

# HIST 4530: The Development of Toronto

#yorkhist4530

@YorkHist

Thursdays 2:30pm to 5:30pm



Department of History

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## Course Description

Over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, cities became the predominant form of human settlement in Canada and the rest of North America. In Canada, Toronto is the largest metropolitan centre and its history illustrates many of the trends in North American urbanization. This course will explore the history of Toronto from its beginnings to the present, focusing primarily on its industrial and post-industrial urban development in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It will also consider the state of the city and its region in the twenty-first century. Students will explore a variety of topics in the urban history of Toronto, including its environmental, social, economic, and cultural histories. This course includes weekly readings, discussions, research, and field trips. Students will engage in direct primary source research projects, using archival sources from local libraries, museums, and archives in the Greater Toronto Area in order to explore and understand the complicated and fascinating history of metropolitan Toronto.

## Organization of the Course

The course involves three-hour seminar sessions once per week. These sessions will combine discussion of key concepts and themes from course readings with student presentations, group work, archival research, and field trips. **All listed readings are mandatory and essential to completion of this course. Active oral participation is crucial to success in this course.**

Overall, students will focus on a single major research essay assignment or a major digital research assignment over the course of the year along with a literature review in the first semester. They will work closely in small groups to aid one another in the preparation of their papers and other assignments.

This course will also include online participation using Moodle and Twitter. Students are encouraged to follow the #yorkhist4530 hashtag on Twitter for course announcements, discussion questions, and other relevant course information. Students may also participate in online discussion forums on Moodle for each week.

## Readings

**Required Textbooks:**

- Armstrong, Christopher and H.V. Nelles. *The Revenge of the Methodist Bicycle Company: Sunday Streetcars and Municipal Reform in Toronto, 1888-1897*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011 [1977]. ISBN 978-0-19-544337-0
- Boudreau, Julie-Anne, Roger Keil, and Douglas Young. *Changing Toronto: Governing Urban Neoliberalism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-44260-093-5
- Keenan, Edward. *Some Great Idea: Good Neighbourhoods, Crazy Politics, and the Invention of Toronto*. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2014. ISBN-13: 9781552452660
- Sandberg, Anders L., Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank. Eds. *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014. ISBN 978-1-926633-66-4
- Sewell, John. *The Shape of the Suburbs: Understanding Toronto's Sprawl*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-8020-9587-9
- Whitzman, Carolyn. *Suburb, Slum, Urban Village: Transformations in Toronto's Parkdale Neighbourhood, 1875-2002*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7748-1536-9

**In addition to the textbooks, this course uses online readings available through our course Moodle site.** Readings listed under a particular week should be read by Thursday of that week. Discussions depend upon students having done their readings.

## Assignments and Evaluation

The grade for the course will be based on the following percentages:

Short Research Project Proposal	5%
Short Research Project	20%
Long Research Project Proposal	5%
Long Research Project	30%
Presentation	10%
Discussion participation	25%
Research cluster participation	5%

## General Rules, Policies and Expectations

Please make sure that all work that you hand in and present for this class is your own. The university takes this issue very seriously. We expect you to be familiar with all of the university policies relating to academic integrity found here: <http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/>. Violations of the York Senate Policy on Academic Honesty – including submitting work written by someone else or submitted in another course, failing to use quotation marks and citations when using or paraphrasing the printed or electronically-transmitted work of others, collaborating on written assignments, cheating during examinations, and aiding or abetting academic misconduct – will be treated severely. Recent penalties have included failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University, and withholding or rescinding a York degree. For further information, see <http://www.yorku.ca/univsec/policies/document.php?document=69>.

Assignments should be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Please double-space all written assignments and print them in standard 12-point font with 1-inch margins. Include your name and the assignment's title at the top of the paper (no separate title pages necessary). All sources should be books and journal articles (i.e., no internet sources unless obtained from the library's e-resources) and should be cited, using the Chicago Manual of Style

(<http://www.library.yorku.ca/eresolver/?id=996235>), in **footnotes**. You must also provide a properly formatted bibliography for each assignment. Only hard copies of assignments will be accepted; no electronic copies please. Students may submit email copies of assignments only as a date-stamp. Do not slide assignments under the instructor's office door. Assignments placed in the History Department drop box will not be date-stamped and will only be considered received on the date the instructor retrieves the assignment from his mailbox. **Please also keep copies of all drafts and rough work.**

If you need to submit an assignment electronically, please follow these steps:

- Request permission to submit electronically from instructor
- Email electronic copy as an attachment (students are responsible for ensuring document is attached)
- Submit identical hard copy in next class meeting or earliest possible date (if hard copy is different from digital copy, assignment will be graded 0%)

Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized one letter grade per day (i.e., if one day late, an A paper receives a B+) up to a maximum of five days. **After five days, assignments will not be accepted.** We will consider exceptions to the lateness penalty only when they are supported by authoritative written documentation (i.e., a doctor's note) or they can be legitimately substantiated. Students may not request deadline extensions within one week of a due date. All deadline extension requests must be made in writing via email to seminar instructor.

We will accommodate students with disabilities working with the York University Learning Disability Services office (<http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lds/>). Please contact the instructor directly to make sure we are informed of your needs. If you will require any kind of accommodation for religious reasons, please let us know as soon as possible. Attendance is otherwise mandatory (see "Course participation" section below).

### **Short Research Project Proposal**

**Due: October 16**

All students are required to submit a 1-2 page short research project proposal along with a 1-page bibliography. This assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. This project will be a short web essay. Students may select any topic in Toronto history. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

### **Short Research Project**

**Due: December 4**

All students are required to submit a short web essay based on historical primary source research along with a bibliography. This essay should be written in Wordpress and should be approximately 2500 words in length. This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

### **Long Research Project Proposal**

**Due: February 5**

All students are required to submit a 2-3 page long research project proposal along with a 1-page bibliography. This assignment is worth 5% of your final grade. This project will be a long web or print essay. Students may select any topic in Toronto history. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

## Long Research Project

Due: April 9

For the long research project assignment, students will complete a 4000-word web or print essay with a bibliography. This assignment is worth 30% of your final grade. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

## Presentation

In the final weeks of the course, all students must complete an in-class presentation based on the long research project assignment. This presentation will be between 8-10 minutes in length. Please consult the detailed assignment description on the course website.

## Course participation

Your active participation in class is essential, and we will measure it in a variety of ways. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every class. You must show that you are engaging with course readings and themes by orally contributing thoughtfully to in-class discussions. Students will also engage in group work with small weekly assignments that are essential to completion of the major research project assignment.

Students will also be able to participate online for partial credit each week. This can include contributions to Moodle discussion forums or Twitter discussions on the #yorkhist4530 hashtag. If students wish to participate on Twitter, they must register their Twitter handles with the course instructor.

Because this course aims to teach students about digital history, including online research and communication, students are encouraged to bring internet-connected computing devices to seminar (laptops, tablet computers, smartphones). **These devices should be used exclusively for course-relevant purposes.**

**All course participation, including in-class discussion and online discussion, must be in compliance with the York University Student Code of Conduct (<http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/StudentCodeOfConduct.pdf>). In order to ensure this, students should try at all times to be respectful toward one another and toward all faculty and staff. Active and respectful student participation is essential to establishing a productive and engaging learning environment for everyone.**

# Course Schedule

## Week One: Introduction to Course

Thursday, September 11, 2014

- Review course syllabus and expectations
- Research Cluster: Organize groups; register Twitter handles and Wordpress accounts

## Week Two: The State of Toronto

Thursday, September 18, 2014

- Read: Keenan, Edward. *Some Great Idea: Good Neighbourhoods, Crazy Politics, and the Invention of Toronto*. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2014.
- Read: Sandberg, L. Anders, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, "Introduction: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 3-15. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Research Cluster: Brainstorm research topics

## Week Three: Before Toronto

Thursday, September 25, 2014

- Read: Johnson, Jon. "The Indigenous Environmental History of Toronto, 'The Meeting Place.'" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 59-69. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Read: Firth, Edith G. "Introduction" In *The Town of York: A Collection of Documents of Early Toronto*. Edited by Edith G. Firth, xxxi-xciv. Toronto: Champlain Society, 1962.  
[http://link.library.utoronto.ca/champlain/item\\_record.cfm?Idno=9\\_96838&lang=eng&query=The%20town%20of%20York,%201793-1815:%20a%20collection%20of%20documents%20of%20early%20Toronto&browsertype=Title&startrow=1](http://link.library.utoronto.ca/champlain/item_record.cfm?Idno=9_96838&lang=eng&query=The%20town%20of%20York,%201793-1815:%20a%20collection%20of%20documents%20of%20early%20Toronto&browsertype=Title&startrow=1)
- Research Cluster: Online archives and primary sources

## Week Four: City of Toronto Archives Field Trip

Thursday, October 2, 2014

- Read: Description of Archives Holdings  
<http://www.toronto.ca/archives/description.htm>
- Meet at City of Toronto Archives at 3:00pm (255 Spadina Road)

## Week Five: Clara Thomas Archives and Archives of Ontario Field Trip

Thursday, October 9, 2014

- Read and Complete: Archival Research Tutorial  
[http://www.library.yorku.ca/binaries/ArchivesSpecialCollections/Guides\\_York/index.html](http://www.library.yorku.ca/binaries/ArchivesSpecialCollections/Guides_York/index.html)
- Read: Archives of Ontario, "Prepare for Your Visit to the Archives of Ontario"  
<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/about/prepare.aspx>
- Register for Archives of Ontario:  
<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/about/register.aspx>
- Meet at entrance to Clara Thomas Archives in Scott Library

## Week Six: The Political Economy of the Early City

Thursday, October 16, 2014

- Read: Armstrong, Frederick H. "Metropolitanism and Toronto Re-Examined, 1825-1850" *Historical Papers of the Canadian Historical Association* 1966: 29-40.  
<http://www.erudit.org.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/revue/hp/1966/v1/n1/index.html>
- Read: Atkinson, Logan. "The Impact of Cholera on the Design and Implementation of Toronto's First Municipal By-Laws" *Urban History Review* 30.2 (2002): 3-15.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45022977&site=ehost-live>
- Read: Sanford, Barbara. "The Political Economy of Land Development in Nineteenth Century Toronto" *Urban History Review* 16.1 (1987): 17-33.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=27322802&site=ehost-live>
- Research Cluster: Finding Secondary Sources

## Week Seven: WordPress Lab

Thursday, October 23, 2014

- Watch: "WordPress: A Simple Beginner's Introduction"  
<http://youtu.be/u3KEwBhuEfu>
- Read: Dorn, Sherman. "Is (Digital) History More than an Argument about the Past?" In *Writing History in the Digital Age*, edited by Kristen Nawrotzki and Jack Dougherty. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2013.  
<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/d/dh/12230987.0001.001/1:4/--writing-history-in-the-digital-age?g=dculture;rgn=div1;view=fulltext;xc=1#4.1>

## Week Eight: The History of Parkdale

Thursday, November 6, 2014

- Read: Whitzman, Carolyn. *Suburb, Slum, Urban Village: Transformations in Toronto's Parkdale Neighbourhood, 1875-2002*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2009.
- Research Cluster: Bibliography software

## Week Nine: Infrastructure

Thursday, November 13, 2014

- Read: Jones, Elwood and Douglas McCalla. "Toronto Waterworks, 1840-77: Continuity and Change in Nineteenth-Century Toronto Politics" *Canadian Historical Review* 60.3 (1979): 300-

323.

<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=4687261&site=ehost-live>

- Read: Brace, Catharine. "Public Works in the Canadian City: The Provision of Sewers in Toronto, 1870-1913" *Urban History Review* 23.2 (1995): 33-43.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=34020906&site=ehost-live>
- Read: McMahon, Michael. "Toronto's Urban Organic Machines: The R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant and the Ashbridge's Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant." In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 189-208. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Research Cluster: Discussion of research topics

## Week Ten: Urban Reform

Thursday, November 20, 2014

- Read: Armstrong, Christopher and H.V. Nelles. *The Revenge of the Methodist Bicycle Company: Sunday Streetcars and Municipal Reform in Toronto, 1888-1897*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2011 [1977].
- Research Cluster: Essay outlines

## Week Eleven: Confronting Modernity

Thursday, November 27, 2014

- Read: Walden, Keith. *Becoming Modern in Toronto: The Industrial Exhibition and the Shaping of a Late Victorian Culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1997.  
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3285782>
  - Introduction, 3-31
  - Ch. 6: Entertainment, 247-291
  - Epilogue: Modernity, 333-339
- Research Cluster: Peer Review

## Week Twelve: Gender, Sexuality, and Crime

Thursday, December 4, 2014

- Read: Strange, Carolyn. *Toronto's Girl Problem: The Perils and Pleasures of the City, 1880-1930*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1995.  
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3285857>
  - Ch. 4: The Social Evil in the Queen City, 89-115
- Read: Backhouse, Constance. "The Celebrated Abortion Trial of Dr. Emily Stowe, Toronto, 1879." *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 8.2 (1991): 159-187.  
<http://www.cbmh.ca/index.php/cbmh/article/view/232>
- Read: Maynard, Steven. "Through a Hole in the Lavatory Wall: Homosexual Subcultures, Police Surveillance, and the Dialectics of Discovery, Toronto, 1890-1930" *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 5.2 (1994): 207-242.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45826848&site=ehost-live>

## Week Thirteen: Conservation, Nature, and Recreation

Thursday, January 8, 2015

- Read: Nelles, H.V. "The Islands" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 271-290. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Read: Dirnfeld, Rebecca. "Cultivating Culture in Toronto's Allan Gardens, 1860-1914" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 293-308. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Read: Sandberg, L. Anders and Lisa Wallace. "Conservation and Development: From Rouge Park to the Oak Ridges Moraine" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 311-336. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Research Cluster:

## Week Fourteen: On the Waterfront

Thursday, January 15, 2015

- Read: Merrens, Roy. "Port Authorities as Urban Land Developers: The Case of the Toronto Harbour Commissioners and Their Outer Harbour Project, 1912-68" *Urban History Review* 17.2 (1988): 92-105.  
<http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/docview/1300095415/fulltextPDF/1421FD42ACA2583822E/1?accountid=15182>
- Read: Desfor, Gene and Jennifer Bonnell. "Planning Nature and the City: Toronto's Lower Don River and Port Lands" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 165-186. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Read: Foster, Jennifer and Gail Fraser. "Predators, Prey and the Dynamics of Change at the Leslie Street Spit" In *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*. Edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 211-224. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2014.
- Research Cluster:

## Week Fifteen: A City in Depression

Thursday, January 22, 2015

- Read: Riendeau, Roger. "A Clash of Interests: Dependency and the Municipal Problem in the Great Depression" *Journal of Canadian Studies* 14.1 (1979): 50-58.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=46943800&site=ehost-live>
- Read: Vokey, Scott. "Inspiration for Insurrection or Harmless Humour? Class and Politics in the Editorial Cartoons of Three Toronto Newspapers During the Early 1930s" *Labour/Le Travail* 45 (Spring 2000): 141-170.  
<http://journals.hil.unb.ca.ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/index.php/llt/article/view/5426/6295>
- Read: Srigley, Katrina. "Clothing Stories: Consumption, Identity, and Desire in Depression-Era Toronto" *Journal of Women's History* 19.1 (2007): 82-104.



<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=24390743&site=ehost-live>

- Research Cluster:

## Week Sixteen: Immigrant Communities and Labour

Thursday, January 29, 2015

- Read: Frager, Ruth. *Sweatshop Strife: Class, Ethnicity, and Gender in the Jewish Labour Movement of Toronto, 1900-1939*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992.  
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3285917>
  - Ch. 4 “Mixing with People on Spadina: The Tense Relations between Non-Jewish Workers and Jewish Workers,” pgs. 77-97
- Read: Iacovetta, Franca. *Such Hardworking People: Italian Immigrants in Postwar Toronto*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 1992.  
<https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3289902>
  - Ch. 4 “From Contadina to Woman Worker”, pgs. 77-102
- Read: Miranda, Susana. “‘An Unlikely Collection of Union Militants’: Portuguese Immigrant Cleaning Women Become Subjects in Postwar Toronto” *Atlantis* 32.1 (2007): 111-121.  
<http://journals.msvu.ca/ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/index.php/atlantis/article/view/1155/1089>
- Research Cluster:

## Week Seventeen: Confronting Postwar Planning in Toronto

Thursday, February 5, 2015

- Read: Brushett, Kevin. “‘People and Government Travelling Together’: Community Organization, Urban Planning and the Politics of Post-War Reconstruction in Toronto, 1943-1953” *Urban History Review* 27.2 (1999): 44-58.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45022965&site=ehost-live>
- Read: Purdy, Sean. “‘It was tough on everybody’: Low-Income Families and Housing Hardship in Post-World War II Toronto” *Social History* 37.2 (2003): 457-482.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=11719391&site=ehost-live>
- Read: Robinson, Danielle. “Modernism at a Crossroad: The Spadina Expressway Controversy in Toronto, Ontario ca. 1960-1971” *Canadian Historical Review* 92.2 (2011): 295-322.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=60511814&site=ehost-live>
- Research Cluster:

## Week Eighteen: Public Memory and Heritage Toronto Field Trip

Thursday, February 12, 2015

- Read: Williamson, Mary. “The Art Museum and the Public Library Under a Single Roof: A Nineteenth-Century Ideal Pursued at the Toronto Public Library from 1883 to World War I” *Ontario History* 98.2 (2006): 135-160.

<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=23434560&site=ehost-live>

- Meet at: 3:15pm in front of 98 Atlantic Avenue

## Week Nineteen: Suburban Sprawl

Thursday, February 26, 2015

- Read: Sewell, John. *The Shape of the Suburbs: Understanding Toronto's Sprawl*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Research Cluster:

## Week Twenty: Suburbs and Youth in the 1960s and 1970s

Thursday, March 5, 2015

- Read: Henderson, Stuart. "Toronto's Hippie Disease: End Days in the Yorkville Scene, August 1968" *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* 17.1 (2006): 205-234.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=46948077&site=ehost-live>
- Read: Penfold, Steve. "'Are we to go literally to the hot dogs?': Parking Lots, Drive-ins, and the Critique of Progress in Toronto's Suburbs, 1965-1975" *Urban History Review* 33.1 (Fall 2004): 8-23.  
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=45028410&site=ehost-live>

## Week Twenty-One: Neo-Liberalism and the GTA

Thursday, March 12, 2015

- Read: Boudreau, Julie-Anne, Roger Keil, and Douglas Young. *Changing Toronto: Governing Urban Neoliberalism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2009.
- Research Cluster:

## Week Twenty-Two: Research Presentations

Thursday, March 19, 2015

## Week Twenty-Three: Research Presentations

Thursday, March 26, 2015

## Week Twenty-Four: Research Presentations

Thursday, April 2, 2015