GEOG*4200: Social Life of Cities

Instructor: Dr. Kate Parizeau
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Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-2:20pm; MCKN 312
Office hours: Wednesdays 3:30-5pm and by appointment (until mid-November); HUTT 343

Course Description:

Undergraduate Calendar description: “Many of the traditional features of cities are changing in light of powerful forces of globalization. The course examines spatial patterns and processes of economic restructuring, social dynamics and political change in Canadian and non-Canadian cities. Students discuss and interpret evolving urban forms from a geographical perspective.”

Prerequisites: GEOG*2260 (GEOG*3050 recommended)

Cities are meeting places of distinct functions and processes. Increasingly, people live and work in urban environments, which are also home to community services, industry, and government institutions. Cities are also sites of cultural representation: they are the places where people come to learn, to create, and to share information. This course will investigate the ways that the forms and functions of modern cities contribute to urban social life in the Global North. The central questions of this course are as follows: “How are societal values and power relationships expressed through the built environment? How are social relationships influenced by urban systems and spaces, and how do human interactions in turn influence the fabric of the city?”

We will work through a series of topics, developing diverse substantive and theoretical knowledge of urban issues in the process. While the urban scale will take centre stage in our discussions, we will also consider the ways that the municipal scale interacts and sometimes nests with other scalar concepts, such as bodies, homes, nations, and the global.

A number of themes run through the course material and will be central to our discussions. They are as follows:

- The connections between urban form and social functions (the “sociospatial dialectic”);
- The expression and repression of social differences in urban environments;
- The shifting boundaries of public/private and insider/outside;
- “Rights to the City:” investigating who can make decisions about the functions of the city, and who is able access the resources it provides.

Course Objectives:

- To develop students’ knowledge of key topics in urban social geography;
- To encourage a critical intellectual engagement with the physical forms and social functions that are found in modern urban environments in the Global North;
- To investigate the causes and consequences of dynamic processes of urban change (economic, demographic, and morphological);
- To develop research, reading, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking.
Class Format:
This course will be conducted as a seminar. I will provide a contextual overview of the weekly topics at the beginning of each class, but part of our class time will also be dedicated to discussion. All students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before the class meetings, and to come prepared with observations, reflections, and questions from the readings. Student participation will be assessed through multiple means, including written reflections, class participation, and the completion of class activities. The assignment, the term paper, and the examination will assume knowledge gained from both the text and the lectures, so class attendance is highly recommended. We will be using Courselink as an electronic resource for announcements, accessing course materials, and submitting assignments.

Evaluation:
A handout detailing the course assignments and evaluation guidelines is posted on Courselink. Following is an overview of the course assignments:

- Class participation (Weeks 1-10): 25%
- Case study (due Oct. 14th): 20%
- Term paper proposal (due Oct. 28th): Pass/Fail
- Term paper (due Nov. 8th): 25%
- Take-home final exam (due Dec. 9th): 30%

*The take-home final exam will be distributed via Courselink on Monday, Dec. 5th at 9am, and must be submitted via Courselink by 11:59pm on Friday Dec. 9th.*

Late work will be penalized 5% per day that it is overdue.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement:
When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:
http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml

Readings:
The readings for this course consist of peer-reviewed academic articles that are available in the University of Guelph library system, as well as relevant readings from the media and civil society (which will be posted as the course progresses to ensure that the content is contemporary). Access to these readings is available through Courselink.

Reference texts available on course reserve:
Course Schedule:
(Please check Courselink for additional non-academic readings; these will be posted in the Content section for the relevant week as the term progresses in order to keep content current.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>• Introduction and course overview: Sociospatial dialectics; Urban forms and functions</td>
<td>Thurs) Knox and Pinch 2000</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept. 13, 15</td>
<td>• Urban forms: Sidewalks and shopping malls - negotiating the public sphere</td>
<td>Tues) Jacobs 1961; Thurs) Parlette and Cowen 2010</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept. 20, 22</td>
<td>• Urban forms: City streets – public identities (workers, indigence, and social difference)</td>
<td>Tues) O’Grady and Gaetz 2004; Thurs) Tani 2002</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Sept. 27, 29</td>
<td>• Urban forms: City streets – crime, enforcement, and surveillance</td>
<td>Tues) Day 2001; Thurs) Sylvestre 2010</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct. 4, 6</td>
<td>• Urban forms: Enclaves vs. ghettos – social difference and urban inequality</td>
<td>Tues) Hulchanski 2007; Thurs) Walks and Bourne 2006</td>
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<td><strong>October 11: Fall Study Break Day – NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Case study due October 14th at 11:59pm</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct. 18, 20</td>
<td>• Urban forms: Greening the city</td>
<td>Tues) Lovell 2010; Thurs) Bourne et al 2011; Peters 2015</td>
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<td>• Urban functions: Cities and demographic transformations</td>
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<td><strong>Term paper proposal due October 28th at 11:59pm</strong></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov. 1, 3</td>
<td>• Urban functions: Social reproduction – urban survival strategies and activism</td>
<td>Tues) Heynen 2010; Thurs) Németh and Hollander 2010</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov. 8, 10</td>
<td>• Urban functions: Economic production – uneven development in cities; urban growth mechanisms</td>
<td>Tues) Squires and Kubrin 2005; Thurs) Farmer 2011</td>
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<td><strong>Term paper due November 8th at 11:59pm</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov. 22, 24</td>
<td>• Review and conclusions; Independent study groups (in-class)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Nov. 29, 29, Dec. 1</td>
<td>• Independent study groups (in-class)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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Take home exam distributed Monday Dec. 5th at 9am; due Friday Dec. 9th at 11:59pm
E-mail Communication:
As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

I check my e-mail every weekday, and at least once on the weekends. Expect that I will respond to your e-mails within 48 hours; if I do not, please resend your e-mail. If your question or concern is complicated, I may ask that we meet during office hours or at another scheduled time to address the issue in person. To ensure that your e-mail reaches my inbox, be sure to use a University of Guelph e-mail address. Include the course code and the nature of your question/comment in the subject line of the e-mail.

Drop Date:
The last date to drop one-semester courses without academic penalty is Friday, November 4th, 2016. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml

Copies of out-of-class assignments:
Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility:
The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities as soon as possible. For more information, contact CSD at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the website: http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/

Academic Misconduct:
The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence
should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar: http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml

Plagiarism includes improper acknowledgement or citation of the work of others, the inclusion of false or misleading references, and the resubmission of work that has already been evaluated at the University. Prevent inadvertent academic dishonesty by carefully referencing and citing the sources you use in your work. For advice on proper referencing, please see the following: http://www.academicintegrity.uoguelph.ca/

**Turnitin**

In this course, we will be using Turnitin integrated with the CourseLink Dropbox tool to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to maintain academic integrity at the University of Guelph.

All submitted assignments will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing academic misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment. Please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this software.

**Recording of Materials:**

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate, or a guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources:**

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs: http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index