

The University of Toronto

## **CITIES, REAL AND IMAGINED**

CCR199H / Winter 2018

Instructor: **HANG-SUN KIM**

Dept: German

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Hours: Mondays 1-3pm

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(or by appt.)

Class meets on **Wednesdays 2-4 at Northrop Frye, Room 231**

### **DESCRIPTION**

Cities have been described as places of desire and places of fear. They pulse with life, bringing together people from different class, gender, and ethnic backgrounds, simultaneously giving rise to a sense of freedom and oppression, a sense of belonging and alienation. This course will explore the city as a physical reality that shapes our lives, but is also a projection of our deepest imaginings. Through readings of philosophical and sociological texts by influential theorists of the city, we will consider various ancient and modern conceptions of urban space and subjectivity. Alongside these theoretical readings, we will also examine literary and filmic representations of the city as a space of desire, memory and power.

### **COURSE GOALS**

The primary goals of this course are to introduce students to theoretical conceptualizations and imaginative representations of urban space, and to enhance students' ability to analyze and interpret texts.

### **MATERIALS**

Most readings will be posted on Blackboard. Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities* can be purchased at the University of Toronto Bookstore.

### **REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION**

Attendance and Active Participation	15%
Blackboard Contributions	20%
Presentation	15%
Response Paper	20%
Final Paper	30%

**Attendance and participation (15%):** Regular attendance is mandatory. Absences will only be excused according to University regulations: for example, religious holidays, serious accidents or illness (medical note required), and serious family circumstances (written documentation required). Please notify me at least a week in advance in case you know you need to miss class. In addition

to excused absences each student may have 1 unexcused absence. Each unexcused absence after the second will result in a reduction of the final grade. Besides regular attendance, your participation represents a substantial part of your final grade. I expect you to come to class in time, having completed all the readings and assignments. You must bring to class a copy of the assigned text. You are responsible for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to quality and frequency of your participation.

**Blackboard contributions (20%):** You will need to read the assigned texts to contribute on Blackboard's "Discussion Board" in preparation for class (please make yourself familiar with Blackboard, if you do not know the portal yet: <https://portal.utoronto.ca>). Unless otherwise indicated, you can write on any aspect or question of the readings which seems interesting to you. You are also expected to read your classmates' contributions and respond to at least one other student's posting on a weekly basis. Blackboard contributions are due Tuesdays at 7pm. No late work will be accepted.

**Oral Presentation (15%):** You will work in groups of three or four and lead the class discussion on a given reading. The discussion should last approx. 30 minutes. The presentation will be graded for content as well as presentation skills. Dates for presentations will be determined on the first day of classes.

**Response Paper (20%):** You will have to write a paper of 750 words, in which you analyze one of the course readings. The topic of your response paper may not be the same as the topic you choose for your final paper. Please see due dates in the course program.

**Final Paper (30%):** You will have to write one essay of 1500 words, which engages with two or more of the course texts and reflects critically on one or more of the course themes. Topics for papers will be suggested, but you can also develop your own topic in consultation with me. Please see due dates in the course program. For each day that a paper is late, I will deduct 5% of the overall essay mark.

***A note on missed or late work:*** You can only obtain credit for your work if the absence or delay is related to reasons for excused absences as defined above. Except for emergencies, all excuses for late assignments must be discussed with me before the assignment due date. Except for emergencies, I will NOT accept excuses given after due date. An unexcused late assignment will result in a zero.

### **Inappropriate Use of Mobile Devices/Computers**

Phones or similar mobile devices should be off during class time! No texting is allowed. Mobile devices and laptops can be used during class only with the explicit permission of the instructor. In case of repeated texting despite warnings from the instructor, the student's participation grade will be automatically lowered.

### **Avoidance of Academic Offenses**

Academic integrity is one of the cornerstones of the University of Toronto. It is critically important both to maintain our community, which honours the values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness and responsibility and to protect you, the students within this community, and the value of the degree towards which you are all working so diligently. According to Section B of the [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#) which all students are expected to know and respect, it is an offence for students knowingly: to forge or in any other way alter or falsify any document or evidence required by the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered or falsified document, whether the record be in print or electronic form; to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic

examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to personate another person, or to have another person personate, at any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work; to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism; to submit, without knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere; to submit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted. Please respect these rules and the values which they protect.

### **Accessibility Needs**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

## CALENDAR

NB: The course instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule.

<p><b>Week 1</b> Jan. 10</p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the topic</li> <li>• Organizational matters</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 2</b> Jan. 17</p>	<p><b>City Culture and Urban Personality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simmel, Georg. "Metropolis and Mental Life." In <i>Simmel: On Individuality and Social Forms</i>. Ed. Donald N. Levine. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1971.</li> <li>• Wirth, Louis. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." In <i>The City Reader. Fifth Edition</i>. Ed. Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout. New York: Routledge, 2011, pp. 96-104.</li> <li>• Ruttman, Walter. <i>Berlin: Sympony of a Great City</i> (1927) [film]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 3</b> Jan. 24</p>	<p><b>Alone in a Crowd: The Flâneur's View of the City</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poe, Edgar Allen. "The Man of the Crowd" (1840)</li> <li>• Baudelaire, Charles. "A Painter of Modern Life." In <i>A Painter of Modern Life</i>. Trans. Jonathan Mayne. London: Phaidon, 1964, pp. 1-35.</li> <li>• Benjamin, Walter. "The Flâneur." In <i>Charles Baudelaire: A Lyric Poet in the Era of High Capitalism</i>. London: NLB, 1973, pp. 35-66.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 4</b> Jan. 31</p>	<p><b>Walking in the City: Urban Space and Gender</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woolf, Virginia. "Street Haunting: A London Adventure." In <i>Street Haunting and Other Essays</i>. Ed. Stuart N. Clarke. London: Vintage Books, 2015.</li> <li>• Janet Wolff. "Gender and the Haunting of Cities." In <i>The Invisible Flâneuse</i>. New York: Manchester University Press, 2006, pp. 18-28.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 5</b> Feb. 7</p>	<p><b>Strangers and Surveillance in the City</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobs, Jane. "The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety." In <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i>. New York: Vintage books, 1992, pp. 29-54.</li> <li>• Dalsgaard, Andreas M. <i>The Human Scale</i> [film]</li> </ul>
<p><b>Week 6</b> Feb. 14</p>	<p><b>The City and the Car</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mimi Sheller and John Urry. "The City and the Car." <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>. Vol. 24.4 (Dec. 2000), pp. 737-57.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stout, Frederic. "The Automobile, the City and the New Urban Mobilities." In <i>The City Reader. Sixth Edition</i>. Eds. Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout. New York: Routledge, 2016, pp. 696-706.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response papers are due in class!</b></p>
Feb. 21	<b>READING WEEK – NO CLASS</b>
<b>Week 7</b> Feb. 28	<p><b>The Urban Working Class</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marx, Karl. <i>Communist Manifesto</i> (1848). (excerpt)</li> <li>Engels, Frederick. "The Great Towns." In <i>Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1844</i>. Trans. Florence Wischnewetzky. London: G. Allen and Unwin, 1950, pp. 23-74.</li> <li>Seabrook, Jeremy. "The Urban Poor: An Invisible Resource." In <i>The City Cultures Reader. Second Edition</i>. Eds. Malcolm Miles, Tim Hall, and Iain Borden. New York: Routledge, 2004, pp. 475-83.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8</b> Mar. 7	<p><b>The Smell and Waste of Cities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illich, Ivan. "The Dirt of Cities, the Aura of the City, the Smell of the Dead, Utopia of an Odorless City." In <i>The City Cultures Reader. Second Edition</i>. Eds. Malcolm Miles, Tim Hall, and Iain Borden. New York: Routledge, 2004, pp. 355-59.</li> <li>Walker, Lucy. "Waste Land" (2010) [film]</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9</b> Mar. 14	<p><b>Gentrification and the Creative Class</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Florida, Richard. "Cities and the Creative Class." In <i>Cities and the Creative Class</i>. New York: Routledge, 2004, pp. 27-48.</li> <li>Byrne, David. "If the 1 Percent Stifles New York's Creative Talent, I'm Out of Here." In <i>Tales of Two Cities: The Best and Worst of Times in Today's New York</i>. Ed. John Freeman. New York: Penguin Books, 2015, pp. 242-246.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10</b> Mar. 21	<p><b>Utopias and Dystopias</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calvino, Italo. <i>Invisible Cities</i>. Trans. William Weaver. New York: Vintage Classics, 2002.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11</b> Mar. 28	<p><b>Cities and Migration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appiah, Kwame Anthony. <i>Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers</i>. New York: W.W. Norton &amp; Company, 2006, pp. xi-12.</li> <li>Saunders, Doug. <i>Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping our World</i>. Toronto: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010, pp. 1-36.</li> </ul>

<b>Week 12</b> Apr. 4	<b>Postmodern Cities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TBA</li></ul> <b>Final Papers are due!</b>