PPG2017: URBAN POLICY
School of Public Policy and Governance
University of Toronto

Winter 2016
Mondays 2-5pm
Canadia Building, CG-361

Instructors:
Richard Stren  Gabriel Eidelman
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(416) 817-1330  Office hours: Mondays 1-2pm, or by appt.
Office hours: by appointment  Location: Canadiana 61F
Location: Global Cities Institute,
170 Bloor St., Ste. 1100

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This goal of this course is to unravel the various policy challenges and possibilities created by our increasingly urban world. Cities are fundamental features of contemporary civilization. More and more, issues of good governance, citizenship, economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability are being confronted by municipalities and city regions, not states. This course provides an overview of some of the major policy debates surrounding this new urban reality. While Toronto and other Canadian cities will be strongly featured in readings and discussions, cities in the US, Europe, and the global south will also be examined.

The course will be taught as a seminar, with ten weeks devoted to substantive topics, and two final weeks for student presentations. The final grade will be based on class participation (20%), a bibliographic discussion paper and presentation (30%), and a major research report (50%).

All readings, assignment guidelines, and course grades will be posted on the course website using Blackboard: http://portal.utoronto.ca

[Revised: January 5, 2015]
COURSE OUTLINE
RS/GE indicates the instructor in charge

1. The Big Picture: Urbanization and Public Policy (RS + GE, January 11)
How have the functions of cities changed over time? How has thinking about urbanization evolved? What are the distinctive features of urban public policy?

2. Urban Governance and City Politics (GE, January 18)
What do cities do? How are they governed? What is urban “governance” as distinct from urban “government”?

In-class presentations begin Week 3...

3. Metropolitan and Regional Governance (RS, January 25)
Why is metropolitan or regional governance so difficult to achieve? What solutions have been proposed, with what success?

4. Decentralization: North and South (RS, Feb 1)
What are the different varieties of decentralization? What are the legitimate criticisms of decentralization? How does decentralization differ from democratization?

5. World Cities and the Global Economy (GE, February 8)
How do cities and city regions function in the global economy? What policy challenges does this pose? Are cities helpless in adapting to globalization?

* No class February 15 due to Family Day.

6. Citizenship and Democratic Engagement (RS, February 22)
What does it mean to be an urban citizen? How do citizens participate in urban governance? What factors enhance or discourage citizen engagement?

7. Planning and Property Development (GE, February 29)
Can cities be designed? Or is urban planning a lost cause? What drives property development?

8. Finance and Fiscal Health (RS, March 7)
How are cities in Canada financed? How are budgets discussed and passed at the municipal level? What are the major budgetary issues in Canadian cities, and what reforms should be considered?

9. Transportation and Congestion (GE, March 14)
What are the costs of congestion? What can be done to reduce it? Is mass transit the only answer? Who should pay?

10. Polarization and Poverty (RS, March 21)
Why are large cities increasingly polarized? What can be done about this? How do Canadian cities compare and correspond to the experiences of cities around the world?
11. Student Presentations, Pt. 1 (March 28)

12. Student Presentations, Pt. 2 (April 4)

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Class participation (20%)
Consists of attendance and engagement in seminar discussions. Engagement is measured by actions including, but not limited to: (a) consistent attendance (one cannot participate if one does not attend); (b) being prepared for class (at a minimum, this means having completed the required readings); (c) being attentive to class discussion; (d) raising thoughtful comments and questions in class; (e) providing insight and analysis to the readings and discussions; (vi) attending office hours; (vii) bringing relevant news articles and other materials to the attention of the class.

Bibliographic discussion paper and presentation (30%)
You will write an annotated bibliography accompanied by a two-page, double-spaced commentary reviewing five articles (or two whole books) from the “further readings” list in one selected week. Together with one or two colleagues assigned to the same week’s material, you will also make a brief, 10-15 minute presentation that (a) reviews the main arguments and contribution of each reading and (b) identifies connections and common themes between readings, including key debates. The goal of the presentation is to highlight interesting insights from the supplementary literature and raise questions to inspire and guide discussion in the second half of class.

Presentations will begin Week 3 (January 25) and continue until Week 10 (March 21). The weekly schedule will be finalized in Week 2 based on student requests. The individual paper will account for 25% of your final course grade; the group presentation 5% of your course grade.

“Adopt a City” report and presentation (50%) - Due April 22, the final day of the term.
You will select one of the following cities as a central case study for a 25-page (double-spaced) research paper:

Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Chicago, Delhi, Detroit, Dubai, Istanbul, Lagos, London, Los Angeles, Mexico City, Montreal, Moscow, Mumbai, Nairobi, New York, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Shanghai, Singapore, Tokyo, Vancouver

The report will examine the most pressing urban policy challenge(s) affecting each city, outline potential solutions, and debate the merits of available options. Your final report will be due at the end of the term, but you will present your outline and preliminary findings to the seminar for comments and suggestions during the final two weeks of class.
COURSE POLICIES

**Late assignments:** As a general policy, the penalty for late assignments is 3% per day (including weekend days). A grade of 80% therefore becomes 71% in 3 days. However, due to the nature of the assignments, and their integration into the course content, there is little room for late assignments without very important mitigating circumstances. Extensions due to illness require a signed medical certificate. Accommodation for any other legitimate (other than medical) reason may be made with adequate advance notice.

**Email policy:** We normally respond to email within 48 hours. Please note that email received during weekends and after business hours may take longer to answer, so do not leave your requests or queries until the last minute.

**Academic honesty:** Failure to properly reference figures, concepts, and quotations that are not your own will result in academic penalties, as required by the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism. At a minimum, for every assignment, the sources of all data and ideas must be properly cited using a standard academic referencing style (we prefer Chicago). If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to reference sources, please visit: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

**Accessibility needs:** If you require accommodation for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or course materials, please approach either instructor to make arrangements with Accessibility Services: http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/
READINGS

Readings are arranged in two categories. “Required” readings should be read by students before seminars, so that they will be familiar with the themes to be discussed each week. All required readings will be available via the course Blackboard site. “Further” readings do not have to be read in advance of class, but constitute a useful list of related books and articles to help students complete their assignments.

1. The Big Picture: Urbanization and Public Policy (RS + GE)

Required Reading:

Further Reading:

2. Urban Governance and City Politics (GE)

Required Reading:

Further Reading:


Sancton, Andrew, and Robert Young, eds. 2009. Foundations of Governance: Municipal Government in Canada’s Provinces. [Introduction, Chapter 1 (Ontario), and Conclusion.] Toronto: University of Toronto Press.


3. Metropolitan and Regional Governance (RS)

Required Reading:


Further Reading:


4. Decentralization: North and South (RS)

Required Reading:


Further Reading:


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**5. World Cities and the Global Economy (GE)**

**Required Reading:**


**Further Reading:**


6. Citizenship and Democratic Engagement (RS)

Required Reading:

Further Reading:
Sorensen, Andre, and Lake Sagaris. 2010. “From Participation to the Right to the City:
Democratic Place Management at the Neighbourhood Scale in Comparative Perspective.”
Planning Practice and Research 25(3): 297-316.

7. Planning and Property Development (GE)

Required Reading:

Further Reading:
8. Finance and Fiscal Health (RS)

Required Reading:

Further Reading:

9. Transportation and Congestion (GE)

Required Readings:

Further Reading:
10. Polarization and Poverty (RS)

Required Reading:

Further Reading:
Florida, Richard, Zara Matheson, Patrick Adler, and Taylor Brydges. 2014. *The Divided City: And the Shape of the New Metropolis*. Toronto: Martin Prosperity Institute, University of Toronto.