

**DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY**  
**University of Toronto**  
**GGR 458: Selected Topics in Urban Geography**  
**Fall Term 2017**  
**Time:** Wednesdays 2-4pm  
**Location:** BL 313 (Claude T. Bissell Building; 140 St. George Street)

**Professor:**

Jason Hackworth  
Office: SS 5010  
T: 416-946-8764  
E: jason.hackworth@utoronto.ca  
Office Hours: M 11-12, W 11-12, and by appointment

**Course website:**

Blackboard (updated frequently)

**Course description:**

This course focuses a special topic in urban geography and covers it with more depth than would otherwise be the case in a survey-oriented class. The aim is to utilize this single topic as a vehicle to understanding how urban geographical ideas are produced more widely. Students are expected to actively participate in this course. The theme of this year's course will be urban growth and decline.

**Readings:**

Availability to be explained in class.

**Course objective:**

The objective is to provide students a vehicle for developing several urban themes more intensively than they would otherwise in a purely lecture-oriented course.

**Policies:**

**Email:** Generally I prefer that you come to see me during my office hours rather than asking in-depth questions (that require in-depth responses) over email.

**Blackboard grades:** I will attempt to post grades on blackboard as quickly as possible to inform you of your standing in the class. It should be noted however that the grades you see on Blackboard are not official. If you notice a discrepancy between the grade recorded on Blackboard, and the mark listed on one of your assignments or tests, you should assume that the hard copy is correct. If you notice discrepancies of this sort, please bring them to my attention as soon as possible.

**Absences from class or examinations:** Attendance for the lecture period during the term will not be recorded. It is your responsibility to obtain and retain the course material, which includes lecture. Examinations and scheduled presentation absences are different matter. The only excusable absences from the term test or your presentation date is a *documented* medical or family emergency. For medical absences, have your doctor fill out an illness verification form (<http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>) that clearly excuses you for work *on the day of the exam or*

*presentation* (a note saying that you were sick the week before the exam is not sufficient). The form should be delivered to the instructor *within three days* of the presentation or examination date. Family emergencies vary more in nature, so please contact the instructor as soon as possible about necessary documentation should you find yourself in this situation.

Without proper documentation for missing a presentation or being absent from the exam, you will receive a grade of zero for the piece of work in question.

**Hard copies of graded work:** It is your responsibility to retain a hard copy of all graded work at least until you have received an official mark for the class. They are available during office hours.

**Penalties for late term work:** Written term work (the handout for your policy presentation and your final paper) will incur a penalty of 10 percent per day (with nothing accepted one week after the deadline).

**Academic integrity:** Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism includes quoting (or paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without proper attribution. Students also should not submit any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please consult the “Rules and Regulations” section of the Arts and Science Calendar ([http://calendar.artsci.utoronto.ca/Rules\\_&\\_Regulations.html](http://calendar.artsci.utoronto.ca/Rules_&_Regulations.html)) for further information and check the ‘How not to plagiarize’ website at: <http://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/how-not-to-plagiarize.pdf>

**Disability services:** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

### **Grade breakdown:**

**Article presentation and summary (20 percent—combined):** You are required to write a 3-page critical review of a supplemental article and to present it in class (a sign-up sheet will be available on the first week of class). Details are available on an assignment sheet posted to Blackboard.

**Term test (30 percent):** The test will be essay-based and take place during the regular course period on November 15 (in our regular classroom). Further details about its content will be announced in class preceding the exam.

**Final paper and presentation (50 percent—combined):** The capstone project for this class is an 8-10 page paper on the topic of urban decline. Papers are due on the final day of class. You must also present the contents of your research to the class on November 22, 29 or December 6 (sign-up sheets will be available later in the term). Details about this assignment will be presented in class and are available on an assignment sheet posted to Blackboard. You are also encouraged to visit me during office hours or after class to develop your paper.

### **Schedule:**

\* Reading posted to the course Blackboard site (all other readings available directly from Robarts Library-online)

**Week 1: September 13:** introduction to the course

**Week 2: September 20:** the growth and significance of cities

Required readings:

Beauregard, R. (2009). Urban population loss in historical perspective: United States, 1820-2000. *Environment and Planning A*, 41: 514-528.

Leo, C. and K. Anderson (2006) Being realistic about urban growth. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 28(2): 169-189.

Mayer, H. and M. Greenberg (2001). Coming back from economic despair: Case studies of small- and medium-sized American cities. *Economic Development Quarterly*, 15(3): 203-216.

**Week 3: September 27:** patterns and definitions of urban decline

Required readings:

Glaeser, E. (2007). Can Buffalo ever come back? Probably not—and government should stop bribing people to stay there. *City Journal*, Autumn. Available at: [http://www.city-journal.org/html/17\\_4\\_buffalo\\_ny.html](http://www.city-journal.org/html/17_4_buffalo_ny.html)

Hall, H. and P.V. Hall (2008). Decline and no growth: Canada's forgotten urban interior. *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, 31(1): 1-18.

Wallace, D. and Wallace, R. (2011). Consequences of massive housing destruction: the New York City fire epidemic. *Building Research and Information*, 39(4): 395-411.

Supplemental readings:

Geronimus, A., Pearson, J., Linnenbringer, E., Schulz, A., Reyes, A., Epel, E., Lin, J. and E. Blackburn (2015). Race-ethnicity, poverty, urban stressors, and telomere length in a Detroit community-based sample. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 56(2): 199-224.

Hackworth, J. (2016). Why there is no Detroit in Canada. *Urban Geography*, 37(2): 272-295.

Hackworth, J. and M. Hartt (2018). Shrinking cities, shrinking households, or both? Working paper. Available at: <http://individual.utoronto.ca/hackworth/HH.pdf>

Heissel, J., Sharkey, P., Torrats-Espinosa, G., Grant, K. and E. Adam (2017). Violence and vigilance: The acute effects of community violent crime on sleep and cortisol. *Child Development*, Early View

Neumann, T. (2016). *Remaking the Rust Belt: The postindustrial transformation of North America*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

**Week 4: October 4:** explanations of urban decline

Required readings:

Dewar, M. and Weber, M. (2012). City abandonment. in: R. Crane and R. Weber (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Planning*. Oxford University Press. (available as an online resource through the UofT Library)

Reckien, D. and Martinez-Fernandez, C. (2011). Why do cities shrink? *European Planning Studies*, 19(8): 1375-1397.

\* Safford, S. (2009). Chapter 1, in *Why the Garden Club Couldn't Save Youngstown: The transformation of the Rust Belt*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

#### Supplemental readings:

Bernt, M., Haase, A., Grobmann, K., Cocks, M., Couch, C., Cortese, C. and R. Krzysztofik (2014). How does(n't) urban shrinkage get onto the agenda? Experiences from Leipzig, Liverpool, Genoa, and Bytom. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(5): 1749-66.

Friedrichs, J. (1993). A theory of urban decline: Economy, demography and political elites. *Urban Studies*, 30(6): 907-917.

Martinez-Fernandez, C., Audirac, I., Fol, S. and Cunningham-Sabot, E. (2012). Shrinking cities: Urban Challenges of Globalization. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 36(2): 213-225.

Metzger, J.T. (2000). Planned abandonment: The neighborhood life-cycle theory and National Urban Policy. *Housing Policy Debate*, 11(1): 7-40.

Molotch, H. (1976). The city as a growth machine: Toward a political economy of place. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 82(2): 309-332.

\* Polese, M. (2015). The resilient city: On the determinants of successful urban economies. Pp. 145-161, in R. Paddison and T. Hutton (eds.), *Cities and Economic Change: Restructuring and dislocation in the global metropolis*. London: Sage.

Smith, N. (1982). Gentrification and uneven development. *Economic Geography*, 58(2): 139-155.

#### **Week 5: October 11: race, conflict and decline**

#### Required readings:

Badger, E. (2016, May 13) Why a housing scheme founded in racism is making a resurgence today. *Washington Post*, Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2016/05/13/why-a-housing-scheme-founded-in-racism-is-making-a-resurgence-today/>

Michney, T. (2006). Race, violence, and urban territoriality. *Journal of Urban History*, 32(3): 414-428.

\* Power, A., Ploger, J. and Winkler, A. (2010). Chapter 8, in *Phoenix Cities: The fall and rise of great industrial cities*. Bristol: The Policy Press.

#### Supplemental readings:

Bradford, C. (1979). Financing home ownership: The federal role in neighborhood decline. *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, 14(3): 313-335.

Coates, T-N. (2014). The case for reparations. *Atlantic Monthly*, Available at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Glaeser, E. and Shleifer, A. (2005). The Curley Effect: The economics of shaping the electorate. *The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 21: 1-19.

Goetz, E. (1996). The US war on drugs as urban policy. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 20(3): 539-49.

Hackworth, J. (2018). Urban decline as social control. Working Paper. Available at:

<http://individual.utoronto.ca/hackworth/UDasSC.pdf>

Hinton, E. (2016). Chapter 1, in *From the War on Poverty to the Ward on Crime: The making of mass incarceration in America*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

- Krumholz, N. (1990). Twenty years after Kerner: The Cleveland Case. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 12(3): 285-297.
- Liska, A. (1992). Introduction to the study of social control. Pp. 1-29, in A. Liska (Ed.) *Social Threat and Social Control*. Albany NY: State University of New York Press.
- Massey, D. and N. Denton (1993). *American Apartheid: Segregation and the making of the underclass*. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press.
- Meeks, D. (2006). Police militarization in urban areas: The obscure war against the underclass. *The Black Scholar*, 35(4): 33-41.
- Reed, A. (1987). A critique of neo-progressivism in theorizing about local development policy: A case from Atlanta. Pp. 199-215, in CN Stone and HT Sanders (eds.), *Comparative Urban and Community Research*. Lawrence: University of Kansas Press.
- Reed, A. (1988). The black urban regime: Structural origins and constraints. Pp. 138-189, in M. P. Smith (Ed.), *Power, community and the city: Comparative urban and community research*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.
- Thompson, H.A. (2010). Why mass incarceration matters: Rethinking crisis, decline, and transformation in postwar American history. *The Journal of American History*, 97(3): 703-734.

**Week 6: October 18:** the meaning, uses, and challenges of blight

Required readings:

- Kelling, G. and Wilson, J.Q. (1982). Broken Windows: The police and neighborhood safety. *Atlantic Monthly*. Available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1982/03/broken-windows/304465/>
- Mock, B. (2017, February 16). The meaning of blight. *CityLab*. Available at: <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2017/02/the-meaning-of-blight/516801/>
- Sampson, R. and S. Raudenbush (2004). Seeing disorder: Neighborhood stigma and the social construction of "broken windows". *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 76(4): 319-342.

Supplemental readings:

- Cooper-McCann, P. (2016). The trap of triage: Lessons from the 'Team Four Plan'. *Journal of Planning History*. 15(2): 149-169.
- Gordon, C. (2003). Blighting the way: urban renewal, economic development and the elusive definition of blight. *Fordham Urban Law Journal*, 31: 305-337.
- Garvin, E., Branas, C., Keddem, S., Sellman, J., and Cannuscio, C. (2013). More Than Just An Eyesore: Local insights and solutions on vacant land and urban health. *Journal of Urban Health*, 90(3): 412-426.
- Griswold, N., B. Calnin, M. Schramm, L. Anselin and P. Boehnlein (2014). Estimating the Effect of Demolishing Distressed Structures in Cleveland, OH, 2009-2013: *Impacts on Real Estate Equity and Mortgage-Foreclosure*. Available at: [http://www.thrivingcommunitiesinstitute.org/documents/FinalReportwithExecSummary\\_modified.pdf](http://www.thrivingcommunitiesinstitute.org/documents/FinalReportwithExecSummary_modified.pdf)
- Hackworth, J. (2016). Demolition as urban policy in the American Rust Belt. *Environment and Planning A*, 48(11): 2201-2222.
- Hackworth, J. (2017). Race and the production of extreme land abandonment in the American Rust Belt. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Early View

- Hackworth, J. (2018). Conservative ruin porn. Working Paper. Available at: <http://individual.utoronto.ca/hackworth/RuinPorn.pdf>
- Hillier, A.E., Culhane, D.P., Smith, T.E., Tomlin, C.D. (2003). Predicting housing abandonment with the Philadelphia neighborhood information system. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 25 (1): 91-105
- Mallach, A. (2011). Demolition and preservation in shrinking US industrial cities. *Building Research and Information*, 39(4): 380-394.
- Pritchett, W. (2003). The “public menace” of blight: Urban renewal and the private uses of eminent domain. *Yale Law and Policy Review*, 21(1). Available at: [http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/faculty\\_scholarship/1199/](http://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/faculty_scholarship/1199/)
- Talen, E. (2014). Housing demolition during urban renewal. *City and Community*, 13: 233-253.

**Week 7: October 25:** housing deterioration, squatting, gentrification, supply/ demand

Required readings:

- Herbert, C., Morenoff, J. and D. Harding (2015). Homelessness and housing insecurity among former prisoners. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, 1(2): 44-79. Available at: <http://www.rsfjournal.org/doi/pdf/10.7758/RSF.2015.1.2.04>
- Kinder, K. (2014). Guerrilla-style defensive architecture in Detroit: A self-provisioned security strategy in a neoliberal space of disinvestment. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(5): 1767-1784.
- Moskowitz, P. (2015, February 5). The two Detroits: a city both collapsing and gentrifying at the same time. *The Guardian* (online). Available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/feb/05/detroit-city-collapsing-gentrifying>

Supplemental readings:

- Bentley, G., P. McCutcheon, R. Cromley and D. Hanink (2016) Race, class, unemployment and housing vacancies in Detroit: an empirical analysis. *Urban Geography*, 37(5): 785-800.
- Darden, J., and Thomas, R. (2013). Chapter 13, in *Detroit: Race riots, racial conflicts, and the efforts to bridge the racial divide*. Lansing: Michigan State University Press.
- Sadler, R. and D. Lafreniere (2017) Racist housing practices as a precursor to uneven neighborhood change in a post-industrial city. *Housing Studies*, 37(2): 186-208.
- Nelson, M. (2014). Using land swaps to concentrate redevelopment and expand resettlement options in post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 80(4): 426-437.
- Schneider, V. (2015). Property rebels: Reclaiming abandoned, bank-owned homes for community uses. *American University Law Review*, 65: 399-433.
- Smith, J. (1999). Cleaning up public housing by sweeping out the poor. *Habitat International*, 23(1): 49-62.
- Tighe, J., and Ganning, J. (2016). Do shrinking cities allow redevelopment without displacement? an analysis of affordability based on housing and transportation costs for redeveloping, declining, and stable neighborhoods. *Housing Policy Debate* (DOI: 0.1080/10511482.2015.1085426)
- \* Thomas, J.M. (2012). Targeting strategies of three Detroit CDCs. Pp. 197-224 in M. Dewar and J.M. Thomas (eds), *The City after Abandonment*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Thompson, M. (2015). Between boundaries: From commoning and guerrilla gardening to community land trust development in Liverpool. *Antipode*, 47(4): 1021-42.

**Week 8: November 1:** reversing, avoiding, and managing decline

Required readings:

- Bliss, L. (2017, June 12). In shrinking Akron, a dead highway becomes a forest. *CityLab*. Available at: <https://www.citylab.com/solutions/2017/06/in-shrinking-akron-a-highway-becomes-a-forest/529959/>
- Pottie-Sherman, Y. (2017). Austerity urbanism and the promise of immigrant- and refugee-centered urban revitalization in the US Rust Belt. *Urban Geography* – Early View.
- Schilling, J., and Logan, J. (2008). Greening the rust belt: A green infrastructure model for right sizing America's shrinking cities. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 74(4): 451-66.

Supplemental readings:

- \* Desmond, M. (2016). Epilogue from *Evicted*. New York: Crown Publishers.
- Hackworth, J. 2015. Right-sizing as spatial austerity in the American Rust Belt. *Environment and Planning A*, 47(4): 766-782.
- Ganning, J., and Tighe, J. (2015). Assessing the feasibility of side yard programs as a solution to land vacancy in U.S. shrinking cities. *Urban Affairs Review*, 51(5).
- Knox, P. (2005). Creating ordinary places: Slow cities in a fast world. *Journal of Urban Design*, 10(1): 1-11.
- LaCroix, C. (2011). Urban green uses: The new renewal. *Planning and Environmental Law*, 63(5): 3-13.
- Lawson, L., and Miller, A. (2012) Community gardens and urban agriculture as antithesis to abandonment: Exploring a citizenship-land model. Pp. 17-40 in M. Dewar and J.M. Thomas (eds), *The City after Abandonment*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

**November 6-10: Fall Reading Week (no class meeting)**

**Week 9: November 15:** Term Test

**Week 10: November 22:** Final Project Presentations

**Week 11: November 29:** Final Project Presentations

**Week 12: December 6:** Final Project Presentations