

The University of Toronto

CITIES, REAL AND IMAGINED

GER195H / Fall 2023

Instructor: **HANG-SUN KIM**

Office Hours: T & R 2-3pm (or by appt.)

Office: Odette Hall 3rd Floor, Room 305

Dept: Germanic Languages and Literatures

Email: hangsun.kim@utoronto.ca

Class meets in person on **Fridays 12pm – 2pm**

Carr Hall 103

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 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- be introduced to theoretical conceptualizations and imaginative representations of urban space.
- develop skills of reading environment as text.
- develop analytical reading and writing skills by analyzing, investigating, contextualizing, and interpreting theoretical, historical, and literary/filmic texts on cities.

MATERIALS

Most readings will be posted on Quercus.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and Active Participation	15%
Online Contributions	15%
Presentation	15%
Midterm Paper	20%
Final Paper	35%

Attendance and Active Participation (15%): Regular attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed one unexcused absence over the course of the semester. Please notify me at least a week in advance in case you know you need to miss class. For each unexcused absence after the first one, 10% will be taken off from your final attendance and participation grade. An excused absence is defined as one that has been reported on ACORN or with the college registrar. Besides regular attendance, your active 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, and you are responsible for contributing to a meaningful exchange of ideas. You will be graded according to the quality and frequency of your participation.

Online Contributions (15%): You will need to read the assigned texts to contribute comments on Quercus. 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. Discussion board contributions are due Thursdays at 11:59pm. 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 presentation should be 15-20 minutes long. You will be evaluated based on your ability to formulate insights into the text (not a mere summary) and to engage your audience. Dates for presentations will be determined on the first day of classes.

Midterm Assignment (20%): You will have to write a paper 4 pages (~ 1000 words) in length, in which you carry out an analysis of one of the course readings or films. 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.

Final Paper (35%): You will have to write a research paper of 5 to 6 pages (1600–2000 words) in length. 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.

To encourage and reward better work habits, and also to underscore the importance of the research and writing processes (and not just the final product), I am having you prepare your essay and group presentations using OneDrive, which keeps an ongoing record of your edits and revisions. Any essays and presentations that are prepared without using OneDrive will not be marked (i.e. will receive a zero).

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 the due date. An unexcused late assignment will result in a zero.

Mobile Devices

In order to minimize distractions during class time, I ask that phones and other mobile devices be turned off during online meetings unless requested otherwise by the course instructor.

Academic Integrity

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. Academic integrity is defined as the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. All students should act with personal integrity, respect other students' dignity, rights and property, and help create and maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their efforts. Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course! Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, using online translators, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Students who are found to be dishonest will receive academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the [University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#).

The use of generative artificial intelligence tools and apps is strictly prohibited in all course assignments (including the use of these tools to prepare outlines, write, or generate slides and images for class assignments) unless explicitly stated otherwise by the instructor in this course. This includes ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants. Use of generative AI in this course may be considered use of an unauthorized aid, which is a form of cheating. Representing as one's own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was AI-generated will be considered an academic offense in this course.

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 at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca as soon as possible.