

FYSM 1611 Issues and Politics of the City		
Instructors Gabriel Maracle	Email: gabrielmaracle@cunet.carleton.ca	Lecture Schedule: Wednesdays 11:35 AM-2:25 PM
Course type: Lecture	Lecture Location: Confirm location on Carleton Central	Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00 AM-11:00 AM Loeb D697

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Worldwide trends show that people are increasingly becoming urban; some statistics suggest that by 2050 nearly 7 in 10 people will be living in cities. Urbanization and urban life continue to be major factors in politics in the 21st century. This course examines how cities and urban spaces are sites of multiple and overlapping issues, movements, conflicts and communities. Students will learn about urban issues, from regional and federal politics to education, sports, public spaces, housing, policing, protests, history, and much more. The course encourages students to look at urban spaces differently and have opportunities to sharpen their academic and professional skills.

COURSE FORMAT

This course will be delivered in person, keeping the health and safety of the students in mind. As this is a first-year seminar, there is an expectation to read and engage with the material. This course will be oriented around a lecture and class discussion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand** the complexities of urban life and politics
2. **Apply** critical analytical skills to a variety of different issues
3. **Strengthen** research and writing skills
4. **Synthesize** academic and grey literature
5. **Organize** their work and chosen topics in a way to conduct research efficiently

COURSE MATERIALS

Weekly readings will be available on the course platform. The readings consist of both academic and grey literature. There are podcast episodes or videos as part of some of the week's materials. There is no assigned textbook for this course.

ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments must **be double-spaced** and in **Times New Roman 12-point font**. You will be expected to submit properly edited assignments free of spelling, grammar, punctuation, and citation errors. Equally important to your writing are diction and syntax.

Citation style will be **MLA** or **Chicago**

All course assignments must be submitted to the Brightspace learning platform as a **.doc** or **.pdf**

Extensions for assignments will be granted on a case by case basis. The maximum amount of time that can be granted for an extension is **7-days**.

Late assignments will be deducted **5% per day** from the deadline to a maximum of **20%**.

All assignments are due at 11:59PM

EVALUATIONS-AT-GLANCE

	ASSIGNMENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE
1	Ottawa 200	15%	Week 6
2	Midterm	15%	Week 7
3	Workshop and One-on-One Session	10%	Throughout the year
4	Class Participation	20%	Throughout the year
5	Ottawa Elections	25%	Week 10
6	Final Exam	15%	Week 12

EVALUATIONS

1. Ottawa 200

September 26 marks the 200 anniversary of the founding of Ottawa. Commemoration is an incredibly important part of politics and political communities. You will attend an event related to the commemoration of Ottawa 200 and will describe the event, what aspect of the event connects to Ottawa 200, and why the city felt it was critical to incorporate it into the celebration. **Students will write 1-2 pages and include photo documentation.**

2. Midterm

Students will have an in-class midterm in Week 7

3. Class Participation

Learning is not a spectator sport and this is a seminar. You are expected to attend each class, complete the week's course materials and be ready to discuss them. This will be assessed throughout the course, through your engagement in class.

4. Workshop and One-on-One Session

Students will be expected to attend one workshop session and one one-on-one skills sessions through the Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS).

5. Ottawa Elections

October 26, 2026 will be the election day in Ottawa. Voters will be selecting a series of city councillors, mayors and school board trustees. In this assignment, you are expected to attend an event related to the city's election. Whether it is a political rally, a councillors debate or some sort of information session from a specific candidate, students will attend one event between the start of school and election day.

Students will describe what the event was, what politicians attended, who organized it, a general estimate of how many people attended. It is important to also discuss what ideas or campaign promises and issues were raised. This includes discussing why you think these topics were raised.

Things to additionally include are how the actual mayoral election went, alongside with how the election within your own ward went.

Students will be expected to write **4-5 pages** with a minimum of **six** academic sources and include photo documentation.

6. Final Exam

Final Exam will be held in-class

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. **September 9:** Introduction and Land Acknowledgments
Read the syllabus

Week 2. **September 16:** Urban Governance

Andrew, Caroline, and David Doloreux. "Economic Development, Social Inclusion and Urban Governance: The Case of the City-Region of Ottawa in Canada." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36, no. 6 (November 2012): 1288–1305.

Week 3. **September 23:** Non-Governmental Agencies and Community Organization

Zbuche, Alexandra, and Mauro Romanelli. "The Role of NGOs in Urban Development." *International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics, Societal Impact of Knowledge and Design*, 2018, 637–48.

Week 4. **September 30:** Public Space and Memory

McHutchion, Benjamin. "Colonial Statues as Memorial Contact Zones: Macdonald, Cornwallis and Statue Removal in Canada." *Sculpture Journal* 31, no. 1 (March 2022): 55–74.

Week 5. **October 7:** Environment and Climate Change

"Building a Legacy of Local Climate Action: The Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program (2016–2022)." Federation of Canadian Municipalities, 2023.

Week 6. **October 14:** Health and Healthcare

Mayaud, Jerome R., Martino Tran, and Rohan Nuttall. "An Urban Data Framework for Assessing Equity in Cities: Comparing Accessibility to Healthcare Facilities in Cascadia." *Computers, Environment and Urban Systems* 78 (November 2019): 101401.

Week 7. **October 21:** Affordability in the City

Richmond, Chantelle, and Brian Dokis. “‘We Make It Work Because We Must’: Narrating the Creation of an Urban Indigenous Food Bank in London, Ontario, Canada.” *Land* 12, no. 11 (November 7, 2023): 2028.

FALL BREAK – October 26 to October 30

Week 8. **November 4:** Housing and Homelessness

Korzinski, David. “Economic Outlook: Burdened by Debt and Rising Housing Costs, Three-in-Ten Canadians ‘Struggling’ to Get By.” Angus Reid Institute, June 5, 2023.
<https://angusreid.org/canada-economy-personal-finance-bank-of-canada-inflation-interest-rates/>.

Week 9. **November 11:** 2SQT in the City

Rosenberg, Rae Daniel. “Negotiating Racialised (Un)Belonging: Black LGBTQ Resistance in Toronto’s Gay Village.” *Urban Studies* 58, no. 7 (May 2021): 1397–1413.

Week 10. **November 18:** Public Safety

Walby, Kevin, and Blair Wilkinson. “The Visual Politics of Public Police Instagram Use in Canada.” *New Media & Society* 25, no. 5 (May 2023): 898–920.

Week 11. **November 25:** Diversity and Community Tension

Hou, Feng, and Zheng Wu. “Racial Diversity, Minority Concentration, and Trust in Canadian Urban Neighborhoods.” *Social Science Research* 38, no. 3 (September 2009): 693–716.

Week 12. **December 2:** Final Exam

No lecture, just exam

Political Science Course Outline Appendix

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus):

<https://carleton.ca/safety/resources/>

Carleton Resources:

Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>

Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances: Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University.

Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

Pregnancy: Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at equity@carleton.ca or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

Religious obligation: Contact your Instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's official withdrawal dates

OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Please reference the [Academic Calendar](#) for each term's Official Exam Period (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)
For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton Calendar](#).

GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

- handing in "*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*"

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640 Loeb
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 th floor Library
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501 Nideyinàn
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory