



# GGR 124 Urbanization, Contemporary Cities and Urban Life

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Deborah Cowen
<b>Contact:</b>	deb.cowen@utoronto.ca
<b>Course Time:</b>	Wednesday 6-8pm (L0501) <b>OR</b> Thursday 2-4pm (section L0101)
<b>Course Location:</b>	ES1050
<b>Professor's Office Hours:</b>	Fridays 12-2pm, or by appointment Sidney Smith Hall #5033
<b>TA Office Hours:</b>	TBA in tutorials

**DESCRIPTION:**

This course offers an introduction to North American cities and urbanization in a global context. We will explore a wide range of key **forces** (social movements, labour markets, finance capital, government policy, arts and culture, the environment, the media), **processes** (globalization, migration, gentrification, accumulation, polarization, racialization), and **events** (land claims, fiscal crises, elections, mega events, terrorist acts) that shape contemporary urbanism. The course adopts the lens of 'fixity' and 'flow' to examine how the movement of people, ideas, goods, and capital, as well as their materialization and containment in the infrastructure and space of the city, give rise to particular urban forms. We will pay careful attention to questions of power, the relationship between different visions of the past, present, and future of urban space, and competing claims on the city.

The course serves as the main entry point for specializations in urban, economic, and social geography. It also provides part of the necessary background for more advanced courses in urban, economic, social, and political geography, as well as for courses in housing, urban historical geography and planning.

**Readings**

- Course readings are available in a reader at the University of Toronto Bookstore, 214 College Street, Toronto, ON M5T 3A1, 416-640-7900
- Additional academic and popular articles will be posted on the course website and will be part of the required reading.

**Evaluation**

Tutorial participation	10 percent
Assignment 1: Define the City   due February 3	10 percent
Assignment 2: Observe the City	15 percent
• draft due February 23 (worth 5%) final due March 1 (worth 10%)	
Assignment 3: Analyze Urban Change   due March 30	30 percent
Final Exam (date TBA)	35 percent

## **GUIDELINES**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

**General:** Please come to class, engage the material, and participate in discussions when you feel inclined. Please be sure to do the assigned readings before class. Show respect for your colleagues and the instructors, and expect the same in return. Please don't plagiarize. Consult University of Toronto calendar, Section Six ("Rules and Regulations") for further information.

**Email:** must be used judiciously. Do not expect an immediate response to your email and please do not ask questions over email that cannot be answered with one or two sentences. Please talk to your TA or visit the instructor during office hours for questions of this sort.

**Assignments:** must be submitted on blackboard by **10am on the due date**, and your TA may also ask you to hand in an additional hard copy in your tutorial. **Assignments will not be accepted by email.** In order to conserve paper, please print double-sided (see: [printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca](http://printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca))

**Late penalty:** 5% (of the assignment grade) will be deducted for each weekday that an assignment is late (weekends count as one day). Assignments will not be accepted later than one week after the due date.

**Extensions:** will be granted sparingly in the case of illness, and you must present a medical certificate completed by a health care professional. Please consult your college registrar should you be having difficulties during term that prevent you from completing your course work due to extenuating circumstances.

### **The Blackboard Course Website**

Like many other courses, GGR124 uses Blackboard for its course website. To access the GGR124 website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the UoT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the GGR124 course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

### **Activating your UTORid and Password**

If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to [www.utorid.utoronto.ca](http://www.utorid.utoronto.ca). Under the "First Time Users" area, click on "activate your UTORid" (if you are new to the university) or "create your UTORid" (if you are a returning student), then follow the instructions. New students who use the link to "activate your UTORid" will find reference to a "Secret Activation Key". This was originally issued to you when you picked up your Tcard at the library. If you have lost your Secret Activation Key you can call 416-978-HELP or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons on the ground floor of Robarts Library to be issued a new one. **The course instructor will not be able to help you with this.** 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can also answer any other questions you may have about your UTORid and password.

### **Email Communication with the Course Instructor**

At times, the course Instructor will send out important course information by email. To that end, all UoT students are required to have a valid UoT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UoT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system. You can do that by using the following instructions:

- To submit the information to activate your UTORid and password (see above), you will need to click the "Validate" button. Follow the instructions on the subsequent screens to receive your utoronto.ca address. Once you have your UoT email address, go to the ROSI system ([www.rosi.utoronto.ca](http://www.rosi.utoronto.ca)), log in and update the system with your new UoT email address.

- You can **check your UofT email** account from: 1. The UofT home page <http://www.utoronto.ca>: From the Quick Links menu on the top right, choose "my.utoronto.ca". Enter your UTORid and password, and when the Welcome page opens, click "WEBMAIL".
- 2. Email software installed on your computer, for example Microsoft Outlook or Mozilla Thunderbird. Visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons or call 416-978-HELP for help with the set up.

**Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder.

**You are responsible for:**

1. Ensuring you have a valid UofT email address that is properly entered in the ROSI system
2. Checking your UofT email account on a regular basis.



## January 13/14: Course Introduction

### January 20/21: What is a City? What is Urban Geography?

- Dubois, W.E.B (1899) Excerpts from "The Philadelphia Negro." In Legates, R. and Stout, F. (eds.) 2007. *The City Reader*, Fourth Edition. London: Routledge, pp. 103-109.
- Burgess, Ernest (1925) "The Growth of the City." In Legates, R. and Stout, F. (eds.) 2007. *The City Reader*, Fourth Edition. London: Routledge, pp. 150-157.
- Mumford, Lewis (1937) "What is a City?" In Legates, R. and Stout, F. (eds.) 2007. *The City Reader*, Fourth Edition. London: Routledge, pp. 85-89.
- Wirth, Louis (1938) "Urbanism as a Way of Life." In Legates, R. and Stout, F. (eds.) 2007. *The City Reader*, Fourth Edition. London: Routledge, pp. 90-97.
- Soja, Edward (1989) "Taking Los Angeles Apart: Towards a Postmodern Geography." In Legates, R. and Stout, F. (eds.) 2007. *The City Reader*, Fourth Edition. London: Routledge, pp. 166-177.

### January 27/28: Global Cities and Globalization

- Massey, D. (1994) "A Global Sense of Place." In *Space, Place and Gender*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Hulchanski, D. (2010) "The Three Cities Within Toronto." Available on the course website.
- Sassen, S. (2010) "Swoons over Miami." Available on the course website.

## **February 3/4: Working life and the “Postindustrial” City**

- Badcock, B. (2002) “Work Performed in Cities.” In *Making Sense of Cities*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Engels, Friedrich (1844) “The Great Towns.” Available on the course website.

## **February 10/11: Urban Citizenship: Politics and Planning**

- McNeil, D. (2008) “Politics and Policy.” In Hall, T. Hubbard, P. and Short, J.R. (eds) *The Sage Companion to the City*. London: Sage.
- Peters, E. (2010) “Aboriginal People in Canadian Cities.” In Bunting, T. & Filion, P. (eds.) *Canadian Cities in Transition*. (4th Edition) Toronto: OUP, pp. 375-390. Available on the course website.

## **February 17/18: Reading week (NO CLASS)**

## **February 24/25: Migration and the Transformation of Cities**

- Fong, E. (2010) “Immigration and Race in the City.” In Hiller, H. (ed) *Urban Canada*, 2nd Edition. Don Mills: OUP.

## **March 2/3: Changing Urban Form**

- Lehrer, U. (2006) “Re-Placing Canadian Cities: The Challenge of Landscapes of ‘Desire’ and ‘Despair.’” In Bunting, T. & Filion, P. (eds.) 2006. *Canadian Cities in Transition*, (3rd Edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press.
- National Public Radio podcast, “Gated Communities” Available at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1392317>

## **March 9/10: Housing and Homelessness**

- Hayden, Delores (1981) “What Would a Non-Sexist City be Like?” Available on the Blackboard course website.
- Walks, A. “Homelessness, Housing Affordability, and the New Poverty.” In Bunting, T. & Filion, P. (eds.) 2006. *Canadian Cities in Transition*, (3rd Edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press.

## **March 16/17: Segregation & Exclusion**

- Dubois, W.E.B. (1899) Selections. Available on the Blackboard course website.
- Nelson, J. (2002) “The Space of Africville: Creating, Regulating, and Remembering the Urban ‘Slum.’” *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*. (15): 165-185.
- Short Film: *Remember Africville*

## **March 23/24: Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Boudreau, J.A. Keil, R., Young, D. (2009) “Transportation Dilemmas.” In *Changing Toronto: Governing In-Between the Global and the Local*. Toronto: UTP.

### **March 30/31: Urban Nature?**

- Connelly, S. and Roseland, M. (2010) “Black Holes or White Knights? Cities and the Environment.” In Bunting, T. & Filion, P. (eds.) *Canadian Cities in Transition*, (4th Edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press.

### **April 6/7: In/Secure Urban Space**

- Cowen, D. Siciliano, A. and Smith, N. (2010) “Fear, Insecurity, and the Canadian City.” In Bunting, T. & Filion, P. (eds.) *Canadian Cities in Transition*, (4th Edition) Toronto: Oxford University Press

