

## Environmental Studies Basic Graduate Course Outline/Syllabus

### FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN CHANGE YORK UNIVERSITY

**ENVS 6173 Politics and Planning  
SEMR 01 Winter 2025**

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**Course Instructor and Contact Information:** Jamilla Mohamud – [jamilla.mohamud@gmail.com](mailto:jamilla.mohamud@gmail.com)

**Course Time:** Tuesdays 6:00pm – 8:50pm

**Location:** HNE 141

**Office Hours:** By appointment only

#### **Official Course Description**

This course examines planning and politics from different perspectives including the ideologies of planning; the role of various actors and institutions; the relations of power that govern these dynamics and the values and principles that underpin them. Students will explore how political theory in planning and its practical application through plans and policies impact the development of cities and urban environments.

#### **Objectives**

1. To understand the relationship between politics and planning;
2. To develop an understanding of politics and planning as practices involving a range of actors and institutions that span across state and civil society;
3. To introduce and discuss major theories, concepts and issues in the study of politics and planning; and
4. To research and map relations of power that shape a particular conflict, policy, or planning practice.

#### **Outcomes**

Students will be able to:

1. Evaluate and compare different theoretical approaches to urban politics and planning;
2. Understand and explain urban planning/political outcomes including the various actors and institutions that shape these processes; and
3. Plan and execute individual research paper.

#### **Anticipated Course Readings or Texts**

Course readings are available as e-resources or e-books from the York Library website, on the web, or on the course E-Class. Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

#### **Evaluation: Grading and Course Requirements**

The course is designed as an interactive seminar with focused and facilitated discussions, either in small groups or in the plenary. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and actively participate in classroom discussions by drawing on their experiences or their reflections about current affairs. The following assignments will be used to evaluate students':

- **Class Participation:** Prior to each seminar, students are expected to submit (1) one well-crafted question or comment per required reading and (2) one sentence that links readings to a current issue.

- **Progress Report:** Student are expected to submit a 1-page progress report that briefly summarizes their research topic, outlines the range of actors and institutions involved in the issue at hand, and names possible approaches to urban politics/planning that could be used to analyze the research subject. **(Due February 5, 2025)**
- **Final Research Paper:** Building on their progress report, students will submit an 18-20 page research paper that analyzes their subject and the forces shaping it with the help of at least two competing approaches to urban politics/planning. Upon consultation with the course director, this research can take the form of a group project. **(Due April 1, 2025)**

### **Assignments Submission**

All assignments will be submitted, graded, and returned electronically. For this course, this process will be facilitated via e-Class. Please do not email the instructor with assignments.

### **Important Course information**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage](#)

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

### **Intellectual Property Notice**

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*(See below for detailed course outline)*

## COURSE OUTLINE

### JAN 7<sup>th</sup> WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION: POLITICS AND PLANNING

The first class begins with an overview of the course objectives, logistics and seminar structure.

**No readings assigned**

### JAN 14<sup>th</sup> WEEK 2: POWER, POLITICS & THE CONTESTED LEGITIMACY OF PLANNING

Students will be introduced to a few theoretical perspectives on 'politics', 'the state', 'space' that shape ideologies of planning. The class will challenge students to think about the contested legitimacy of planning, the relations between planners, professional associations and the state and the ways these power-ful relations shape urban environments. The class will discuss two case studies examining efforts to reshape professional planning institutes in order to remove systemic discrimination in the professional practice.

#### Required readings:

- Lennon, M., & Moore, D. (2018). Planning, 'politics' and the production of space: the formulation and application of a framework for examining the micropolitics of community place-making. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 21(2), 117–133. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1523908X.2018.1508336>
- Holgersen, S. (2013). Spatial planning as condensation of social relations: A dialectical approach. *Sage Journals*, 14(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095213501672>

#### Case studies:

- Thomas, J. M. (2019). Socially Responsible Practice: The Battle to Reshape the American Institute of Planners. *Journal of Planning History*, 18(4), 258-281. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1538513218786007>
- Ontario Professional Planners Institute. Anti-Black Racism in Planning. <https://ontarioplanners.ca/inspiring-knowledge/anti-black-racism-in-planning-task-force>

#### Optional readings:

- Ontario Professional Planners' Institute (OPPI) Professional Code of Practice. <https://ontarioplanners.ca/oppi/about-oppi/professional-code-of-practice-standards>
- Ranci re, J., Panagia, D., and Bowlby, R. (2001). "Ten Theses on Politics." *Theory & Event. Project MUSE*, 5(3). <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/tae.2001.0028>.
- Lefebvre, H. (1992). *The Production of Space (translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith)*. Blackwell. Pp. 68 – 168.
- Mustafa D. (2005). Space, Politics and the Political. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 23, (20). <https://doi.org/10.1068/d364t>
- Parker, S. (2010). *Cities, Politics & Power* (1st ed.). Routledge. pp. 3 – 10. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203018286>
- Agnew, J. (1999). Mapping Political Power Beyond State Boundaries: Territory, Identity, and Movement in World Politics. *Millennium*, 28(3), pp.499 - 521. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03058298990280030701>
- Pattaroni, L., Bhide, A., Lutringer, C (eds). (2022). Politics of Urban Planning. Exploring Urban Change in South Asia. *Springer, Singapore*, pp.1-17. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8671-9\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-8671-9_1)
- Mashhadi Moghadam, S. N. and Rafieian, M. (2019). If Foucault were an urban planner: An epistemology of power in planning theories. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 6(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2019.1592065>
- Inch, A., Slade, J., Brownill, S., Ellis, G., Howcroft, M., Humphry, D., Leeson, L., O'Hara, G., Sartorio, F. and Robbins, G. (2024). Community action, counter-professionals and radical planning in the UK. *City*, 28(5–6), 681–704. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13604813.2024.2427437>

### **JAN 21<sup>st</sup> WEEK 3: THE POLITICS OF LAND**

Students will be introduced to discussions on the politics of land ranging from spatial representations of colonialism and the relationship between planning and settler colonialism to property rights and Indigenous land dispossession. By engaging with anti-colonial and decolonial theories, students will learn about Indigenous struggles for land back on Turtle Island (and beyond) and contemplate different perspectives on recent framings of Indigenous-led urban development projects such as Tewin, Señákw as acts of “reconciliation” and “decolonization”. Students will discuss the updated City of Toronto’s Official Plan Chapter 1 and Toronto’s Reconciliation Action Plan municipal within these political contexts.

#### **Required readings:**

- Tomiak, J. (2022). Land back / cities back. *Urban Geography*, 44(2), 292–294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2022.2126610>
- Kipfer, S. *Urban Revolutions: Urbanisation and (Neo-)Colonialism in Transatlantic Context*. Haymarket Books. Pp.66-111.
- Chattopadhyay, S. (2011). Urbanism, colonialism and subalternity. *Urban Theory Beyond the West: A World of Cities*. Routledge. Pp.75-94.

#### **Case studies:**

- City of Toronto Official Plan Chapter 1 Making Choice: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/#/committees/2242/22153>
- Señákw:
- Tewin: <https://www.tewin.ca/>

#### **Optional readings:**

- Tuck, E. and Wayne Yang, K. (2012). Decolonization is not a metaphor. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society*, 1(1), pp. 1-40. <https://jps.library.utoronto.ca/index.php/des/article/view/18630>
- Getachew, A. (2019). *Worldmaking after Empire: The rise and fall of self-determination*. Princeton University Press. pp.14-36
- Barry, J. and Thompson-Fawcett, M. (2020). Decolonizing the boundaries between the “planner” and the “planned”: Implications of Indigenous property development. *Planning Theory & Practice*, 21(3), 410-425. 10.1080/14649357.2020.1775874
- Yellowhead Institute (October 2019). *Land Back: A Yellowhead Institute Red Paper*. <https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org>
- City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 - 2023 <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/8d83-City-of-TO-Reconciliation-Action-Plan-for-web.pdf>
- Burke, J. (July 22, 2024). [Reconciliation: Turning words into action in Toronto’s development space](#). Real Estate Magazine.
- Porter, K. (February 5, 2021). [Tewin: The land at the centre of Ottawa’s reconciliation controversy](#). CBC News.

### **JAN 28<sup>th</sup> WEEK 4: THE STATE AND SPACE: MARXISM AND CLASS STRUGGLES**

Students will be introduced to Marxist principles and ideas as it relates capitalism, the production of space and the state’s relationship to space. Students will also explore how critical approaches to Marxism within planning theory can be applied to address urban working class struggles along the axis of race and gender. The class will explore case studies of 1) the organizing efforts of Moms 4 Housing and Toronto Chinatown Land Trust to address housing insecurity by removing land from the speculative real-estate market and stewarding affordable housing and 2) growing labour movement and the challenges of professional elitism is an attitudinal barrier that prevents architects (and by extension planners) from seeing themselves as workers.

### Required Readings:

- Lefebvre, H. (edited by Brenner, N. and Elden, S.) (1978). *State, Space, World: Selected Essays*. University of Minnesota Press: pp. 223-253
- Bohrer AJ. (2020). Toward a Decolonial Feminist Anticapitalism: María Lugones, Sylvia Wynter, and Sayak Valencia. *Hypatia*, 35(3) pp.524-541. doi:10.1017/hyp.2020.20
- Amin, S. (2013). *The Implosion of Global Capitalism: The challenge for the radical left*. NYU Pres. pp. 105-148.
- MacDonald, I. T. (2017). *Unions and the City: Negotiating Urban Change* (1st ed.). Cornell University Press. pp. 1–26. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7591/j.ctt1q8jhtc.6>

### Case Studies:

- Jordan, N. (May 18, 2020). Moms 4 Housing is Fighting to Make Sure Everyone Has a Home. Shondaland.
- Toronto Chinatown Land Trust: <https://chinatownlandtrust.ca/Information>
- Shilling, S. (April 27, 2023). State of the Union: Reflections on Architecture's Nascent Labour Movement. *Azure Magazine*.

### Optional Readings:

- Robinson, C.J. (2000). *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. University of North Carolina Press. pp. 9-24.
- Davis, A.Y. (1981). *Women, Race & Class*. Vintage.
- Holgersen, S. (2020), On Spatial Planning and Marxism: Looking Back, Going Forward. *Antipode*, 52, pp. 800-824. <https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12614>
- Ahn, Y and Juraev, Z. (2024). Critical analysis of Marxist ideas in modern urban planning. *Cities*, 148. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S026427512400057X>
- Pulido, L. (2016). Geographies of race and ethnicity II: Environmental racism, racial capitalism and state-sanctioned violence. *Progress in Human Geography*, 41(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132516646495>
- Dantzler, P. A. (2021). The urban process under racial capitalism: Race, anti-Blackness, and capital accumulation. *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and the City*, 2(2), 113–134. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26884674.2021.1934201>
- Haritaworn, J. (2022), 'From the Kitchen Table to the Streets: Queer of Colour Reflections on Racial Capitalism,' response to the roundtable in the special issue 'Sexualities and critiques of capital', *Women, Gender & Research* pp.81-86. <https://doi.org/10.7146/kkf.v33i1.133087>
- Matysek-Imielińska, M. (2020). *Warsaw Housing Cooperative*. Springer Nature Link, pp.19-36. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23077-7\\_2](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23077-7_2)
- Kipfer, S., and Petrunia, J. (2009). "recolonization" and public housing: a Toronto case study. *Studies in Political Economy*, 83(1), 111–139. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19187033.2009.11675058>

## **FEB 4<sup>th</sup> WEEK 5: INSTITUTIONALISM, BUREAUCRACY AND (NEO)LIBERAL URBAN PLANNING**

This week students will focus on institutionalism, bureaucracy and neoliberalism as political ideologies and their impacts on planning practices and policies in urban environments. Students will apply their learnings to discuss recent efforts by the province of Ontario to use legislation and regulations to restrict tent encampments from public space in the context of an urban neoliberal policy regime.

### Required Readings:

- Sorensen, A. (2017). New Institutionalism and Planning Theory in eds Michael GUnder, Ali Madanipour and Vanessa Watson). *The Routledge Handbook of Planning Theory 1<sup>st</sup> Edition*. Routledge. Pp 250 – 263.

- Brenner, N. and Theodore, N. (2010). Neoliberalism and the urban condition. Analysis of Urban Change, Theory, Action, 9(1). <https://doi.org/10.1080/13604810500092106>
- Weber, Max 1978. 'Bureaucracy.' in *Economy and Society*, edited by Guenther Rothand Claus Wittich, rev. ed. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 956–1005.
- Kjaer, A.M. (2009). "Governance and the Urban Bureaucracy" in Jonathan S Davies and David L. Imbroscio eds. *Theories of Urban Politics* 2nd Edition (Oxford) pp.137-152 E-Book

#### Case Studies:

- Evans, A. (2022). Tent encampments in Toronto, Canada: Excavating Northern housing informalities. *Radical Housing Journal*, Volume 4, Issue 2, pp.25-46. 10.54825/ZXLP1314
- CBC News. (December 12, 2024). [Stiffer penalties for trespassing, public drug use in Ontario bill aimed at ending encampments.](#)

#### Optional Readings:

- Viollet-le-Duc, E. (2024). The Bureaucracy of Plans. *The Tyranny of the Straight Line: Mapping Modern Paris*, pp.105-126.
- Findlay, T. (2014) "Gender Regimes of Public Administration." *Femocratic Administration and the Politics of Transformation*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. pp. 62-104
- Driscoll Derickson, K. (2014). The racial politics of neoliberal regulation in post-Katrina Mississippi. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 104(4), pp.889–902.
- Sharifzadegan, M.H. and Ghanouni, H. (2019). Analysis and Typology of Institutional Approach in Urban Planning. *Journal of Fine Arts: Architecture and Urban Planning*, 24(2), pp. 5-18. [10.22059/JFAUP.2020.232450.671697](https://doi.org/10.22059/JFAUP.2020.232450.671697)
- Kipfer, S. and Keil, R. (2002). Toronto Inc? Planning the competitive city in the new Toronto. *Antipode*, 34(2), 227-264.
- Keil, R. (2002). Common-Sense" Neoliberalism: Progressive Conservative Urbanism in Toronto, Canada. *Antipode*, Volume 34, Issue 3, pp.578 – 601. 10.54825/ZXLP1314

### **FEB 11<sup>th</sup> WEEK 6: PLURALISM, URBAN REGIME THEORY & GROWTH MACHINE THEORY**

Students will be introduced to core components and critical perspectives on pluralism, urban regime and growth machine theories in urban politics and planning. Students will engage in a discussion of Toronto's FIFA World Cup bid to try to map power relations and the coalitions undergirding sport-centered growth agendas in the city.

#### Required Readings:

- Davidoff, P. (1965). "Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning". *Journal of the American Institute of Planners*. 31(4), pp.331–338. [doi:10.1080/01944366508978187](https://doi.org/10.1080/01944366508978187)
- Reed, A. (1988) The Black Urban Regime: Structural Origins and Constraints. In: Smith, M. P. (Ed.), *Power, Community, and the City*. Transaction Press, New Brunswick, NJ.
- Gilbert, M.R. (1999). Place, politics, and the production of urban space: A feminist critique of the growth machine thesis. *The urban growth machine: Critical perspectives, two decades later*, pp.95-108.
- Schimmel, K. (2001). Chapter 17 Sport Matters: Urban Regime Theory and Urban Regeneration in the Late-Capitalist Era. *Sport in the City: the Role of Sport in Economic and Social Regeneration*. Routledge. Pp.259 – 277.

#### Case studies:

- FIFA World Cup in Toronto: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/fifa-toronto-cost-increase-1.7145284>

#### Optional Readings:

- Fainstein, N. I., and S. S. Fainstein. 1983. Regime strategies, communal resistance, and economic forces. In *Restructuring the city*, edited by S. S. Fainstein and N. I. Fainstein, 245-282. New York: Longman.
- Elkin, S. L. 1987. *City and regime in the American republic*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press.
- Molotch, H. (1976). The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place. *American Journal of Sociology*, 82(2), 309–332. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2777096>
- Mossberger, K and Stoker, G. (2001). The Evolution of Urban Regime Theory: The Challenge of Conceptualization. *Sage Journals*, Volume 36, Issue 6  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10780870122185109>
- Purcell, M. 1997. Ruling Los Angeles: Neighborhood movements, urban regimes, and the production of space in Southern California. *Urban Geography* 18: 684-704.
- Surborg, B., VanWynsberghe, R., & Wyly, E. (2008). Mapping the Olympic growth machine: Transnational urbanism and the growth machine diaspora. *City*, 12(3), 341–355.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13604810802478920>

## **FEB 18<sup>th</sup> WEEK 7: HEGEMONY, CULTURE & RESISTANCE**

Students will be introduced to the concept of hegemony and begin to think through how planning reinforces cultural norms and values of the dominant society. Students will also learn about counter-hegemonic practices as forms of resistance to cultural domination and as a class explore a case study of the Somali community's efforts to build a community and culture centre in Toronto.

### **Required Readings:**

- Lull, J. (1995). Chapter 4 Hegemony. *Media, Communication and Culture: A Global Approach*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, in association with Blackwell Publishers.
- Hamdonah, Z. and Joseph, J. (2024). Indigenous dance, cultural continuity and resistance: An ethnographic analysis of the Palestinian Dabke in the diaspora. *Media Culture & Society*, 46(1). [10.1177/01634437241228735](https://doi.org/10.1177/01634437241228735)
- Leffers, D. (2015). Conflict in the Face of Planning? Power, Knowledge and Hegemony in Planning Practice. *Planning and Conflict*. Routledge.

### **Case studies:**

- Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation (S.C.C.R):  
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/#/committees/2468/24399>

### **Optional Readings:**

- Gramsci, A. (2000) *The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*, ed. D. Forgacs. New York: NYU Press.
- Cabral, A.L. (1970). The Role of Culture in the Struggle for Independence.
- Purcell, M. (2009). Resisting Neoliberalization: Communicative Planning or Counter-Hegemonic Movements? *Sage Journal*, Volume 8, Issue 2.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095209102232>
- Kipfer, S. (2002). Urbanization, everyday life and the survival of capitalism: Lefebvre, Gramsci and the problematic of hegemony. *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 13(2), 117-149.
- Mallick, A. (2018). Urban space and (the limits of) middle class hegemony in Pakistan. *Urban Geography*, 39(7), 1113–1120. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723638.2018.1439555>
- Villa, R. (2000). FOUR. Art against Social Death: Symbolic and Material Spaces of Chicano Cultural Re-creation. In *Barrio-Logos: Space and Place in Urban Chicano Literature and Culture* (pp. 156-202). New York, USA: University of Texas Press. <https://doi.org/10.7560/787414-006>
- Diaz, D.R. (2005). *Barrio Urbanism: Chicanos, Planning and American Cities*. Routledge.

## **FEB 25<sup>th</sup> WEEK 8: READING WEEK – PROGRESS REPORTS DUE**

### **MARCH 4<sup>th</sup> WEEK 9: POLICE POWERS AND SOCIAL ORDER: FASCISM, AUTHORITARIAN STATISM AND STATES OF EXCEPTION**

Students will be introduced to ideologies of fascism, authoritarian statism and states of exception as different ways of making sense of the configuration of political power, rule of law and urban social order. This week's case study focuses on pandemic states of emergency in France and Canada.

#### **Required Readings:**

- Santamarina, A. (2021) The spatial politics of far-right populism: VOX, antifascism and neighbourhood solidarity in Madrid city. *Critical Sociology*, 47(6), pp. 891-905. doi: [10.1177/0896920520962562](https://doi.org/10.1177/0896920520962562)
- Boukalas, C. (2014). No exceptions: authoritarian statism. Agamben, Poulantzas and homeland security. *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, 7(1), 112–130. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17539153.2013.877667>

#### **Case Studies:**

- Kipfer, S., & Mohamud, J. (2021). The pandemic as political emergency. *Studies in Political Economy*, 102(3), 268–288. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07078552.2021.2000212>

#### **Optional Readings:**

- Agamben, G. (2005) *State of Exception (translated by Kevin Attell)*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Pp 1 – 31.
- Poulantzas, N. 1978. *State, Power, Socialism*. London: NLB.
- Featherstone, D. (2013). Black Internationalism, Subaltern Cosmopolitanism, and the Spatial Politics of Antifascism. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 103(6), 1406–1420. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00045608.2013.779551>
- Amarasinghe, P. & Rajhans, S. (2020). *Agamben's two missing factors*; Understanding state of emergency through colonialism and racial doctrine. *Open Political Science*, 3(1), 34-46. <https://doi.org/10.1515/openps-2020-0003>

### **MARCH 11<sup>th</sup> WEEK 10: JUST CITIES: BLACK RADICALISM, ANARCHO-PUNK URBANISMS AND ABOLITION GEOGRAPHIES**

Students will be introduced to perspectives on black radicalism, punk urbanism, anarchism and abolition geographies as alternative ways of conceptualising spaces for radical politics of justice and liberation. The class will examine a case study of the Gullah-Geechee community of Hogg Hammock, McIntosh County, Georgia struggles against changes to local the zoning ordinances.

#### **Required Readings:**

- Dikeç M., 2001: Justice and the spatial imagination. *Environment and Planning A* 33(10): 1785–1805.
- Gilmore, R. W. (2022). *Abolition Geography*. Verso, pp.471-495.
- Newman, S. (2011). Postanarchism and space: Revolutionary fantasies and autonomous zones. *Planning Theory*, 10(4), 344-365. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1473095211413753>
- Woods, M. (2019). Punk urbanism: insurgency, crisis, and cultural geography. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 22(5), 666–685. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2019.1619819>

#### **Case Studies:**

- The Zoning Ordinance of McIntosh County, Georgia, *Section 219. HH Hog Hammock District* (September 12, 2023).



### Optional Readings:

- Tyner, J. A. (2007). Urban Revolution and the Spaces of Black Radicalism, in Katherine McKittrick and Clyde Woods (Eds.), *Black Geographies and the Politics of Space. Between the Lines*: Toronto.
- Maynard, R. (2017). "Misogynoir: Punitive state practices and the devaluation of Black women and gender-oppressed people." *Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present* (Winnipeg: Fernwood) pp.128-157.
- Gilmore, R. W. (2007). *Golden gulag: Prisons, surplus, crisis, and opposition in globalizing California* (Vol. 21). University of California Press.
- McKittrick, K. (2011). On plantations, prisons, and a black sense of place. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 12(8), 947–963. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2011.624280>(open in a new window)
- Kimari, W. (2023). On the police as infrastructure and managers in the African city. *Planning Perspectives*, 39, 195 - 204.
- Springer, S. (2013). Anarchism and Geography: A Brief Genealogy of Anarchist Geographies, 7(1), pp.46-60 <https://doi.org/10.1111/qec3.12022>

### MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> WEEK 11: QUEER URBANISMS AND GENDERED RIGHTS TO THE CITY

This week students will examine concepts of queer and feminist urbanisms as alternatives to the hetero-cis-normative assumptions of urban planning which question who the city is meant to serve and whether the public realm is equitably public to all its users. Students will discuss concerns of gentrification in Toronto's Church and Wellesley neighbourhood and discuss communities resist erasure of queer spaces.

### Required Readings:

- Haas, T., & Mehaffy, M. (2024). Achieving Humanist Cities: Learning From Urban Feminism and Feminist Planning. *Global Journal of Cultural Studies*, 3, 29–41. <https://doi.org/10.6000/2817-2310.2024.03.04>
- Bain, A.L. and Podmore, J.A. (2023). Queer(ing) Urban Planning and Municipal Governance. *Urban Planning*, 8(2) <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.v8i2.7012>
- Greene, T. (2021) The Whiteness of Queer Urban Placemaking. *The Gayborhood: From Sexual Liberation to Cosmopolitan Spectacle*. The Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc. pp.143 -160.

### Case Studies:

- Gentrification of Toronto's Church & Wellesley neighbourhood

### Optional Readings:

- Goh, K. (2017). Safe Cities and Queer Spaces: The Urban Politics of Radical LGBT Activism. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 108(2), 463–477. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2017.1392286>
- Doan, P. L. 2007. Queers in the American city: Transgendered perceptions of urban space. *Gender, Place and Culture* 14 (1):57–74.
- Gil-Fournier Esquerra, Mauro. "Affective Urbanism: A *Trans* Approach to the City". *Dearq* no. 38 (2024): 42-52. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18389/dearq38.2024.04>
- Ruddick, S. (1996). "Constructing difference in public spaces: Race, class, and gender as interlocking systems," *Urban Geography*, 17, pp.132–151. <https://doi.org/10.2747/0272-3638.17.2.13>
- McKittrick, Katherine. *Demonic Grounds: Black Women and the Cartographies of Struggle*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2006.

- Patrick, D. J. (2013). The matter of displacement: a queer urban ecology of New York City's High Line. *Social & Cultural Geography*, 15(8), 920–941. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14649365.2013.851263>
- Knopp, L. (2007b) On the relationship between queer and feminist geographies, *The Professional Geographer* 59(1): 47–55.
- Castells, M. (1983). *The city and the grassroots: A cross-cultural theory of urban social movements* (No. 7). University of California Press.

### **MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> WEEK 12: URBAN POLITICAL ECOLOGY**

Students will be introduced to the concept of urban political ecology and how economic, political, social and ecological processes work together to form highly uneven and deeply unjust urban landscapes. This theory also provides students with tools to identify strategies through which a more equitable distribution of power and a more inclusive mode of environmental production can be achieved. This week's case study will critically examine the controversial Saudi-led NEOM Line that proposes to "reimagining urbanism to be people-first and nature-friendly".

#### **Required Readings:**

- Keil, R. (2003). Urban political ecology 1. *Urban geography*, 24(8), 723-738.
- Swyngedouw, E. and Heynen, N.C. (2004). Urban Political Ecology, Justice and the Politics of Scale. *Antipode*, Volume 35, Issue 5. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-8330.2003.00364.x>
- Nightingale, A. J. (2023). Urban climate change and feminist political ecology. In *Turning up the heat* (pp. 143-158). Manchester University Press.

#### **Case Studies:**

- NEOM <https://www.neom.com/en-us/about>

#### **Optional Readings:**

- Bullard R (1990) *Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality*. Boulder , CO : Westview Press.
- Cutter S L (1995) Race, class and environmental justice. *Progress in Human Geography* 19(1): 111–122
- Heynen, N. (2016). Urban political ecology II: The abolitionist century. *Progress in Human Geography*, 40(6), 839-845. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0309132515617394>
- Agyeman J, McEntee J (2014) Moving the field of food justice forward through the lens of urban political ecology. *Geography Compass* 8(3): 211–220.
- Lawhon M, Ernstson H, Silver J (2014) Provincializing urban political ecology: Towards a situated UPE through African urbanism. *Antipode* 46(2): 497–516.

### **APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> WEEK 13: POLITICS OF SMART CITIES & GRASSROOT DIGITAL URBANISM (FINAL PAPER DUE)**

This week students will discuss approaches to development that integrate digital technology and how platform capitalism and smart city projects raise that reinforce existing urban inequities through increased capitalist accumulation, surveillance and privatization. Students will also engage with literature on grassroots urbanism as an alternative to techno-capitalist models of city building. The class will discuss Akon City, a proposed Afrofuturistic megacity project in Senegal, and its (failed) promises of leveraging cryptocurrency to master-plan a "real life Wakanda".

#### **Required Readings:**

- De Jong, M., Joss, S. and Taihagh, A. (2024). Technological Forecasting and Social Change, 202. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.techfore.2024.123299>

- Vadiati, N. (2022). Alternatives to Smart Cities: A Call for Consideration of Grassroots Digital Urbanism. *Digital Geography and Society*, Volume 2. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diggeo.2022.100030>
- Bandauko, E., & Nutifafa Arku, R. (2022). A critical analysis of 'smart cities' as an urban development strategy in Africa. *International Planning Studies*, 28(1), 69–86. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13563475.2022.2137112>

#### Case Studies:

- Akon City <https://badconsult.com/projects/akon-city/>

#### Optional Readings:

- Datta, A. and Odendaal, N. (2019). Smart cities and the banality of power. *Sage Journals*, Volume 37, Issue 3 <https://doi.org/10.1177/0263775819841765>
- Charitsis, V., & Laamanen, M. (2022). When digital capitalism takes (on) the neighbourhood: data activism meets place-based collective action. *Social Movement Studies*, 23(3), 320–337. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2022.2123314>
- Boy, J. D., & Uitermark, J. (2017). Reassembling the city through Instagram. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 42(4), 612-624.
- A. C. Barbosa, T. A. Oliveira and V. N. Coelho, "Cryptocurrencies for Smart Territories: an exploratory study," *2018 International Joint Conference on Neural Networks (IJCNN)*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2018, pp. 1-8, doi: 10.1109/IJCNN.2018.8489299.  
keywords: {Planning;Smart cities;Collaboration;Decision making;Government;Cryptography;Cultural differences},
- Fadeyi, O., Krejcar, O., Maresova, P., Kuca, K., Brida, P., & Selamat, A. (2020). Opinions on Sustainability of Smart Cities in the Context of Energy Challenges Posed by Cryptocurrency Mining. *Sustainability*, 12(1), 169. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12010169>