

The University of Toronto
CITIES, REAL AND IMAGINED
GER195H1S / Winter 2021

Instructor: **HANG-SUN KIM**
Office Hours: TBA (or by appt.)

Dept: German
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Class meets on University of Toronto's Zoom platform on **Thursdays 10:10am to 12pm.**

Please click on the link below to join the class:

<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/86464728058>

Meeting ID: 864 6472 8058

Passcode: 832803

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 Quercus and some books will be available at the University of Toronto Bookstore.

REQUIREMENTS / EVALUATION

Attendance and Active Participation	15%
Online Contributions	20%
Presentation	15%
Position Paper	15%
Take Home Final	35%

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, and serious family circumstances. 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.

Online contributions (20%): 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 Wednesdays 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 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). Dates for presentations will be determined on the first day of classes.

Position Paper (15%): You will be writing one position paper. This is a brief abstract, outlining your position on a text. You will select texts at the beginning of the semester and formulate your argument in 2 to 3 pages double-spaced (500 to 750 words). The goal of this assignment is to practice the art of argumentation - how to set up your argument, how to think about texts on a deeper level. The position paper should use textual evidence. Do not merely speculate. Write clearly and simply. Please share your response paper or a brief summary of your position on Quercus on the day before our class meets. Your positions will also be used in class to help guide the conversation. Your position paper may not be on the same text as you choose for your oral presentation.

Take Home Final (35%): 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 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.

Privacy Considerations

Students may not record any portion of a lecture without the prior and explicit written permission of the course instructor. Provostial guidelines on the Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology, available at <https://www.provost.utoronto.ca/planning-policy/information-communication-technology-appropriate-use/>, state that:

The unauthorized use of any form of device to audiotape, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduced lectures, course notes or teaching materials provided by instructors is covered by the Canadian Copyright Act and is prohibited. Students must obtain prior written consent to such recording. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld.

Students may not create **audio recordings** of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to beginning to record lectures. Students creating unauthorized audio recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Students may not take **screenshots** of class chats, class discussion board entries or any other course content without the prior and explicit permission of the course instructor. Taking screenshots of class chats, discussion board entries or other class content and distributing them via the Internet using social media such as Facebook, peer-to-peer file sharing such as One Drive or Dropbox, or other distribution channels may be considered a **violation of privacy** and of intellectual property rights. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct. In accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, persons who have special needs will be accommodated.

Mobile Devices

In order to minimize distractions during class time, I ask that phones or similar mobile devices be 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. 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 or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>