

HIST 4530: The Development of Toronto

#yorkhist4530

@YorkHist

Thursdays 2:30pm to 5:30pm (BC 228) 

Department of History

Instructor: Sean Kheraj

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Fall Office Hours: Fridays 10:30am-11:20pm; Fridays 2:30pm-3:30pm

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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 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 two research projects (one in the Fall and another in the Winter). They will work closely in small groups to aid one another in the preparation of their research projects.

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
- Bonnell, Jennifer. *Reclaiming the Don: An Environmental History of Toronto's Don River Valley*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014. ISBN 9781442612259
- Keenan, Edward. *Some Great Idea: Good Neighbourhoods, Crazy Politics, and the Invention of Toronto*. Toronto: Coach House Books, 2014. ISBN-13: 9781552452660
- O'Connor, Ryan. *The First Green Wave: Pollution Probe and the Origins of Environmental Activism in Ontario*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2014. ISBN 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
- Smyth, William J. *Toronto, the Belfast of Canada: The Orange Order and the Shaping of Municipal Culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015. ISBN 9781442614680

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/students/index.htm> 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. Penalties may include 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 submitted 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 **credible** and **scholarly** 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 unless otherwise established by the instructor. 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 three days of a due date. All deadline extension requests must be made in writing via email to seminar instructor.

If you have any questions about a mark you received, either during a course or after a course is over, first approach your teaching assistant. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may approach the course instructor and/or the Director of Undergraduate Studies for mediation. The Director of Undergraduate Studies does not change grades.

If, at the end of a course, you feel that your grade was not justified, you may submit to the Department a formal written appeal for reappraisal. **Requests for grade reappraisals must be filed with the Department within 21 calendar days of the release of the final grade in the course.** Students may question the marking of specific pieces of work or the overall course grade. Normally, only written work can be reassessed.

When a student asks for a reappraisal, the original grade may be raised, lowered, or confirmed. The decision of the Department may be appealed to the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies Executive Committee only on grounds of procedural irregularity or new evidence. Appeals must be submitted within 21 days of notification of the decision of the Department.

For more info on Department of History grade reappraisal policy, visit:
http://www.yorku.ca/uhistory/undergraduate/grading_policies.html#appraisals

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 15

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 historical audio tour. Students may select any topic in Toronto history. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

Short Research Project

Due: December 3

All students are required to submit a historical audio tour based on historical primary source research. This project is worth 20% of your final grade. Please consult the detailed assignment description available on the course website.

Long Research Project Proposal

Due: February 4

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 web 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 7

For the long research project assignment, students will complete a 4000-word web essay. 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 1: Introduction to Course

Thursday, September 10, 2015

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

Week 2: The State of Toronto

Thursday, September 17, 2015

- 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: Intro to audio tours and brainstorm research topics

Week 3: Before Toronto

Thursday, September 24, 2015

- 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: Freeman, Victoria. "Toronto Has No History!" Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, and Historical Memory in Canada's Largest City." *Urban History Review* 38, no. 2 (Spring 2010): 21-35.
<http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ahl&AN=52871310&site=ehost-live>
- Research Cluster: Online archives and primary sources

Week 4: City of Toronto Archives Field Trip

Thursday, October 1, 2015

- Read: Description of Archives Holdings
<http://www.toronto.ca/archives/description.htm>
- Meet at City of Toronto Archives at 2:30pm (255 Spadina Road)

Week 5: Environmental History of the Don River Valley

Thursday, October 8, 2015

- Read: Bonnell, Jennifer. *Reclaiming the Don: An Environmental History of Toronto's Don River Valley*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2014.

- Research Cluster: Finding secondary sources

Week 6: Animals and Urban Environments Field Trip

Proposal Due

Thursday, October 15, 2015

- Read: Kheraj, Sean. "Living and Working with Domestic Animals in Nineteenth-Century Toronto" in *Urban Explorations: Environmental Histories of the Toronto Region*, edited by L. Anders Sandberg, Stephen Bocking, Colin Coates, and Ken Cruikshank, 120-140. Hamilton: L.R. Wilson Institute for Canadian History, 2013.
<http://www.developmentoftoronto.com/?p=19>
- Meet at 3pm (site TBD)

Week 7: The Political Economy of the Early City

Thursday, October 22, 2015

- 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: Bibliography software

Week 8: The Orange Order and Municipal Culture

Thursday, November 5, 2015

- Read: Smyth, William J. *Toronto, the Belfast of Canada: The Orange Order and the Shaping of Municipal Culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015. Introduction and Chapters 3-5
- Research Cluster: Photographs and images

Week 9: Infrastructure

Thursday, November 12, 2015

- 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 10: Urban Reform

Thursday, November 19, 2015

- 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: Editing audio

Week 11: Confronting Modernity

Thursday, November 26, 2015

- 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 12: Gender, Sexuality, and Crime

Audio Tour Assignment Due

Thursday, December 3, 2015

- 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 13: Conservation, Nature, and Recreation

Thursday, January 7, 2016

- 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: Intro to WordPress assignment

Week 14: On the Waterfront

Thursday, January 14, 2016

- 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 15: WordPress Lab

Thursday, January 21, 2016

- 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>
- Read: Kheraj, Sean. "Best Practices for Writing History on the Web" *Active History: History Matters*, 16 October 2014.

Week 16: The Decline of the Orange Order in Toronto

Thursday, January 28, 2016

- Read: Smyth, William J. *Toronto, the Belfast of Canada: The Orange Order and the Shaping of Municipal Culture*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2015. Chapters 6-7 and conclusion
- Research Cluster:

Week 17: Immigrant Communities and Labour

Thursday, February 4, 2016

- 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 18: Confronting Postwar Planning in Toronto

Thursday, February 11, 2016

- 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 19: Suburban Sprawl

Thursday, February 25, 2016

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

- Research Cluster:

Week 20: Suburbs and Youth in the 1960s and 1970s

Thursday, March 3, 2016

- 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>
- Research Cluster:

Week 21: Environmental Activism

Thursday, March 10, 2016

- Read: O'Connor, Ryan. *The First Green Wave: Pollution Probe and the Origins of Environmental Activism in Ontario*. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2014.
- Research Cluster:

Week 22: Research Presentations

Thursday, March 17, 2016

Week 23: Research Presentations

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Week 24: Research Presentations

Thursday, March 31, 2016