GEOG*4200: Social Life of Cities
PROVISIONAL

Instructor: Dr. Anna Stanley
E-mail: asta@uoguelph.ca
Mondays & Wednesdays & Fridays 12:30-1:20pm
Location:
   Mondays & Wednesdays ANNU 204
   Fridays: virtual! See course link for zoom links
Office hours (Virtual): TBC

TA: TBC
(virtual office hours by appointment)

Prerequisites: GEOG*2260 (GEOG*3050 recommended)

Course Overview
This course examines the “socio-spatial” dynamics of city life. Focusing primarily on Toronto and cities in the Global North we consider ways in which social relations and processes configure city space and how the geography of the city, in turn, shapes social life. Using examples of homelessness, missing and murdered women, police surveillance of racialized groups, as well as processes like gentrification and renewal to understand the geography of urban spaces we ask a series of questions about: (1) how power relations are expressed in and through the built environment; and (2) how the built environment influences social relations. A number of themes run through the course material and will be central to our discussions, including:

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

Course Objectives:
- To develop students’ knowledge of themes and 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 and Toronto;
- To investigate the causes and consequences of urban change
• To develop research, reading, and writing skills, as well as critical thinking.

Course Format:
This course is conceived of as a forum for facilitating critical enquiry into the dynamics of contemporary urban social geography in Toronto and the Global North. The course will be conducted as a seminar: we meet three times a week for three hours in total and will spend a significant amount of our time in seminar-style discussion of course materials. **On Fridays, unless otherwise stated we will meet virtually using zoom.** The purpose of our meetings will be to discuss, share, and develop our understandings of the readings, as well as to distil, and together build an understanding of course themes and concepts. Each meeting you will be expected to **attend class prepared** to discuss readings and other seminar materials with your peers. This format requires close reading and significant preparation of texts before coming to class; work for which you will be evaluated and rewarded.

A significant part of our class time will be dedicated to student led discussion. Students will be assigned to small seminar groups for in-depth discussion of course readings. All students are expected to have completed the assigned readings/media 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, real time discussion participation, and the completion of virtual in-class activities. In general I will preface seminar discussion by providing a contextual overview of the weekly topics at the beginning of each class and overview of the main themes. The Purpose of the virtual format on Fridays is to facilitate and amplify the ability of groups to creatively share insights and ideas from their deliberations with the class plenary. Here you are encouraged to draw on visual presentation tools (including power point, graphics and other creative visual methods) to effectively communicate and advance your colleagues’ understanding of course content. At a few points in the semester we may have lectures or guest presentations in lieu of seminar discussions. These may be pre-recorded (asynchronous), or live (synchronous) as befits the circumstance. Please see each week of the syllabus for details. Written assignments will assume knowledge gained from both the texts, lectures and seminars, so class attendance is highly recommended. We will be using **Course link** as an electronic resource for announcements, accessing course materials, and submitting assignments.

**A note on seminar participation:**
This is **your class** and I want you to get as much out of these meetings as possible. Please feel free to raise questions and topics for discussion, and contribute your understanding of course themes, arguments, concepts and connections during the discussion. But participation also involves listening to other people’s comments, thoughtfully engaging with their views, not interrupting, and letting other people express themselves. This does not mean that it is out of bounds to challenge a classmate on their views or to disagree about how to interpret an argument, but rather that you do so respectfully and politely and in a manner that helps us
all learn. There is a distinction between contributing to discussion (where your comments build off of others' comments, generate further discussion, and contribute overall to the class achieving a more comprehensive understanding of the topics) and making self-serving or arrogant comments that embarrass others and shut down lines of communication. The purpose of these discussions is that we learn from each other and come to a deeper understanding of the readings by reading and discussing together. In these meetings you have a responsibility to your classmates to be prepared, to actively contribute to discussions and to be courteous and respectful; you also have a right to expect the same of them.

We will be discussing seminar etiquette and rules of conduct, as well as zoom etiquette (for Fridays) in class.

**Field Trip to Toronto & Course Fee:**
Hands-on experiential and engaged learning is an important pedagogic and political element of this course. **On Friday November 11th (date TBC) we will be visiting the city of Toronto fora full day in order to extend our learning about Gentrification, Settler colonialism and Indigenous resurgence in the city of Toronto. Our visit includes a half day tour by Indigenous practitioners about settler colonialism and Indigeneity in a specific part of Toronto. To support the cost of the tour and bus fee, the department may ask the students to contribute to the cost of the trip (normally in the range of 20-30$).** I will communicate any fee to you ASAP, and in the meantime am committed to looking for ways to minimize or eliminate any cost to students. Should a fee be required and you are unable to contribute, please see me in confidence. No one will be prevented from attending the virtual tour. There will likely be a modest fee associated with the trip (possibly between 20-30$). As the COVID pandemic evolves, changes to public health guidelines and/or health of practitioners/faculty may cause the cancellation of the field trip.

**The field trip is mandatory.** Only students with valid, approved considerations (family emergency, illness etc) will be provided an opportunity to make up the field trip reflection assignment associated with this field trip. You are expected to communicate this course requirement to ASAP to your other Friday instructors (and/or employers/ others to whom you have obligations to) and to pro-actively request any necessary accommodations. Let me know if there is anything I can do to help!

**Evaluation:**
Class participation & seminar engagement (Weeks 2-12): 40%
- active participation & in class discussions and activities: (10%)
- written submissions & seminar preparation: (30%)
Toronto Field Trip reflection assignment (due Friday Nov 18, 5pm): 5%
Virtual field Trip: 30%
- Group Virtual Field Trip, video (due Friday Nov 25, 5pm): 10%
• Individual Analytical Essay (due Dec 2, 5pm): 20%
Take-home final exam (due: Friday Dec 9, 5pm): 25%

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

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. Access to these readings is available through Course link.

Reference texts (not required) available in the library:

Schedule: please note this syllabus is provisional and subject to change:

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<th>Week 1 (Sept 9): Introduction to the Social life of Cities</th>
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<td>Friday: Course Introduction &amp; Overview (in person lecture)</td>
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<td>(seminar groups assigned)</td>
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**Watch:** Course Introduction: A field trip of “Little India”, Toronto with Harald Bauder.  
**Read:** The Syllabus!

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<th>Week 2 (Sept 12, 14 &amp; 16)</th>
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<td>Monday &amp; Wednesday— Introduction to Course Concepts (lecture): The “socio-spatial dialectic”</td>
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<td><em>no readings</em></td>
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**Friday (virtual): Zoom Orientation; Breakout Rooms & “The Seminar”**  
**“See course link for the zoom meeting link**
R**equired reading:** The Seminar *(khan unpublished)*

**Week 3 (September 19, 21 & 23): Identity and Public Space**

**Monday:** Missing and Murdered Women, Seminar

**Required Seminar Materials:** Culhane (2003); Wright (2004); Recommended: Collard (2015); please take a look at the downtown East side Women’s center final report to the commission on missing and murdered indigenous women and girls *(Carol Martin & Harsha Walia (2019))

- Seminar submission due

**Wednesday:** Homelessness & Gender Identities, Seminar


- Seminar submission due

**Friday (virtual):** Plenary Exchange

**Week 4 (Sept 26, 28, 30): Social Order and Public Space**

**Monday:** Policing Public Space, Seminar

**Required Seminar Materials:** Smith *(1990, first part only)*; Sylvester (2010)

Seminar submission due

**Wednesday:** Policing Protest *(and Introduction to Global Capitalism!)*, Seminar

**Required Seminar Materials:** Smith and Cowen (2010)

- Seminar submission due

**Friday (virtual):** Plenary Exchange

**Week 5 (Oct 3, 5 & 7): Social Order & Public Space II**

**Monday:** Policing Black & Indigenous Life, Seminar
Required Seminar Materials:
Watch: Desmond Cole: The skin We’re In (film)
Read: Pasternak, Stadnyk & Walby (2022); Haag (2022)
Listen: season 2, Episode 11 “Danger” (Seeing white Part 2) Seen on Radio

Recommended/Additional:
Watch: Spike Lee (2016) the Undefeated (film)

- Seminar submission due

Wednesday: Abolition, Seminar

Required Seminar Materials:
Read: Riddle (2020); Reece, R (2020) (and accompanying infographic); Maynard (2022)
Visit: https://blacklivesmatter.ca/ make sure to read the demands & defund police sections
Seminar submission due

Friday (virtual): no class meeting—time in lieu of media workshop

Week 6 (Oct 12 & 14): Environmental Racism

Wednesday: Environmental Racism

Required Seminar Materials:
Read: Pulido (2000); Bakker (2005); McCarthy & Braun (2005)
- Seminar submission due

Friday (virtual): Plenary Exchange (Weeks 5 & 6)

*Note Monday Oct 10th is a holiday-- no class meeting

Week 7 (Oct 17, 19 & 21): Uneven Geographies of COVID

Monday: COVID & Structural Inequality, Seminar

Required Seminar Materials:
Read: Toronto Fallout Report 2020 (The Toronto Foundation)
Listen: Brian Goldman, White Coat, Black Art (2020)
Read: Kennedy, B., (2020)

- Seminar submission due

**Wednesday: Neoliberalism and COVID (an Introduction to Neoliberalism), Seminar**

**Required Seminar Materials:***
Read: Khurram (2020); Decent Work and Health Network (2020) Before It’s Too Late (report: up to page 12)

Read: Oved, M., K. Wallace, B. Kennedy (2020); Oved, M. et al (2020); Press Progress (2020)

- Seminar submission due

**Friday (virtual):** Plenary exchange

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**Week 8 (Oct 24, 26 & 28): Neoliberalism & Urban Processes**

**Monday: Neoliberalism, Workshop**
- Introducing neoliberalism & capital accumulation

**Required Seminar Materials:** Brenner & Theodore (2002)
*Strongly Recommended: Harvey (2003)*

- Details in class, no seminar submission due

**Wednesday: Accumulation and the Neoliberal City I, Seminar**
- Urban revitalization, Gentrification, Displacement

**Required Seminar Materials:** Walks and Maaranen (2008); Farmer (2011); Catungal, J et al (2009)

- Seminar submission due

**Friday (virtual):** no class meeting--time in lieu of Podcast workshop

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**Week 9 (Oct 31, Nov 2 &4): Settler colonialism & Indigeneity in the City I**
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<th>Monday &amp; Wednesday: The Toronto Purchase (lecture)</th>
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<td>Required Reading: Hugill (2016).</td>
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<td>Friday (virtual): Parc workshop</td>
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**Week 10 (Nov 7, 9 &11): Settler Colonialism & Indigeneity in the City II**

**Monday:** Settler Colonialism, Indigeneity & Urban Space, Seminar

**Required Seminar Materials:**
Read: Freeman (2010); Jacovetti et al (2010); Tomiak et al (2022); Indigenous lands stewardship circle
View: Wakohtowin Justice Map; Ogimaa Mikana Renaming/Reclaiming

**Recommended/Additional:** Cowen D (2017)
- Seminar submission due

**Wednesday:** Urban Space, settler colonialism & gentrification, Seminar
- Indigenous urban space
- Urban Reserves?

**Required Seminar Materials:**
Tomiak (2017); Coulthard (2014: Conclusion: Lessons from Idle No More—The Future of Indigenous Activism). *focus on the insights about cities.; Tomiak (2018); Haiven 2019 ('gone wild' and conclusion pp 21-29 only)
- Seminar submission due

**Friday:** Field Trip to Toronto !!! bus leaves 8.00 am!

**Week 11 (Nov 14, 16 &18) Field trip de-brief & group work**

**Monday:** Field trip de-brief

**Wednesday:** No class meeting/time in lieu of field trip. Use this time to work on your field Trip Reflection Assignment!
**Friday:** No class meeting/time in lieu of fieldtrip use this time to work on assignments

*** Field Trip Reflection due Friday 5pm

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**Week 12 (21, 23, 25): Accumulation and the Neoliberal City II**

**Monday: Disaster Capitalism, Seminar**
- Shock Doctrine
- Neoliberalism & privatization
- ‘Coronavirus’ capitalism

**Required Seminar Materials:**
*Watch: Watch Naomi Klein’s The Shock Doctrine,*

*Read: Klein (2007 a); Klien (2007b, chapter 20)*

*Watch: Klein 2020: Coronavirus Capitalism and How to Beat it (on The Intercept).*

*Seminar submission due*

**Wednesday: Racial Capitalism, Seminar**

**Required Seminar Materials:**
*Read: Pulido (2016)*

*Seminar submission due*

**Friday (virtual): plenary exchange**

***Virtual field Trip Video due Friday 5pm***

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**Week 13 (Nov 28 & 30): Course Wrap up**

**Monday (TBA—virtual or in person): Final Plenary Exchange**

**Wednesday: Final class meeting & exam Q&A**

Analytical Essay due Friday Dec 2

**TAKE HOME EXAM DUE: Friday Dec 9 on Course Link by 5pm**
Readings (journal articles, book chapters, films):


Cole, D. The Skin We’re In (film)


Klein, Naomi *The Shock Doctrine* (film)


**Research Reports:**


Decent Work and Health Network (2020) Before It’s Too Late [https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/dwhn/pages/135/attachments/original/1604082294/DWHN_BeforeItsTooLate.pdf?1604082294](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/dwhn/pages/135/attachments/original/1604082294/DWHN_BeforeItsTooLate.pdf?1604082294) (up to page 12)


Podcasts:


Newspaper & Periodicals:

Kennedy, B., (2020) 'A fight for the soul of the city': Report shows how COVID-19 has deepened Toronto’s racial and economic divide. The Toronto Star  

https://canadiandimension.com/articles/view/doug-fords-botched-response-to-covid19


**Websites:**

[https://blacklivesmatter.ca/](https://blacklivesmatter.ca/)


**Other Media**


Wakohtowin Justice map (2022) [https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=b83485f7347e4edc991fca28fb52cc05](https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=b83485f7347e4edc991fca28fb52cc05)

**Course, Department, and University Policies**

**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 once every weekday. Please expect that I will respond to your
e-mails within 48-72 hours; if I do not, please resend your e-mail. If your question or concern is complicated, I may ask that we meet virtually during office hours or at another scheduled time to address the issue more comprehensively. In general, please do not ask complicated, course related questions over email. 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.

**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/](http://www.csd.uoguelph.ca/csd/)

**When you cannot meet a course requirement:** In cases of emergency or unforeseeable extenuating circumstances extensions will be granted. In all other circumstances extensions will only be granted for extenuating circumstances **prior** to the due date. Documentation will be required, however, During the W21 semester medical notes will not be required due to the COVID pandemic. Late work is penalized 5% per day.

**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/

**Recording of Materials:**

Presentations that are made in relation to course work—including virtual lectures and seminars—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