

# JPG2150 PRODUCTION OF SPACE: AESTHETICS, TECHNOLOGY, POLITICS

Wednesday, 10AM-1PM  
ONLINE (ZOOM)

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3pm

## Course Description

This seminar investigates articulations of aesthetic, technological and political forces in the production of space--understood as the triad of conceived space, perceived space and lived space, in Henri Lefebvre's famous words. With reference to intellectual resources drawn from several strands of critical theory, space figures here as something radically contested, and dialectically related to social relations. The work of artists, architects, planners, geographers, scientists, technocrats and politicians, along with influential conceptions such as 'modernism', 'avant-garde', 'culture industry', 'spectacle', 'alienation', 'governmentality', 'subjectivity', 'ideology', 'decolonization', 'utopia' and 'revolution' will feature prominently in this course, in order to theorize how space and society are co-produced, and why various political projects--capitalist, nationalist, fascist, colonial, socialist, feminist--are also spatial projects.

## Learning Outcomes

A critical-theoretical as well as conjunctural awareness of aesthetic, technological and political mediations of the socio-spatial dialectic will be the prime intended 'learning outcome'.

## Course Organization

In fall 2020, this course will be conducted online by means of Zoom, during the planned course time (Wednesday 10am-1pm), with no recordings--unless specifically requested by one or more students who cannot attend a particular session. Links to Zoom meeting will be posted on the Quercus course website and emailed to enrolled students. Most of the course materials will be available from the U of T Library, the internet or the course website. Coursework will be submitted through Quercus as explained in class.

## Assignments and Evaluation

### Assignment 1 – Title (e.g. weekly reading reflection, draft lit review, etc.)

Five reading reflections (one-page maximum), due by 5pm the day before the relevant readings are to be discussed in class. These should offer insightful questions and comments to help facilitate seminar discussion and will make up 30% of the course grade.

### Assignment 2 – Title (e.g. weekly reading reflection, draft lit review, etc.)

Seminar participation will contribute to 20% of the course grade.

### Assignment 3 – Title (e.g. weekly reading reflection, draft lit review, etc.)

A term paper, video or another appropriate project approved by the instructor will be worth 30% of the course grade, and due no later than 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (two weeks after the last class).

### Late Penalties

No late work will be accepted. Extensions without penalty will be granted for reasons of accommodation, illness or emergencies when appropriate documentation is submitted to the instructor.

## Required Text

See course schedule for required readings, most of which will be available from the U of T Library, internet or the course website. When reading some of the longer texts, we will focus on a reasonable selection of pages, as explained in class.

## Course Schedule

### Week 1 – September 9

Topic: Introduction

David Harvey, 'On Architects, Bees and Possible Urban Worlds' in ANYWISE, ed. Cynthia Davidson, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996, 216-227.

### Week 2 – September 16

Topic: Urbanism and Design

Georg Simmel, [METROPOLIS AND MENTAL LIFE](#) [1903]

Carl Schorske, 'The Ringstrasse, its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism' in FIN-DE-SIÈCLE VIENNA, New York: Vintage, 1981, 25-115.

Henri Lefebvre, 'Notes on the New Town [1962]' in INTRODUCTION TO MODERNITY, trans. John Moore, London: Verso, 1995, 116-126.

Dolores Hayden, 'What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like?', SIGNS 5.3, 1980, S170-S187.

### Week 3 - September 23

Topic: Modernism and Marx

Marshall Berman, *ALL THAT IS SOLID MELTS INTO AIR*, London: Verso, 1982.

Perry Anderson, 'Modernity and Revolution', *NEW LEFT REVIEW* I/144, 1984, 96-113.

### Week 4 - September 30

Topic: Postmodernism and Neoliberalism

Perry Anderson, *THE ORIGINS OF POSTMODERNITY*, London: Verso, 1998.

Fredric Jameson, 'The Aesthetics of Singularity', *NEW LEFT REVIEW* 92, 2015, 101-132.

### Week 5 - October 7

Topic: Utopia and Revolution

Susan Buck-Morss, *DREAMWORLD AND CATASTROPHE: PASSING OF MASS UTOPIA IN EAST AND WEST*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2000.

### Week 6 - October 14

Topic: Autonomia and Architecture

Pier Vittorio Aureli, *THE PROJECT OF AUTONOMY: POLITICS AND ARCHITECTURE WITHIN AND AGAINST CAPITALISM*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2008.

### Week 7 - October 21

Topic: Autogestion and Space

Sabine Bitter and Helmut Weber, eds., *AUTOGESTION, OR, HENRI LEFEBVRE IN NEW BELGRADE*, New York: Sternberg Press/Vancouver: Fillip Edition, 2009.

Henri Lefebvre, 'Theoretical Problems of Autogestion' and 'Space and the State' in *STATE, SPACE, WORLD: SELECTED ESSAYS*, eds. Neil Brenner and Stuart Elden, trans. Gerald Moore et al., Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009, 138-152 & 223-253.

### Week 8 - October 28

Topic: Decolonization and Everyday Life

Kristin Ross, *FAST CARS, CLEAN BODIES: DECOLONIZATION AND THE REORDERING OF FRENCH CULTURE*, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1995.

### Week 9 - November 4

Topic: Aesthetics and Politics

McKenzie Wark, *SENSORIA: THINKERS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY*, London: Verso, 2020.

Kanishka Goonewardena, 'The Urban Sensorium', *ANTIPODE* 37.1, 2005, 46-71.

### Week 10 - November 18

Topic: Alienation and Dwelling

Matt Waggoner, UNHOUSED: ADORNO AND THE PROBLEM OF DWELLING (New York: Columbia Books on Architecture and the City, 2018).

Friedrich Engels, THE HOUSING QUESTION, 1872/1887: [www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org)

David Madden and Peter Marcuse, ['The Permanent Crisis of Housing'](#), JACOBIN MAGAZINE, 10.02.2016

### Week 11 - November 25

Topic: Creativity and Capital

Oli Mould, AGAINST CREATIVITY, London: Verso, 2018.

### Week 12 - December 2

Topic: Technology and Subjectivity

Laboria Cuboniks, THE XENOFEMINIST MANIFESTO: A POLITICS FOR ALIENATION, London: Verso, 2018.

Byung-Chul Han, PSYCHOPOLITICS: NEOLIBERALISM AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF POWER, trans. Erik Butler, London: Verso, 2017.

Gilles Deleuze, 'Postscript on the Societies of Control [1990]', OCTOBER 59, 1992, 3-7.

## Graduate Course Policies

### Important Dates

Graduate courses are normally a minimum of 2-3 hours/week for 12 weeks. Reading week is optional for graduate courses. If observed, the instructor will inform the class and provide a make-up date for the missed class.

#### Fall 2020

July 30, 2020	Course enrolment opens
September 8, 2020	F (fall) and Y (fall-winter) session graduate courses and seminars begin
September 11, 2020	Final registration deadline
September 21, 2020	Deadline to add F (fall) and Y (fall-winter) session courses
October 26, 2020	Deadline to drop Fall courses
October-November 2020	Undergraduate reading week*

#### Winter 2020

January 4, 2021	S (winter) session graduate courses and seminars begin
January 13, 2021	Grades for F (fall) courses available for viewing on ACORN
January 18, 2021	Deadline to add S (winter) session courses
February 22, 2021	Deadline to drop S (winter) and Y (fall-winter) session courses
April 16, 2021	Grade deadline for students graduating in June 2021

#### Summer 2021

May 3, 2021	Summer F (May-June) and Y (May-August) session graduate courses and seminars begin
May 19, 2021	Grades for S (winter) and Y (fall-winter) courses available for viewing on ACORN
May 28, 2021	Final date to drop F (May-June) session courses without academic penalty
June 7, 2021	Summer S (July-August) session graduate courses and seminars begin
July 14, 2021	Grades for F (May-June) courses available for viewing on ACORN

\* Reading week applies to undergraduate programs, and is optional for graduate courses, at the discretion of the instructor. If observed, the instructor will inform the class and provide a make-up date for the missed class. This may include an extra class at the end of term. Fall reading week dates: UTSC – October 10-16; UTM – October 13-16; UTSG – November 9-13. Winter reading week dates: UTSC – February 13-19; UTM – February 16-19; UTSG – February 16-19.

### Course Syllabi

A final course syllabus, which includes all assignments, deadlines and weighting of methods of evaluation, must be made available to all students enrolled in the course as early as possible, no later than the deadline for enrolling in classes. Changes to the methods of evaluation or their relative weights cannot be made after this date without the consent of a simple majority of students in the class, provided a vote is announced at the previous class meeting.

### Late Assignments

Instructors are not obligated to accept late work, except where there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student's control. In such cases a late penalty is not normally applied. In all other circumstances, if an instructor intends to accept and apply penalties to late assignments this will be clearly set out in the syllabus.

## Attendance and Participation

Although attendance makes up no more than 20% of the final course grade, regular and consistent attendance in graduate courses is expected. Most graduate courses are seminar style classes, which involve collaborative work and in-class discussions with other students and instructors. Students who are unable to attend class each week must inform the instructor as early as possible.

## Accessibility and Accommodations

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations because you are disabled, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

Where there is an accommodation recommended by Accessibility Services, the department and/or instructors will be provided with an accommodation letter.

## Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct by graduate students is taken very seriously. The University's policy on academic misconduct is found in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (the Code). Students in graduate studies are expected to commit to the highest standards of integrity and to understand the importance of protecting and acknowledging intellectual property. For example, it is assumed that they bring to their graduate studies a clear understanding of how to cite references appropriately, thereby avoiding plagiarism.

Regarding plagiarism, the Code includes the following statements:

*B.i.1. It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:*

*(d) to represent as one's own 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.*

*Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing," the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.*

Other academic offences include the possession and/or use of unauthorized aids in examinations, submitting the same paper for different courses, forgery (whether of academic records or other documents), concocting facts or references to sources, personating someone, and other forms of cheating and academic dishonesty. Please refer to sections B.i.1. and B.i.3. in the Code for detailed descriptions of offences applicable to students.

The [SGS Academic Integrity Resources](#) webpage outlines the policy on academic misconduct and the process for handling an allegation of academic misconduct.

## Coursework Extensions

The authority to grant an extension to submit coursework beyond the sessional grade deadline is with the department and not the instructor of the course. To request a formal extension, students must submit a Coursework Extension Form, completed by both the student and course instructor, to the relevant graduate department prior to the final grade deadline.

In order to ensure fairness in granting extensions, the department must be reasonably certain that:

- The reasons for delay are serious and substantiated.
- The student is not granted unfair advantage over other students in the course.
- The student has a reasonable chance of completing the outstanding work within the time allotted.
- The normal and satisfactory completion of any new coursework is not in jeopardy.

Extension requests for medical reasons (e.g. short-term illness) must be accompanied by a medical note. Extension requests for students with accommodations due to disability must be supported by documentation from Accessibility Services. Extension requests for other reasons must be detailed in the form or a note to the department.

## Religious Accommodations

Students must alert instructors in a timely fashion to any upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, exams or other compulsory activities at these times. In the case of an unavoidable conflict with a compulsory activity, every reasonable effort is made to give students the opportunity to make up missed work.

## Course Enrolment and Quercus

Acorn is the only indicator of official course enrolment; Quercus is not. Students enrolled in Acorn will be automatically populated to a course's Quercus site within 24 hours of enrolling. In some cases, if a student is on a course wait list or there is another delay in processing registration an instructor may give a student access to Quercus as a guest. This will not constitute official enrolment and students are responsible for making sure the course is added correctly using Acorn.

## Auditing

Students who wish to audit a course must obtain permission directly from the course instructor within the first week of class. Permission is subject to available space and can only be granted by the course instructor.

Only registered students at the University of Toronto may audit courses. Auditing entitles a student to attend lectures only. Students may not submit any written work, attend labs/tutorials or write tests/exams. The student will not be enrolled in the course and the course will not appear on their transcript. The department does not provide certificates of attendance.

## Reading Courses

Reading courses allow students to complete coursework in topics not covered by current course offerings in Geography or Planning. The [Reading Course Form](#) must be accompanied by a brief course outline.

## Copyright in Instructional Settings

If a student wishes to record (tape, video, photograph, etc.) any lecture presentations or other similar materials provided by the instructor; the instructor's written consent must be obtained beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is infringement of copyright and prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.