tutorial each week, where lecture, concepts, and some reading will be discussed. Students will also be required to post a thoughtful response to a discussion board question and to respond to two of their classmate’s questions on their tutorial’s discussion board.

Exam:

Students will be required to complete a take-home exam during the final exam week. This exam will consist of short and long answer questions covering course concepts and learning objectives. It will take approximately 2 hours to complete, and students will have a 26 hour period in which to get it done.

Written Assignments: Three (3) written assignments are required during the semester.

- For Assignment #1 you are asked to locate yourself in the global geographies and settler colonial histories of Toronto/Tkaronto (approximately 600 words). Detailed explanation and discussion of the first assignments will take place in lecture #1 and the assignment sheet will be available on the course website on July 7.
- For Assignment #2 you are asked to conduct “fieldwork” (in person or remotely) on a particular neighborhood in the City of Toronto, using your observations and course readings (approximately 1000 words). Detailed explanation and discussion of the second assignment will take place in lecture #4 and the assignment sheet will be available on the course website on July 16.
- For Assignment #3 you are asked to return to the neighborhood you wrote about in Assignment #2. Research the history of that neighborhood and how it has changed using a variety of course readings and your own research. Analyze and reflect on the processes that contributed to this change (approximately 1500-2000 words). Detailed explanation and discussion of the third

assignment will take place in lecture #7 and the assignment sheet will be available on the course website on July 28.

Communications:

All communications for this course will take place through Quercus and email. In accordance with university policy, only emails from UToronto accounts will be returned, and you MUST place 'GGR124' in the subject line of any emails you send to me or your TA. You will receive occasional course updates by email, so you must check your UToronto account regularly. I will take up to two days to respond to email, and may not respond over the weekend. Email should be used judiciously: for questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. Please check the Discussion Board FAQ on Quercus to see if your question is already answered there. Please bring larger questions to tutorial or office hours. Your TA will provide their communication protocols at your first tutorial meeting.

Accessibility:

Accessibility is a commitment of this course and of the University of Toronto. This course considers difference a source of value and aims to welcome and support diverse learning styles and needs. If you have a consideration or circumstance that needs specific accommodation, please see me as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. For more information on services and resources, please contact Accessibility Services: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca

Assignment Guidelines:

Turning in Assignments:

Assignments must be submitted in .doc or .pdf form on the course website no later than 5:00pm on the due date. No assignments will be accepted via email. It is your responsibility to maintain digital copies of your written assignments until the final course marks are recorded.

Extensions:

Please ask your TA about extensions BEFORE the assignment due date. Extensions may be granted in the case of emergency or illness and you must present a medical certificate completed by a healthcare professional. Consult your college registrar if you are having difficulties that prevent you from completing your course work.

Late penalty:

5% of the assignment grade for each weekday that an assignment is late. Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Assignment reassessment:

You have 1 week after the day an assignment is returned to you to request a re-grade. If you wish to have an assignment reassessed, please carefully review the Teaching Assistant's comments and the assignment outline, and then submit a 1-2 paragraph explanation of your concerns along with the original graded assignment to your TA in their tutorial or office hours. The assignment will first be reviewed by the TA who originally marked it. If you are still dissatisfied, you may then bring it to the course instructor. Please be aware that your grade could go down or stay the same when your work is reassessed, so be sure you have a good reason to make the request.

Course Schedule:

Week	Dates	Lecture Topic	Readings	Notes
1	7/7/20	1: Course Introduction	No readings	
	7/9/20	2: Urbanization and Globalization	Massey, D. (1994) "A Global Sense of Place." <i>Space, Place and Gender</i> . Minneapolis: UMP. p.146-156.	

			Sassen, S. (2009). "Place and Production in the Global Economy." <i>Cities in a World Economy</i> . 4 th Ed. Sage. p.1-14.	
2	7/14/20	3: Urban Histories	Howard, H. & Bobiwash, A. (2008) "Toronto's Native History." <i>First Nations House Magazine</i> . Keefer, T. (2014) "A Short Introduction to the Two Row Wampum." <i>Briarpatch Magazine</i> . DaCosta, J. (2014) "Toronto aka Tkaronto Passes New City Council Protocol." <i>Muskrat Magazine</i> . CBC Radio (2017) " The little-told history of Canadians as slave owners, not just slave rescuers. " <i>The Sunday Edition</i> . [27 min podcast]	7/12: Last day to enroll 7/17: Assignment 1 due
	7/16/20	4: Urban Polarization and Segregation	Hulchanski, D. (2010) "The Three Cities Within Toronto: Income Polarization Among Toronto's Neighbourhoods, 1970-2005." Cities Centre. Huynh, T. (2019) " Mapping Our Divisions. " The Local, Spring, Issue 1. Lavender, T. (2015). Gap between rich and poor widening, says U of T's David Hulchanski. <i>U of T News</i> .	
3	7/21/20	5: Entrepreneurial Governance and Neoliberal Cities	Harvey, D. (1989). From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism. <i>Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography</i> , 71(1), 3–17. Stren, R. et al. (2010) The Governance of Toronto: Challenges of Size and Complexity. Cities Centre, University of Toronto. pp. 1-15 ONLY. <u>Tutorial/Discussion Board:</u> Zuk, M., & Chapple, K. (2015). " Gentrification Explained. " <i>Urban Displacement Project</i> . [7minute video plus website with resources]	
	7/23/20	6: Urban Housing and Urban Development	There Goes the Neighborhood (2019) " Premium Elevation " and " Buying into Black " [24 minute and 22 minute podcasts] Coates, T. (2014) " The Case for Reparations. " <i>The Atlantic</i> .	
4	7/28/20	7: Work and Urban Economies	Andrew E.G. Jonas, Eugene McCann, and Mary Thomas. (2015). "Chapter 5: Labor and the City" in <i>Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction</i> , First Edition. p. 100-121. Lewis, M. (2019). One in 10 Toronto workers is now a gig economy worker, Stat Can says. <i>The Star</i> <u>Tutorial/Discussion Board:</u> Feltz, R. (2017). Immigrant day laborers confront a perfect storm of exploitation in Hurricane Harvey cleanup. <i>The Intercept</i>	7/31: Assignment 2 due

	7/30/20	8: Care and Social Reproduction in the City	Andrew E.G. Jonas, Eugene McCann, and Mary Thomas. (2015). "Chapter 6: The City and Social Reproduction" in <i>Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction</i> , First Edition. p. 122-140	
5	8/4/20	9: Migration and Bordering in the City	Idil Atak (2019) "Toronto's sanctuary city policy: rationale and barriers." In Jonathan Darling and Harald Bauder (eds) <i>Sanctuary Cities and Urban Struggles: Rescaling Migration, Citizenship, and Rights</i> . Manchester University Press. p. 105-130. <u>Tutorial/Discussion Board:</u> Sanctuary City Vancouver, Principles http://www.sanctuarycityvan.com/sanctuary-city-principles/ Ball, David. (2014). Inside Vancouver's Sanctuary Movement . <i>The Tyee</i>	8/3: Civic Holiday, University Closed 8/3: Last day to add CR/NCR option or cancel enrollment
	8/6/20	10: Policing, Surveillance, and the Carceral City	Jordan Camp and Christina Heatherton. (2016). Introduction – section 1 only. <i>Policing the Planet</i> . New York: Verso Desmond Cole. (2015). "The Skin I'm In". Toronto Life. https://torontolife.com/city/life/skin-im-ive-interrogated-police-50-times-im-black/ <i>Toronto Life</i> Latham, McCormack, McNamara and McNeill (2009). "Surveillance" in <i>Key Concepts in Urban Geography</i> . Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. p.122-129.	
6	8/11/20	11: Urban Environments and Urban Nature	Cronon, W. (1991) "Prologue: Cloud over Chicago." In <i>Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West</i> . W.W. Norton & Company New York. pp. 1-19. Bullard, Robert and Oliver Milman (2018). Robert Bullard: 'Environmental justice isn't just slang, it's real' <i>The Guardian</i> .	8/14: Assignment 3 due
	8/13/20	12: Course Wrap-up: Urban Future	City of Vancouver (2014) " Framework for City of Reconciliation " October 28. Kushner, R. (2019). Is Prison Necessary? <i>New York Times Magazine</i> .	
7	8/19-27	Final Exams Week – Take-Home Final Exam		8/17: Deadline to request Late Withdrawal 8/18: Study break 8/20: Take-home Exam opened 8/21: Take-home Exam closed

Student Resources:

Student Tips for Online Learning

<https://teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching-support/strategies/continuity-planning/5-tips-for-students/>

Quercus Trouble-shooting

<https://qstudents.utoronto.ca/>

Netiquette

<http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>