

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**University of Toronto**  
**JPG 1501: Political Economy of Cities**  
**F 11-1; SS 2124**

(NOTE: this is not an official course outline. It is posted here for informational purposes only)

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**OFFICE HOURS:** W 11-12; Th 4-5; F 2-3

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Cities are the complicated result of economic and political processes interacting in space. They are, at once, intensely global and intimately local spaces—spaces of production; spaces of everyday life; spaces of dissent. This complexity has only increased in recent years as global processes increasingly influence local planning, production, and everyday life. Social scientists, philosophers, and planners have tried for centuries to understand and describe the political economy of cities. This course is an advanced survey of classic and contemporary work of this kind. Above all, it explores the ways that cities are connected to the wider politico-economic sphere—how, in particular, global political movements like neoliberalism affect everyday life, policy, and planning in cities around the world.

**REQUIRED READING:**

- *Reading packet* that will be assembled and distributed by the instructor (details on first day of class)

**EVALUATION:**

*Course Participation*—25 Percent—each student is required to come to class prepared to discuss the week's readings.

*Final Paper*—75 Percent—each student is required to write and present a final term paper. Papers should be 20 to 25 pages (5,000 to 6,250 words) in length. Those students who do not intend to pursue the study of urban political economy further, are encouraged to write case studies about a changing neighborhood, location of an industry, or a local land use dispute, for example. In doing so, please try to link your particular case study to the wider literature discussed in class. An initial proposal (worth 10 percent of your final paper grade) is due in week 5. Please feel free to consult with me before developing your topic.

**SCHEDULE:**

## **14 September: Introduction to the course**

## **21 September: The city as an object of study**

### Required Reading:

- Burgess, E. [1925] The growth of the city: An introduction to a research project. Originally from: Robert Park et al., *The City*. Pp. 92-6 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Hannigan, J. 2004. The new urban political economy. In H. Hiller (Ed.), *Urban Canada: Sociological perspectives*. Toronto: Oxford University Press (246-267).
- Milgram, S. 1970. The experience of living in cities. *Science*. March: 1461-1468.
- Soja, E. 2000. Chapter 1 (Introduction; pp. 3-18) from *Postmetropolis*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Ullman, E. [1941]. A theory of location for cities. Originally from *The American Journal of Sociology*. Pp. 37-45 in *The Urban Geography Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Wirth, L. [1938] Urbanism as a way of life. Originally from: *American Journal of Sociology*. Pp. 97-105 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.

### Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

- Bunting, T. and P. Filion (Eds.) 2000. *Canadian Cities in Transition: The twenty-first century*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Eade, J. and C. Mele (Eds.) 2002. *Understanding the City: Contemporary and future perspectives*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Fishman, R. 1987. *Bourgeois Utopias: The rise and fall of suburbia*. New York: Basic Books.
- Ford, L. 1994. *Cities and buildings: Skyscrapers, skid rows, and suburbs*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Hackworth, J. 2005. Emergent urban forms, or emergent post-modernisms? a comparison of large U.S. metropolitan areas. *Urban Geography*. 26(6): 484-519.
- Lewis, P. 1983. The Galactic Metropolis. In R.H. Platt and G. Macinko (Eds.), *Beyond the urban fringe*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press (23-49).

## **28 September: The city as a set of underlying processes**

### Required Reading:

- Alonso, W. 1983. A theory of the urban land market. Pp. 1-10 in Robert Lake (Ed.), *Readings in urban analysis: Perspectives on urban form and structure*. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Urban Policy Research.
- Checkoway, B. 1980. Large builders, federal housing programmes, and postwar suburbanization. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 4: 21-45.
- Harvey, D. 1978. The urban process under capitalism: A framework for analysis. *The International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 2: 101-131

- Park, R. 1983. Human ecology. Pp. 53-64 in Robert Lake (Ed.), *Readings in urban analysis: Perspectives on urban form and structure*. New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Urban Policy Research.
- Tiebout, C. 1956. A pure theory of local expenditures. *Journal of Political Economy*. 64: 416-424.

Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

- Harvey, D. 1982, *The limits to capital*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Harvey, D. 1985. *Urbanization of capital*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Hawley, A. 1986. *Human ecology: a theoretical essay*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**5 October: The city as something that we want to change**

Required Reading:

- Calthorpe, P. and Fulton, W. [2001] Designing the region. Originally from: *The Regional City: Planning for the end of sprawl*. Pp. 331-336 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Forester, J. [1987] Planning in the face of conflict. Originally from: *The Journal of the American Planning Association*. Pp. 375-387 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Harvey, D. 1985. On Planning the Ideology of Planning. Chapter 7 (pp. 165-184) in *The Urbanization of capital: Studies in the history and theory of capitalist urbanization*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Harvey, D. 1989. From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: the transformation of urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler* 71: 3-17
- Hayek, F. 1961. Housing and Town Planning, in *The constitution of liberty*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kaiser, E. and D. Godschalk [1995] Twentieth century land use planning: A stalwart family tree. Originally from: *The Journal of the American Planning Association*. Pp. 354-374 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Putnam, R. [1995]. Bowling Alone: America's declining social capital. Originally from: *Journal of Democracy*. Pp. 105-113 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.

Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

- Beauregard, R. and S. Body-Gendrot (Eds.) 1999. *The urban moment: Cosmopolitan essays on the late-20th-century city*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Body-Gendrot, S. 2000 *The Social Control of Cities?: A comparative perspective*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Dear, M. and Scott, A. (Eds.) 1981. *Urbanization and urban planning in a capitalist society*. London: Methuen.

- Defilippis, J. 2004. *Unmaking goliath: Community control in the face of global capital*. New York: Routledge.
- Fainstein, S. 2000. *The city builders* (second edition). Lawrence KS: University of Kansas Press.
- Hall, P. 1988. *Cities of tomorrow: An intellectual history of urban planning and design in the twentieth century*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Harvey, D. 2000. *Spaces of hope*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.

## **12 October: Proposal Presentations**

Please prepare a short (<5 minutes) presentation and a one-page proposal for your term paper. Feedback will be provided in class and, if needed, on the proposal itself. I do not expect the proposal to be a polished piece of work, but rather an initial distillation and articulation of what you intend to study. It is not uncommon for this exercise to prompt a student to change topics later in the term. This acceptable but I do advise that you meet with me to discuss the new topic.

I would also suggest that at some point in the term, everyone meet with me, regardless of your level of focus, the topic, or your interest in the course, to discuss the term paper. Most structural problems that I see in final term papers can be addressed beforehand.

## **19 October: Marx and the city**

### Required Reading:

- Davis, M. 2004. Planet of slums: Urban involution and the informal proletariat. *New Left Review*. 26: 5-34.
- Merrifield, A. 2002. *Metromarxism: A Marxist tale of the city*. London: Routledge.
- Chapter 1, Introduction: 1-12
  - Chapter 2, Karl Marx: 13-30
  - Chapter 3, Frederick Engels: 31-48
  - Chapter 6, Manuel Castells: 113-132
  - Chapter 7, David Harvey: 133-156

### Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

- Castells, M. 1977. *The urban question*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Castells, M. 1983. *The city and the grassroots*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Davis, M. 1990. *City of quartz*. London: Verso.
- Harvey, D. 1973. *Social justice and the city*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Harvey, D. 1985. *Consciousness and the urban experience*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Harvey, D. 1985. *Urbanization of capital*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press.

- Harvey, D. 1989. *The condition of postmodernity*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Merrifield, A. 2002. *Dialectical urbanism*. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- Smith, N. 1996. *The new urban frontier: Gentrification and the revanchist city*. New York: Routledge.
- Smith, N. 1990. *Uneven development: Nature, capital and the production of space*. Oxford: Blackwell.

## **26 October: The neoliberal city**

### Required Reading:

- Brenner, N. and N. Theodore 2002. Cities and the geographies of 'actually existing neoliberalism'. *Antipode* 34: 349-379.
- Hackworth, J. 2007. Chapter 1 from: *The neoliberal city*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press
- Goonewardena, K. 2003. The future of planning at the 'end of history'. *Planning Theory*. 2(3): 183-224.
- Katznelson, I. 1997. Social justice, liberalism and the city: Considerations on David Harvey, John Rawls and Karl Polanyi. P. 45-64, in A. Merrifield and E. Swyngedouw (Eds.), *The urbanization of injustice*. New York University Press.
- Larner, W. 2003. Neoliberalism? *Environment and Planning D*. 21: 509-512.

### Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

- Friedman, M. 1962. *Capitalism and freedom*. University of Chicago Press.
- Fukuyama, F. 1989. The end of history? *National History*. Summer
- Girvetz, H. 1963. *The evolution of liberalism*. New York: Collier.
- Harvey, D. 2005. *A brief history of neoliberalism*. Oxford University Press.
- Hayek, F. 1960. *The constitution of liberty*. University of Chicago Press.
- Hayek, F. 1944. *The road to serfdom*. University of Chicago Press.
- Leitner, H., J. Peck, and E. Sheppard (Eds.) 2006. *Contesting neoliberalism: Urban frontiers*. New York: Guilford.
- Peck, J. 2001. Neoliberalizing states: thin policies/ hard outcomes, *Progress in Human Geography* 25(3): 445-455.

## **2 November: The creative city**

### Required Reading:

- Florida, R. 2002. The transformation of everyday life. Chapter 1, in *The Rise of the Creative Class*. New York: Basic Books.
- Canterbury, E.R. 2001. Economic growth and technology: Schumpeter and capitalist's motion. Chapter 13, in *A Brief History of Economics*. London: World Scientific.
- Jacobs, J. 1970. The valuable inefficiencies and impracticalities of cities. Chapter 3 from *The Economy of Cities*. New York: Vintage.
- Leslie, D. and N. Rantisi 2006. Governing the design economy in Montreal, Canada. *Urban Affairs Review*. 41(3): 309-337.

- Peck, J. 2005. Struggling with the creative class. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 29(4): 740–770.
- Porter, M. [1995] The competitive advantage of the inner city. Originally from: *Harvard Business Review*. Pp. 112-21 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.

## **9 November: The global city**

### Required Reading:

- Castells, M. [1993] European cities, the informational society, and the global economy. Originally from: *The Journal of Economic and Social Geography*. Pp. 557-567 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Friedmann, J. 1995. The world city hypothesis. Pp. 317-331, in Knox, P., and Taylor, P. (Eds.), *World cities in a world system*. Cambridge University Press.
- Sassen, S. [1994] A new geography of centers and margins: Summary and implications. Originally from: *Cities in a world economy*. Pp. 208-12 in *The City Reader*. London: Routledge.
- Short, J., and Y. Kim 1999. Chapter 1: Going Global, in *Globalization and the city*. London: Longman.
- Swyngedouw, E. 1997. Neither global nor local: ‘Glocalization’ and the politics of scale. Pp. 137-166, in K. Cox (Ed.), *Spaces of globalization: Reasserting the power of the local*. New York: Guilford.

### Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

- Bluestone, B. and B. Harrison 1982. *The Deindustrialization of America: Plant closings, community abandonment, and the dismantling of basic industry*. New York: Basic Books.
- Ranney, D. 2003. *Global decisions, local collisions*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Sassen, S. 1996. *Losing control? Sovereignty in an age of globalization*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Sassen, S. 1991 *The global city: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton University Press.

## **16 November: Multiculturalism and difference in cities**

### Required Reading:

- Fainstein, S. 2005. Cities and diversity. Should we want it? Can we plan for it? *Urban Affairs Review*. 41(1): 3-19.
- Jacobs, J. and R. Fincher 1998. Introduction. Chapter 1, in *Cities of Difference*. New York: Guilford.
- Goonewardena, K. and S. Kipfer 2005. Spaces of difference: Reflections from Toronto on multiculturalism, bourgeois urbanism and the possibility of radical urban politics. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29(3): 670-8.

Mitchell, K. 2005. The spatial logic and limits of multiculturalism. Chapter 3 in *Crossing the Neoliberal Line: Pacific rim migration and the metropolis*. Philadelphia: Temple.

Follow-Up Readings in This Area:

Abu-Laban, Y. and C. Gabriel. 2002. *Selling diversity: Immigration, multiculturalism, employment equity and globalization*. Peterborough Ontario: Broadview Press.

Hackworth, J. and J. Rekers 2005. Ethnic packaging and gentrification: the case of four neighbourhoods in Toronto. *Urban Affairs Review*. 41(2): 211-236.

Sandercock, L. 2004. *Cosmopolis 2: Mongrel Cities of the 21st Century*. London: Continuum.

**23 November: Presentations**

**30 November: Presentations**

**7 December: Presentations**