

Department of Geography
Queen's University
2012

**GPHY 882 GRADUATE SEMINAR IN
URBAN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY**

“Geographical perspectives on urban political theory and policy”

Course Time and Location: 3 hour seminar per week, Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. E310

Dr. Betsy Donald, Mackintosh-Corry Hall, Room D311

Telephone: 613-533-6040

Email: betsy.donald@queensu.ca

Office Hours: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the importance of cities and city regions as fundamental spatial units in the global economy and the economic and political processes underlying their organization. The processes of world-wide economic integration, the transnational flows of people and ideas, and accelerated urban growth have led to new urban challenges and new ways of thinking about city politics and governance. The course will review some core theoretical contributions to urban political geography including Marxism, regulation theory, institutionalism, elite theories, growth machines, urban regimes as well as newer social theories. Specific themes covered include: the re-scaling of political economy, the role of the state, regional innovation systems and networks, social diversity, power and the new cultural politics, rising inequality, governmentality, local democracy and citizenship. While international in scope, the primary focus will be on city-regions in North America.

PREREQUISITE

None

READINGS

Readings will be made available in a reading package which will consist of a variety of journal articles and book chapters. The reading package will be available on the first day of class. Books listed will be on reserve at the Stauffer Reserve Desk.

REQUIREMENTS

Students must complete a term paper (due the last class of term) on themes and debates

discussed in the course and linked to their own area of research. Prior approval must be obtained by submitting a two-page proposal for the paper, complete with a statement of the topic to be analyzed, the major issues of likely importance, probable sources of data, methodology to be employed, and a preliminary list of references, on or before the first class after reading break. Students will also participate in class through presentations and discussion of reading material. To enhance the quality of class participation, students will be required to submit *at the beginning of each class* a 2 page summary/reflection piece on that week's course readings. The format could follow something like this:

Readings: include bibliographic information

Main theoretical school(s): 1 or 2 key words

Reading summary: ½ page per article

Main concepts: ½ page per article

Impressions: ½ page

Relevance to own area of research: 1 or 2 sentences

GRADING

Term paper proposal (600 words)	15%
Term paper (6000 words max)	45%
Class participation	40% (summaries 20% - 2% per week; presentation 10%; general class participation 10%)

COURSE SYLLABUS AND READINGS

Week 0: Introduction: overview articles on urban political geography (You should read these if you have never taken a course in urban politics or urban political geography)

Brenner, N and R. Keil, eds. (2006) *The Global Cities Reader*, Part 1: Chapters 1-7: pp. 23-71. London and New York: Routledge.

Martin, D. and E. McCann and M. Purcell. (2003) Space, scale, governance and representation: contemporary geographical perspectives on urban politics and policy. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, Vol. 25, no. 2, pp. 113-121.

Badcock, B. (2002) Urban politics and the management of cities, in B. Badcock, *Making Sense of Cities: a geographical survey*. London: Arnold, pp. 225-244.

There are also many “readers” on urban political geography available:

Brenner, N and R. Keil, eds. (2006) *The Global Cities Reader*. London and New York: Routledge, 2006.

*You may also want to consult readings in the undergraduate course books GPHY338 Urban Political Geography and GPHY332 Cities, Regions and Planning in Capitalist

Societies or DEVS490 Globalization and Cities in the South.

** Please see appendix to this reading list for additional readings on various theoretical perspectives.

Week 1: Perspectives on economic, political and social change and the implications for cities and city-regions - Part I

Amin, A. (1995) "Post-Fordism: models, fantasies and phantoms of transition", in A. Amin, ed., 1995, Post-Fordism: a reader. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, pp. 1-39

Harvey, D. (1989) *The Condition of Postmodernity*. Oxford: Blackwell, Chapters 8-9, pp. 125-172.

Week 2: Perspectives on economic, political and social change and the implications for cities and regions – Part II

Brenner, N. and N. Theodore. (2002) Cities and the geographies of 'actually existing neoliberalism?' *Antipode*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp. 349-379.

Soja, E.W. (2001). Exploring the Postmetropolis, chapter 2 in C. Minca, ed. *Postmodern Geography: theory and praxis*. London: Blackwell, pp. 37-56.

Storper, M. (1999) The resurgence of regional economics, ten years later. In Barnes, T. and Gertler, M.S. (eds) *The New Industrial Geography: regions, regulation and institutions*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 23-48.

Gertler, M. (2001) Urban economy and society in Canada: flows of people, capital and ideas, *Isuma: Canadian Journal of Policy Research* vol. 2, no. 3, Fall, pp. 119-130.

See also:

Keil, R. and S. Kipfer. 2002. The urban experience and globalization, in W. Clement and L. Vosko, eds. *Changing Canada: political economy as transformation* Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, pp. 335-362.

Scott, A.J. J. Agnew, E. W. Soja and M. Storper (2001) *Global city-regions* in A. Scott (ed.) *Global City-Regions: trends, theory, policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 11-30.

Fainstein, S. (2006) "Planning and the Just City." Paper presented at Conference on Searching for the Just City, Columbia University, April 29, 2006.

Couchene, T. J. with C. Telmer (1998) *From Heartland to North American Region State* Toronto: Centre for Public Management

Week 3: Urban political space

Harvey, D. (1989) "The urban process under capitalism: a framework for analysis" in *The Urban Experience*. Baltimore: The John Hopkins University Press, pp. 59-89.

Schoenberger, E. (2004) "The spatial fix revisited" *Antipode*, vol. 36, no. 3, pp. 427-433.

Logan and Molotch (1987) "The city as growth machine", chapter 3 in J.R. Logan and H.L. Moloch. *Urban Fortunes: the political economy of place*. Los Angeles: University of California Press, pp. 50-98.

Soja, E. (1980) "The socio-spatial dialectic" *Annals, Association of American Geographers*, vol. 70, no. 2, pp. 207-225.

See also:

David Harvey. 1999. *The Limits to Capital*. London: Verso.

Week 4: Urban political scale

Swyngedouw, E. (1997) Neither global nor local: 'glocalization' and the politics of scale. In Cox, K. (ed) *Spaces of globalization: reasserting the power of the local*. New York: Guilford, pp. 138-66.

Brenner, N. (1999) Globalization as reterritorialization: the rescaling of urban governance in the European Union. *Urban Studies* 36(3), pp. 431-51.

Cox, K. (1998) Spaces of dependence, spaces of engagement and the politics of scale, or: looking for local politics. *Political Geography*, vol. 17, no. 1, pp. 1-23.

Mahon, R. (2003) "Constructing a new urban citizenship? Childcare politics in Toronto in the 1970s and 1980s" prepared for presentation at Workshop on "Women and Paid Labour After World War 2" McGill Institute of Studies of Canada and McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, 22 March, 2003.

Boudreau, J.A. (2003) "The politics of territorialization: regionalism, localism and other isms: the case of Montreal" *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 25, no. 2, pp. 179-199.

Donald, B (2005) "The politics of local economic development in Canada's global cities: new dependencies, new deals and a new politics of scale" *Space and Polity*, vol. 9, no. 3, pp. 261-281.

See also:

Brenner, N. (2001) "The limits to scale? Methodological reflections on scalar structuration" *Progress in Human Geography*, December 2001, vol. 25, iss. 4, pp. 591-614(24)

Marston, S.A. and N. Smith (2001) "States, scales and households: limits to scale thinking? A response to Brenner" *Progress in Human Geography*, December 2001, vol. 25, iss. 4, pp. 615-619(5)

Week 5: The state and urban politics

Brenner, N. (2004) *New State Spaces: urban governance and the rescaling of statehood*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Chapter 1.

MacLeod, G. and M. Goodwin (1999) *Space, scale and state strategy: rethinking urban and regional governance* *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 23, pp. 503-27.

Jessop, B. (2002) *The Future of the Capitalist State*. Cambridge: Polity, Chapter 1.

Cox, K. R. (2004) "Globalization and the politics of local and regional development: the question of convergence" *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, vol. 29, pp. 179-194.

Christopherson, S. (2002) "Why do national labour market practices continue to diverge in the global economy? The 'missing link' of investment rules" *Economic Geography*, vol. 78, pp. 1-20.

See also:

Jessop, B., Peck J. and A. Tickell (1999) "Retooling the machine: economic crisis, state restructuring and urban politics" In A. Jonas & D Wilson (eds) *The Urban Growth Machine: critical perspectives twenty years later* (pp. 3-18). Albany: SUNY.

Week 6: Institutions, clusters, regionalism, governance (the politics of place I)

Wolfe, D. and M.S. Gertler (1998) "The regional innovation system in Ontario" In H-J Braczyk, P. Cooke and M. Heidenreich (eds) *Regional Innovation Systems* London: UDL Press, pp. 99-135.

Amin, A. (1999) "An institutional perspective on regional economic development" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, vol. 23, pp. 365-378.

Lovering, J. (1999) Theory led by policy: the inadequacies of the 'new regionalism' illustrated from the case of Wales) *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, vol. 23, pp. 379-395.

Morgan, K. (2004) "The exaggerated death of geography: learning, proximity and territorial innovation systems" *Journal of Economic Geography*, 4, pp. 3-21.

See also:

Martin, R.L. and P. Sunley (2003) "Deconstructing clusters; chaotic concept or policy panacea?" *Journal of Economic Geography*, vol. 3, no. 1, pp. 5-45.

Bathelt, H., Malmberg, A. and P. Maskell (2004) "Clusters and knowledge: local buzz, global pipelines and the process of knowledge creation" *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 28, vol. 1, pp. 31-56.

Also see the series in *Environment and Planning A* (2001) "Turn again? Rethinking institutions and the governance of local and regional economies" edited by Andrew Wood and David Valler, vol. 33, pp. 1139-1144.

Week 7: Occupations, urban talent elites, knowledge workers (the politics of place II)

Florida, R. (2002) "The economic geography of talent" *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, vol. 92, no. 4, pp. 743-755.

Glaeser, E.L. and J.D. Gottlieb. (2006) *Urban resurgence and the consumer city*, Harvard Institute of Economic Research, Discussion paper number 2109, February 2006, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Markusen, A. (2002) "Targeting occupations in regional and community economic development" paper prepared by Ann Markusen, revised October 2002.

Peck, J. (2005) "Struggling with the Creative Class" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, vol. 29, no. 4, pp. 740-770.

See also:

Nevarez, L. (2002). Efficacy or legitimacy of community power? A reassessment of corporate elites in urban studies, in J. Eade and C. Mele, *Understanding the City: Contemporary and Future Perspectives* Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 379-396.

Week 8: Identities, citizenships, representation and the everyday – (the politics of place III)

Nash, C. J. (2005) "Contesting identity: politics of gays and lesbians in Toronto in the 1970s" *Gender, place and culture*, Special issue on race and sexuality, forthcoming.

Holston, J. (2001) Urban citizenship and globalization, chapter 17 in *Global City-Regions: trends, theory, policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 348-325.

Isin, E.F. (2000) Governing cities without government, chapter 8 in E.F. Isin, ed. *Democracy, Citizenship and the Global City*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 148-168.

Magnusson, W. (2000) Politicizing the global city, chapter 16 in E.F. Isin, ed. *Democracy, Citizenship and the Global City*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 289-306.

See also:

Amin, A. (2002) "Ethnicity and the multicultural city: living with diversity" *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 34, pp. 959-980.

Jones, J.P. (2000) "The Street Politics of Jackie Smith" in G. Bridge and S. Watson (eds.) *A Companion to the City*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 448-459. (This short article is included in the Course Reader.)

Weeks 9, 10 and 11: Theoretical and Policy Developments, and hot topics

Soja, E. (1999) "In different spaces: the cultural turn in urban and regional political economy" *European Planning Studies*, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 65-66.

Ray Hudson (2004) "Conceptualizing economies and their geographies: spaces, flows and circuits" in *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 28, no. 4, pp. 447-471.

Hudson, R. (2007). "Region and place: rethinking regional development in the context of global environmental change" *Progress in Human Geography* 31(6): 827-836.

Potential Topics

World cities
Sustainability and theories of urban political ecology
Cosmopolitanism
Creativity
Bio-politics, life-sciences and the urban
Re-thinking class, race and diversity

Possible Readings

Amin, A. (2004) "Regions unbound: towards a new politics of place" *Geografiska Annaler*, vol. 86B, pp. 33-44.

Bourdieu, P. (1984) "Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste", Introduction.

Gertler, M. and Y.M. Levitte. (2005) "Local Nodes in Global Networks: the geography of knowledge flows in biotechnology Innovation" in *Industry and Innovation*, vol. 12, no. 4, December.

Gertler, M and Tara Vinodrai. (2006) "Better by Design" presented at "Blue Sky II: What Indicators for Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies in the 21st Century?" OECD and Statistics Canada, Ottawa, 24-27 September 2006.

Hinchcliffe, Steve and Sarah Whatmore (2006). "Living Cities: towards a politics of conviviality" in *Science and Culture*, vol. 15, no. 2, pp. 122-138.

Martin, R. (2001) Geography and public policy: the case of the missing agenda, *Progress in Human Geography*, vol. 25, no. 2, pp. 189-210.

Rose, N. (2001) "The Politics of Life Itself" in *Theory, Culture and Society*, vol. 18: no 6, pp. 1-30.

Swyngedouw, E. (2003) "Urban Political Ecology, Justice and the Politics of Scale"

Week 12: Conclusions and student presentations

Appendix A: Suggested Readings on Different Theoretical Approaches in Urban Political Geography

The Marxist tradition in Urban Political Economy

Alison Blunt and Jane Wills. 2001. 'Class, capital and space: Marxist geographies' Chapter 2 in A. Blunt and J. Wills *Dissident Geographies: an introduction to radical ideas and practice*. London: Prentice Hall, pp. 42-59.

Swyngedouw, Erik. 2000. The Marxian alternative: historical-geographical materialism and the political economy of capitalism, Chapter 4 in E. Shepperd and T. Barnes, eds. *A Companion to Economic Geography*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 41-59.

Holmes, John. 2001. Background notes on marxist political economy. Notes for Cities, Regions and Planning in Capitalist Societies, Geography, 332, Queen's University.

Harvey, David. 1999. *The Limits to Capital*, new edition. London: Verso.

Susser, Ida., ed. 2002. *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell.

The Regulation Approach

Noel, A. 1987. Accumulation, regulation, and social change: an essay on French Political Economy. *International Organization* 21(2): 303-33.

Tickell, A. and J.A. Peck 1992. Accumulation, regulation and the geographies of post-fordism: missing links in regulation research. *Progress in Human Geography* 16(2): 190-218.

Jenson, J. 1989. "Different", but not "exceptional": Canada's permeable Fordism. *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology* 26 (1), 69-94.

Goodwin, M. 2001. "Regulation as process: regulation theory and comparative urban and regional research" *Journal of Housing and the Built Environment* 16, 71-87.

Goodwin, M. and J. Painter 1996 Local governance, the crisis of Fordism and the changing geographies of regulation. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21, pp. 635-48.

Donald, B. 2002. Spinning Toronto's Golden Age: the making of a 'city that worked' *Environment and Planning A*, December, vol. 34, 2127-2154.

See also:

Aglietta, M. 1987. *A Theory of Capitalist Regulation: The U.S. Experience*. London: Verso.

Lipietz, A. 1987. *Mirages and Miracles*. London: Verso.

Urban Regime Theory

Stone, C. 1993. Urban regimes and the capacity to govern: a political economy approach. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 15, 1-28.

Stoker, G. 1995. Regime theory and urban politics, in D. Judge, G. Stoker and H. Woman, eds. *Theories of Urban Politics*. London: Sage 54-71.

Stoker, G. and K. Mossberger. 1994. Urban regime theory in comparative perspective. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 12, 195-212.

See also:

Elikin, S. 1987. *City and regime in the American Republic*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Stone, C. 1989. *Regime Politics: Governing Atlanta 1946-1988* Lawrence, KA: University Press of Kansas.

Lauria, M. ed. 1997. *Reconstructing urban regime theory: regulating urban politics in a global economy*. London: Sage Publications.

Urban Growth Machines

Logan, J.R. and H.L. Molotch. 1987. "The city as growth machine", chapter 3 in J.R. Logan and H.L. Molotch. *Urban fortunes: the political economy of place*. Los angeles: University of California Press, pp. 50-98.

Cox, K.R. 1999. Ideology and the growth coalition, chapter 2 in A.E.G. Jonas and D. Wilson, eds. *The Urban Growth Machine: critical perspectives two decades later*. Albany: State University of New York Press, pp. 21-36.

Gilbert, M.R. 1999. Place, politics and the production of urban space: a feminist critique of the growth machine thesis, chapter 6 in A.E.G. Jonas and D. Wilson, eds. *The Urban Growth Machine: critical perspectives two decades later*. Albany: State University of New

York Press, pp. 95-108.

Nevarez, L. 2002. Efficacy or legitimacy of community power? A reassessment of corporate elites in urban studies, chapter 17 in J. Eade and C. Mele, eds. *Understanding the city: contemporary and future perspectives*. Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 379-396.

Postmodern Urbanism

Dear, M. and S. Flusty. 1988. Postmodern Urbanism. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 88(1), pp. 50-72.

Soja, E.W. 2001. Exploring the Postmetropolis, chapter 2 in C. Minca, ed. *Postmodern Geography: theory and praxis*. London: Blackwell, pp. 37-56.

Mitchell, D. 2001. Postmodern Geographical Praxis? The postmodern impulse and the war against Homeless people in the 'post-justice' city, chapter 3 in C. Minca, ed. *Postmodern Geography: theory and praxis*. London: Blackwell, pp. 56-92

Amin, A. and N. Thrift. 2002. Cities in a distanced economy, chapter 3 in A. Amin and N. Thrift, eds. *Cities: reimagining the urban*. Oxford: Polity, pp. 51-77.

See also:

Soja, E. 2000. *Postmetropolis: critical studies of cities and regions*. London: Blackwell.

Soja, E. 1989. *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory*. Verso.

Amin, A. and N. Thrift, eds. *Cities: reimagining the urban*. Oxford: Polity.

Governmentality, Democracy and Citizenship

Isin, E.F. 2000. Governing cities without government, chapter 8 in E.F. Isin, ed. *Democracy, Citizenship and the Global City*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 148-168.

Magnusson, W. 2000. Politicizing the global city, chapter 16 in E.F. Isin, ed. *Democracy, Citizenship and the Global City*. London and New York: Routledge, pp. 289-306.

Keil, R. 2000. Governance restructuring in Los Angeles and Toronto: Amalgamation or Secession? *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 24(4), December, pp. 758-781.

Holson, J. 2001. Urban citizenship and globalization, chapter 17 in *Global City-Regions: trends, theory, policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 348-323.

Transnational Urbanism

Smith, M.P. 2001. *Transnational Urbanism: locating globalization*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Urban Representations; Difference

Mahon, R. (1993) The 'new' Canadian political-economy revisited: production, space, identity. In Jenson, J. , R. Mahon and M. Bienefield (eds) *Production, Space, Identity*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, pp. 1-21.

Jenson, J. (1993) All the world's a stage: ideas, spaces and times in Canadian political economy. In Jenson, J. , R. Mahon and M. Bienefield (eds) *Production, Space, Identity*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, pp. 145-169.

Painter, J. (1999) New geographies of democracy in contemporary Europe. In R. Hudson and A.M. Williams (eds) *Divided Europe: society and territory*. London: Sage Publications, pp. 107-131.

Urban Environments and Bio-politics