

Western University
Department of Political Science
Globalization and Urban Politics
Political Science 4210F / 9755A
Fall 2018

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:30 – 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, large urban centers are growing and developing in ways that challenge the abilities of established local governments to deal with new 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 govern 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 overcome social and economic divisions among residents? These are the kinds of questions that we will be discussing in this course.

The primary focus of the course is on cities in Canada and the United States; but the floor is also open for discussion of cities in other parts of the world.

One unique element of this course is that the topics for Weeks 9 to 13 of the course are chosen early on in the course by the students themselves. In other words you, the students, will set some of the agenda for this course.

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 (Comparative Urban Politics), while not a prerequisite, is particularly useful as background. Other courses that may be useful include: POL2140A (Globalization), GEO2460 (Intro to Urban Development) and GEO3465 (Urban Economic Development and Policy). 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 28 to April 1. The exact time will be agreed upon by students and instructor early on in the course. Attendance is mandatory.

As noted above, you will also control the agenda of the course by **choosing topics for the last part of the course** (Weeks 9 to 13). We will do this during the second class. Here is a list of possible topics. I am also open to other suggestions:

1. Residents and ratepayers: Urban politics and homeowners
2. Stadiums, subways, waterfronts: Building big infrastructure in cities
3. The urban politics of race and ethnicity
4. Governing post-industrial decline: the case of Detroit
5. Vancouver: a Pacific Rim city
6. Governing the suburbs
7. Urban environmental activism and policy
8. Urban social movements

3364G 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.

Some of the required readings for this course are available online through Western Libraries' databases. All other readings will be posted on the course's OWL Website.

Readings up to Week 8 are included in the current syllabus. *The remaining readings will be chosen by the instructor once students have chosen the topics for the rest of 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 hand out **discussion questions** for each week's material in the preceding week's class. Please come to class prepared with thoughtful answers.

In addition, during the week of October 22-26, we will schedule a field trip. Participation in the field trip is required, and will count towards your course participation grade.

2. Field trip response (10%).

Following our field trip you will write a response piece of about 1500 – 2000 words in which you will integrate observations from the field trip with concepts discussed in class. 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 two 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 always hand out the essay question one week ahead of the due date. 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 an 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 6 of the course (Oct 18th), 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 December 7th.

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

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 and note taking only.

E-mail: All Western University students are required to have an @uwo.ca e-mail account. I will only respond to e-mails sent from a Western University account. I will *not* accept assignments by e-mail.

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 3% for each day past the deadline, weekends included. Assignments more than 10 days late will not be accepted. 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 all to bring any questions or concerns about course material, requirements or assignments to me. My office hours will be held on Wednesdays 10:30 – 11:30am. 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 (Sept 6): Introduction to the course

We will discuss the structure and requirements of the course. There are no readings.

Week 2 (Sept 13): Globalization and urbanization: the big picture

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.

Borja, Jordi and Manuel Castells. 1997. "Chapter 2: The Impact of Globalization on the Spatial and Social Structure of Cities". In *Local & Global: Management of Cities in the Information Age*. London: Earthscan, pp. 16-44.

Week 3 (Sept 20): 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 (Sept 27): 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 (Oct 4): 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.

**** Oct 8-12: fall reading week: no class ****

Part II: Selected Topics in Urban Governance

Week 6 (Oct 18): The "creative class", downtown redevelopment, and gentrification

Richard Florida, "The Creative Class and Economic Development," *Economic Development Quarterly*, 28, 3, August 2014, pp 196-205.

Elizabeth Strom. 2008. "Rethinking the Politics of Downtown Development." *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 30(1).

Sanneh, Kelefa. 2016. "Is Gentrification Really a Problem?" *New Yorker Magazine*, July 11 & 18. 80–85. <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/07/11/is-gentrification-really-a-problem>

**** Research Paper Proposals Due ****

Week 7 (Oct 22-26): Field trip: downtown London in transformation

During this week, we will schedule a 3 – 4 hour field trip focusing on redevelopment in and around downtown London. This will take place INSTEAD of class. Exact timing will be finalized through mutual agreement within the class.

Week 8 (Nov 1): Social inequality and neighborhood regeneration

Sidney, Mara. 2009. "Poverty, Inequality and Social Exclusion". In Jonathan S. Davies and David L. Imbroscio, eds, *Theories of Urban Politics* (2nd ed.). London: Sage, pp. 171-187.

Hulchanski, J. David. 2010. *The Three Cities Within Toronto*. Toronto: Cities Centre, University of Toronto.

Horak, Martin and Marilyn Dantico. 2014. "The Limits of Local Redistribution: Neighborhood Regeneration Initiatives in Toronto and Phoenix". *International Journal of Canadian Studies* 49: 135-158.

Weeks 9 – 13: Readings will be selected by instructor after topics are chosen in Week 2.

**** final essay due via OWL on December 7 ****