What is it? This is a field trip course for students who are interested in exploring the urban landscapes of Toronto. The course is organized around a combination of seminar classes and field trips in Toronto. Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

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When? Thursday evenings, 5-8 pm and Friday afternoons, 1-5 pm.

What and where? The course consists of classroom instruction (seminars and lectures) and visits to four field sites in the Toronto metropolitan area.

Office hours. Wednesday 12-1 pm; Thursday 12-1 pm; and by appointment

Content: This field trip course examines elements of postwar Toronto’s social, political and economic landscapes. Using historical perspectives on the changing character of selected areas, the course explores the creation and reproduction of the city's landscapes over time. A broad approach centered on the political economy of modernist urbanism, metropolitan development and creative destruction will be used to examine the key dynamics of urban change in Toronto after 1945.

The course centers on four modules, each of which has two interlinked parts. The first part consists of four walking field trips. The walking trips will last for two to four hours and take place on Friday afternoons starting at 1 pm. The four module themes and sites are:

A: Postwar modernist urbanism - University-Carlton-Parliament-Bloor area;  
B: Modernism and its discontents - Cabbagetown, Regent Park, Trefann Court, West Donlands, St Lawrence areas;  
C: Redeveloping downtown - Dundas-Jarvis-Front-University area;  
D: The new face of modernity - City Place, Liberty Village, Parkdale areas.

The second part consists of two to three hour seminar classes that take place at the university on Thursday between 5 and 8 pm. Although there may be some lectures, these classes are geared to providing students with an opportunity to discuss the class readings and the field trips. Other class time will be spent on student presentation of their on-going projects, and general discussion. Class time and field visits are compulsory and are evaluated through a participation grade.

Costs: There are a few additional non-tuition costs. These will be mostly for getting to and from the field sites, which will involve the cost of local transit for the most part.
Weekly schedule
September 11  Introduction
September 18  Module A seminar: Postwar modernist urbanism
September 19  Module A field trip: Postwar modernist urbanism
September 25  Module B seminar: Modernism and its discontents
September 26  Module B field trip: Modernism and its discontents
October 2   Module C seminar: Redeveloping downtown
October 3   Module C field trip: Redeveloping downtown
October 16  Module D seminar: The new face of modernity
October 17  Module D field trip: The new face of modernity
October 30  Class presentations I
November 6  Class presentations II

Field site logistics: It is your responsibility to get to the field sites on time. We will be in the field regardless of the weather. You must wear comfortable walking shoes and clothes, and, depending on the weather, you must bring a good raincoat (or umbrella) or warm coat, and sun protection (hat and sun cream). Please dress appropriately.

Writing and report due dates
Sept 18 to October 16  Ten reading summaries
Sept 25      Linked report on module 1 (postwar modernist urbanism)
October 2    Linked report on module 2 (Modernism and its discontents)
October 9    Proposal
October 9    Linked report on module 3 (Redeveloping downtown)
October 30 and Nov 6  Project presentation summary
November 7 and 14  Term paper

Evaluation: The grade for the course is as follows:
  Participation  30%
  Project report  5%
  Written work  65%

The penalty for late assignments is 5% of the earned grade for each weekday late.

Participation: participation is more than just turning up to walk the streets or to sit in class. It also involves constructive engagement with the class material, the other students, the instructor, and the teaching assistant. You are to contribute to the discussion as we explore Toronto and as we talk around the classroom table. The concern here is not with the ‘amount’ of talking you do (although you do have to do some), but with the usefulness and quality of your contributions.

Project oral report: in the last two classes of term (October 30 and November 6) you will present a short oral report on your term paper to the class. One half of the class will give their report on October 30; the other half on November 6. The report will be a summary of your paper’s question, evidence, and argument.
Written work: this consists of several elements. All written work is to have one inch borders, and to be doubled-spaced, single-sided and written in 12 font type.

You are to submit the following:

Reading summaries (5%)
Ten one-page summaries of the class readings. (Please make sure that they are only one page!) They are due no later than 10 am on the day of the class in which they will be discussed.

Linked report (10%)
One two-page, double-spaced, ‘linked’ report on one of the modules A, B or C (postwar modernist urbanism, modernism and its discontents, or the redeveloping downtown). A linked report is an exploration of the ‘conversation’ between the field area and the weekly readings. The purpose of the report is to have you think through the relationship between the field and seminar elements of the course. The reports are due in class on the following dates:
* Postwar modernist report - September 25
* Modernism and its discontents report - October 2
* Redeveloping downtown report - October 16.

Term paper (50%)
This consists of two pieces of work. The first is a two-page proposal (10%) that sets out the question and argument of the term paper. It is due on October 9.

The second is a 10-12 page paper (40%). Your term paper (and thus proposal) will explore and report on one of the class themes by using evidence taken from a) the areas we explored in Toronto; b) secondary readings; and c) the Toronto newspapers. The themes you can choose from are: immigration, suburbanization, gentrification, urban redevelopment, housing, and segregation. The purpose of the paper is to have you think through the creative destruction processes and ideas of postwar modernist urbanism deployed in postwar Toronto. This may involve using some historical sources to think thorough how a particular street, area or neighborhood experienced change over time. The submission date for the paper depends on when you make your paper presentation: the paper is due November 7 for those who give their oral report on October 30; and the paper is due November 14 for those who give their oral report on November 6.

Note: Instructor-student contact typically occurs in the classroom, as we walk the street of Toronto, and during office hours. Email contact is limited to questions requiring simple yes - no answers, to making appointments, and to dealing with emergency situations. Please come to my office hours if you wish to discuss matters related to the class.
Readings

Module A: Postwar modernist urbanism


Module B: Modernism and its discontents


Module C: Redeveloping downtown


Module D: The new face of modernity
