Course Instructors | Dr. Leela Viswanathan | Email: leela.viswanathan@queensu.ca
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Office | Mac-Corry Room D321 | 
Contact Time | TBA | 
Format | Two 1.5 hour lectures twice a week with 4 seminars during the lecture period for deeper interactive discussion of course topics and preparation for assignments. | 
Class Assessment | Assignment #1: Brief Response Paper (5%) Due Week 3 | 
 | Assignment #2: Brief Response Paper (5%) Due Week 5 | 
 | Assignment #3: Current Issue Research Log and Synthesis (25%) Due Week 6 | 
 | Assignment #4: Stakeholder Analysis and Policy Brief (35%) Due Week 9 | 
 | Assignment #5: Reading Synthesis (20%) Due Week 13 | 
 | Bonus Field Assignment +5% | 

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**
The purpose of this course is to examine the relationship between geography and urban politics, including different dynamics of power and inequality in cities. Students will discover how politics, planning, and the ways that different actors interact with governing arrangements influence processes and actions that shape cities. Geography is integral to this understanding because urban politics makes reference to different issues studied at neighbourhood, city, and regional scales. This course is intended to address the needs and interests of geography students to gain scholarly and practical experience to apply skills in theory development, research, policy analysis and writing to contemporary issues in urban political geography. Students will learn how to express their ideas, arguments and opinions with different audiences that influence urban policy and planning. This course will benefit undergraduate students interested in the fields of urban and regional planning, government, and public policy.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**
At the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. Apply key concepts of power and governance to the context of urban political geography.
2. Describe and explain how cities are shaped and developed by spatial and political processes.
3. Distinguish between different individuals, groups, and institutions that connect urban politics with social and spatial geographies.
4. Formulate their own opinions and justify connections between issues in geography and urban politics.
5. Evaluate issues and processes in urban political geography by combining skills in research and critical thought to effectively communicate to academic peers and policy/planning practitioners.

**COURSE TOPICS**
This course will examine topics including: approaches to the study of urban political geography; the relationship between urban development and power; urban actors and stakeholders; public engagement; planning; government and governance. In 2019, students will also have the opportunity to explore topics that include building Indigenous-municipal relationships, sanctuary cities, and environmental justice. Lectures and assignments will focus primarily on North American urban areas and case studies; however, international examples will also be explored.

**COURSE READINGS**
This course will draw from a variety of readings that will be posted on onQ. In addition, there is one required book: Manuel, Arthur and Derrickson, Grand Chief Ronald M. (2015). *Unsettling Canada: A national wake-up call*. Toronto: Between the Lines. (288 pages) ~ approximate price: $26