

Western University
 Department of Political Science
Globalization and Urban Politics
 Political Science 4210G / 9755B
 Winter 2020

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30am, or by appointment

Class Time and Location: Thursdays, 1:30 – 3:30pm, SSC 4103

Course Description

Cities have long been the engines of social and economic change. Today, as the geographical epicenters of globalization, large urban areas are growing and developing in ways that challenge the abilities of local governments to deal with emerging social and economic issues. *How social and economic change affects city politics at the local level is the central theme of this course.* How are urban societies and economies affected by globalization, and what can local governments do about it? How can local governments respond when they lack the powers and resources to do so on their own? How can rapidly growing, changing cities keep up with the need for new infrastructure? Can urban politics help to overcome social and economic divisions, or does it make them worse? These are the kinds of questions that we will be discussing.

This course begins with a global perspective on urbanization, globalization and politics. Later on, the focus is mainly on cities in Canada and the United States.

One unconventional element of this course is that the **syllabus for six of the twelve course weeks is co-designed by the students** and the instructor (see below). Another unconventional element is that one regular class meeting is replaced with an **urban development field trip**.

Prerequisites and Antirequisites

You must have taken at least 1 full course equivalent in Political Science at the 2200 level in order to enroll. POL3363F/G (Power in the City), while not a prerequisite, is *particularly useful* as background. Other useful courses include POL2140A (Globalization) and GEO2460 (Intro to Urban Development). POL3364 F/G and POL3368E are antirequisites for this course.

Course Format and Readings

This is a mixed-format lecture and seminar course. The instructor will introduce and clarify the material in each class, yet at the heart of the course is class discussion of each week's theme.

This means that you control the agenda of the course to a significant degree by contributing to our discussions.

In addition, the course will feature an urban development field trip. This will take place in London during the week of March 16-20. The exact date and time will be agreed upon by students and instructor early on in the course. Attendance is mandatory.

You will also control the agenda of the course by choosing topics for Weeks 6-9 and 11-12 of the course (six weeks in total). We will do this during the second class. Here is a list of possible topics that you can think about in advance. I am also open to other suggestions:

1. Creative cities – buzzword or engine of economic growth?
2. The new politics of downtown redevelopment
3. Gated communities and the privatization of public space
4. Homeowners and the politics of NIMBY
5. 'urban renaissance' and gentrification
6. Globalization and urban social inequality
7. Homelessness and affordable housing
8. Governing racially divided cities
9. Immigration and multiculturalism in the city
10. Building big urban infrastructure
11. Governing post-industrial decline: the case of Detroit
12. Urban sprawl
13. Vancouver: a Pacific Rim city
14. Governing the suburbs
15. The sustainable city: urban environmental activism and policy
16. Olympic dreams: the politics of mega-events

4210G / 9755B is a reading-based course. *You must be committed to reading all of the assigned material before each class.* Advance reading is a prerequisite for doing well in the course, and will help make the seminar discussions dynamic for all of us.

Most readings will be posted on the course's OWL Website; some will be available through direct links from the syllabus.

Course Evaluation

The final grade for this course will be composed of the following elements:

1. Participation in class discussion and activity (15%).

In a reading-based course such as this one, lively class discussion is what brings ideas to life and helps to produce a valuable learning experience for all. *Attendance in every class of the term is mandatory*, and you are expected to participate as actively as you are able in discussion and debate. I will take attendance at the start of each class, and will subtract 1% from your participation grade for each unexcused absence.

Starting with Week 2, I will post **discussion questions** for each week's material on OWL several days before the class. Please come to class with some thoughtful reactions.

In addition, during the week of March 16-20, we will schedule a **field trip**. Participation in the field trip is required, and will also count towards your course participation grade.

2. Field trip response blog (10%).

Following our field trip you will write a response blog of about 1000 - 1500 words, in which you will integrate observations from the field trip with concepts discussed in class. The blog post will be due approximately one week after the field trip. Detailed guidelines will be handed out in class the week before the field trip.

3. Three short reading response essays (10% each; 30% total).

During the course, you will write three short essays of about 1500 words each. You will write one short essay during each half of the course. In Week 2, you will choose either Week 3, 4, or 5 as your first short essay week. In Week 4, you will choose two of the weeks in the second part of the course in which to write your remaining short essays.

In each essay, you will be asked to analyze that week's reading material based on a question developed by the instructor. The instructor will post the essay question one week ahead of the due date, along with the discussion questions for that week (see above). The essay will be due immediately before the class in which the relevant material is discussed. Your short essays will present a well thought-out argument that responds to the assigned question. They will be written in standard academic format, with citations and a (short) reference list. Research beyond the class readings is not necessary for these essays, although you may choose to do some.

4. Research project (10% proposal, 35% final paper; 45% total).

Your research project is a chance for you to investigate in depth some aspect of urban politics or policy that you are particularly interested in. You will devise your own *research question*. You should develop and explanatory research question about *how or why* something happens the way that it does in your area of interest. Your paper will then answer your question by bringing together academic work on your subject with examples from one or more cities.

There are two elements to your research project:

- a) By Week 9 of the course (March 12th), you will develop a research proposal of about 1000 words. The proposal will lay out your research question and your plan for completing your research. It is worth 10% of your course grade.
- b) At the end of the course, you will hand in a 4000 to 5000 word research paper in which you develop a well-crafted answer to your research question. The paper is worth 35% of your course grade, and is due on April 6th (Monday after last class).

Detailed guidelines for both the proposal and the paper will be handed out in Week 4.

Graduate Student (POL9755) Requirements and Evaluation

Graduate students will have **additional reading and assignment requirements**, as follows:

1. In place of the second and third short reading response essays, graduate students will write two longer (about 2500 words) critical response papers. Each of these papers will engage with an *additional* set of 7 – 10 academic readings. These readings will be set by the instructor, based on a conversation with each graduate student about their research interests. The first paper will be due on February 27; the second on March 26.
2. Final course papers will be longer – approximately 6000 – 7000 words.
3. All writing by graduate students will be evaluated in accordance with standards of quality appropriate to the stage of education of each student (ie, MA or PhD candidate).

Course Policies

Electronic devices: In order to create an environment conducive to everyone's learning and free from distractions, please refrain from using phones for texting or any other purposes during classes. The use of laptops and tablets is allowed for course-related activities only.

Submitting assignments: All written work should be submitted via the course's OWL site. Work handed in late will be subject to a penalty of 2% for each day past the deadline, weekends

included. Extensions due to illness require a medical certificate. If you foresee problems meeting submission deadlines please consult the instructor early; accommodations can always be made with adequate advance notice. This means *at least one week before the deadline*.

Academic integrity: To protect and uphold academic integrity in the class, it is the responsibility of each student to be able to demonstrate the originality of his or her work. At a minimum, for every assignment, the sources of all information and ideas must be properly referenced using a standard academic referencing style such as Chicago, APA, or MLA. Failure to properly reference ideas, concepts, and quotations in an assignment that are not your own will result in academic penalties as required by university policy:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/scholasticdisciplineundergrad.pdf>.

All upper-year students are expected to have a thorough understanding of the rules and conventions of academic writing. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or how to reference sources, please visit the Writing Support Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/> or review information at: <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>

Instructor contact: I encourage you to bring any questions or concerns about course material, requirements or assignments to me. My office hours will be held on Wednesdays 9:30 – 11:30am in SSC 4223. You can also make an appointment for another time. Questions or concerns can also be sent my e-mail to: mhorak@uwo.ca. I will usually respond within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays.

Help with writing: Learning to express ideas clearly is a central goal of the university experience. If academic writing does not come easily to you, you are strongly encouraged to make use of the Writing Support Centre: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>

Accommodations on medical grounds: Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Please refer to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and download a Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/> under the Medical Documentation heading. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING SCHEDULE

- *The assigned readings are best read in the order listed on the schedule below.*
- *All readings will be posted on the course's OWL website.*

Part I: Globalization and the New Urban Governance

Week 1 (Jan 9): Introduction: Governing an urbanizing world

Soja, Edward and J. Miguel Kanai. 2007. "The Urbanization of the World." In Ricky Burdett and Dejan Sudjic, eds., *Endless City*. London: Phaidon. 54–69.

We will also discuss the structure and requirements of the course.

Week 2 (Jan 16): Global cities: nodes, networks

Sassen Saskia. 2005. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept". *Brown Journal of World Affairs* 11: 27-43

Beaverstock, Jonathan V., Richard G. Smith, and Peter J. Taylor. 2000. "World-City Network: A New Metageography?" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90 (1): 123–134.

Robinson, Jennifer. 2002. "Global and world cities: a view from off the map". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 26(3): 531– 54.

Week 3 (Jan 23): Local governance in North American cities: an introduction

England, Kim and John Mercer. 2006. "Canadian Cities in Continental Context: Global and Continental Perspectives in Canadian Urban Development". In Trudi Bunting and Pierre Filion, eds. *Canadian Cities in Transition* (3rd ed), pp. 24-39.

Stoker, Gerry. 1998. "Governance as Theory: Five Propositions". *International Social Science Journal* 155, pp. 17-28.

Week 4 (Jan 30): Urban development: local policy choices in a global era

Savitch, H.V. and Paul Kantor. 2002. "Chapter 2: Toward a Theory of Urban Development". In *Cities in the International Marketplace*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 29-54.

Levine, Marc V. 2000. " 'A Third World City in the First World': Social Inclusion, Racial Inequality, and Sustainable Development in Baltimore, Maryland". In Mario Polese and Richard Stren, eds. *The Social Sustainability of Cities*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 123-156.

Week 5 (Feb 6): The governance problem in global cities

Kantor, Paul et al. 2012. "Introduction: Governable Giants?" In *Struggling Giants: City-Region Governance in London, New York, Paris and Tokyo*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 1-18.

Horak, Martin. 2013. "State Rescaling in Practice: Urban Governance Reform in Toronto." *Urban Research & Practice* 6 (3):311–28.

Part II: Selected Topics in Urban Governance

Topics for Weeks 6 – 9 and Weeks 11 – 12 of the course will be selected by students in consultation with the instructor during the second week of the course. The instructor will then choose readings for the selected topics. Class dates and assignment due dates are as follows:

Week 6: Feb 13

Week 7: Feb 27 – *first graduate student essay due*

Week 8: Mar 5

Week 9: Mar 12 – *research proposals for final paper due*

Week 10: Mar 16-20 – *field trip. Date and time TBD*

Week 11: Mar 26 – *field trip blog due. Second graduate student essay due*

Week 12: Apr 2

April 6 (Monday after last class) – *final research papers due on OWL*