Instructor:

• Richard Anderson
• Office: N412 Ross
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• Office hours (Fall term): Wednesdays 1-2 pm.
Urban Historical Geography

- Urban areas have long been the most important places in which people live
- Now hold the majority of the world’s people
- Have long dominated economy, politics, society
Urban Historical Geography

• Urban society unfolds over time, creates places
• Hence the interest in urban historical geography
• How urban places change over time
Urban Historical Geography

• Interest in the scholarly literature
• Interest in primary sources, primary research
Urban Historical Geography

• Seminar format, focusses on discussion of readings, class material
• Development of student abilities to research, write, discuss
Course Content

• A Moodle site created to list the schedule of classes, assigned readings etc.,
  • Doesn’t seem to work well
• So the course will use a course website elsewhere
• Go to www.yorku.ca/anderson and navigate from there.
Assessment

• Three written assignments plus a participation grade
  • Assignment #1: 20%
  • Assignment #2: 20%
  • Assignment #3: 40%
  • Participation: 20%
Assignment #1

• A directed essay, with choice of topics
• Probably:
  • One option dealing with the modern city/urban modernity
  • One option dealing with public space/crowds/the urban public
• Draws on the readings, class content in the opening weeks of the course.
• Worth 20% of course grade, due 5 Nov 2015
Assignment #2

• A research exercise involving the investigation of primary sources, and related scholarly articles

• Probably on the historical geography of Toronto, using historic city directories, historic newspapers etc., available on-line and free.

• Worth 20% of course grade, due 7 Jan 2016.
Assignment #3

• A research report in which one or more of the course readings is used as a starting point for research and investigation of a course-related topic. Students to choose a suitable topic.

• Worth 40% of course grade, due 31 Mar 2016.

• Written proposal due mid-January 2016.

• Research presentation 3-17 Mar 2016
Participation

• Worth 20% of course grade

• Assesses students overall participation in the course and in class discussions. Regular attendance required, familiarity with readings required.

• Each student will offer a scheduled seminar presentation on a specific reading.
Reading Material

• There is no textbook or course kit to buy
• Required readings are listed on the Moodle site:
  • Bibliographic details, and link to the article
• For each class with assigned readings read and be familiar with at least two before class starts.
Seminar Presentations

• The presenting student should read all the required readings for that class, but presents mainly on the reading assigned for the seminar.

• There is no point in trying to recite all the details of the article.

• Try to extract the key issues, principles from the article, and base the presentation on those.
Use of Computers

• Research shows that students can be distracted from class, class discussions by misuse of computers.
• Sometimes computers will be useful in class
• Instructor reserves the right to prevent their misuse.
Standard Policies

• Course follows the university’s standard policies on grading, academic honesty, accommodation for special needs, religious accommodation.