SOC 6414H: Urban Political Economy

Syllabus (Winter, 2020)

Department of Sociology
University of Toronto

Instructor: John Hannigan

Class hours and location: Mondays 11-1; Room 240 (725 Spadina Ave.)

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Course Description

This seminar will examine the relationship between the local state, capital and culture at the beginning of the 21st century. The main focus is on what Dennis Judd has described as “the tension between the imperative of growth and the logic of governance.” After reviewing the foundations of the urban political economy paradigm in the 1960s and 1970s, consideration will be given to the contemporary impact of neo-liberalism, globalization and trans-nationalism on urban politics, power structures and conceptions of citizenship. In particular, we will explore the causes, contexts, conditions, characteristics and consequences of the rise of the “entrepreneurial city” and its recent turn toward marketing incentives organized around culture and entertainment. We conclude by considering the paradigm challenge posed by postcolonial approaches to urban studies that take as their template cities of the Global South.
**Requirements & Evaluation**

The course will be organized as a seminar with weekly required readings. Students are expected to have done the readings before class each week and actively engage in discussion. Each participant in the seminar will prepare a brief discussion paper (approximately 3-5 pages for two of the sessions (worth 10 per cent each). These should be more than just summaries of the readings, highlighting key themes and arguments and raising critical questions. The discussion papers must be handed in on the day the topic is discussed in class.

In addition, on one additional occasion, seminar participants will be expected to lead the discussion in class (worth 10 per cent). As part of your presentation, you will produce a short handout with a summary of the readings and three or four questions to jumpstart discussion. This is due by 5pm on the Friday prior to the Monday class on which you are scheduled to present.

The major written assignment will take the form of a full research proposal on a topic of personal interest to the student within the parameters of the course content, to be chosen in consultation with the course instructor (worth 70 per cent of the final grade). The proposal should include a statement of the problem, a review of the literature, a section on methods of analysis/data sources, and a discussion of expected findings. Proposals should be 20-25 pages (double-spaced). A hard copy of the assignment is due in class on the final seminar date (March 30th). Late papers are not accepted except where there is a legitimate documented reason beyond your control (e.g. illness, family emergency).

**Academic Integrity**

Copying, plagiarizing, falsifying medical certificates, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be referred to the Dean's office for adjudication. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject
to academic penalties. Students are expected to cite sources in all written work and presentations. See this link for tips for how to use sources well: [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize).

According to Section B.I.1.(e) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters it is an offence "to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere."

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university's rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters ([http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters)) and Code of Student Conduct ([http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm](http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm)) which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.

**Accessibility Services**

It is the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please see the University of Toronto Governing Council “Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities” at [http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf).

In working toward this goal, the University will strive to provide support for, and facilitate the accommodation of individuals with disabilities so that all may share the same level of access to opportunities, participate in the full range of activities that the University offers, and achieve their full potential as members of the University community. We take seriously our obligation to make this course as welcoming and accessible as feasible for students with diverse needs. We also understand that disabilities can change over time and will do our best to accommodate you.

Students seeking support must have an intake interview with a disability advisor to discuss their individual needs. In many instances it is easier to
arrange certain accommodations with more advance notice, so we strongly encourage you to act as quickly as possible. To schedule a registration appointment with a disability advisor, please visit Accessibility Services at http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as, call at 416-978-8060, or email at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. The office is located at 455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400. Additional student resources for distressed or emergency situations can be located at distressedstudent.utoronto.ca; Health & Wellness Centre, 416-978-8030, http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc, or Student Crisis Response, 416-946-71

**Equity and Diversity**

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of Toronto is available at http://equity.hrancediversity.utoronto.ca

**Course Schedule & Readings**

**Class 1 (January 6): Introduction**

**Class 2 (January 13): Community Power, Leadership & Urban Politics**

**Required**


**Supplementary**


**Class 3 (January 20): Urban Growth Machines; Urban Regime Theory**

**Required**


K. Loughran, “Parks for profit: The High Line, growth machines, and the uneven development of urban public spaces.” *City & Community* 13(1), 2014:


Supplementary


Class 4 (January 27): Neo-liberalism and the Rescaling of Governance

Required


Supplementary


Class 5 (February 3): The Entrepreneurial City, Branding, and City Marketing

Required


Supplementary


Class 6 (February 10): Urban Regeneration/Renaissance

Required


**Supplementary**


**February 17: Family Day holiday. No class.**

**Class 7 (February 24): Tourism and the Urban Entertainment Economy**

**Required**


**Supplementary**


**Class 8 (March 2): Night-time Economy**

**Required**


**Supplementary**


**Class 9 (March 9): Culture-Led Urban Regeneration**

**Required**


**Supplementary**


**Class 10 (March 16): The Creative Class/City Thesis**

**Required**


**Supplementary**


**Class 11 (March 23): Gentrification**

**Required**


Supplementary


Class 12 (March 30): Urban Politics in the Global South

Required


Supplementary

