GEOG 4UH3 : URBAN HOUSING

Winter 2018

School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University

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Tuesdays 8:30-11:20, ABB 270 – but 9:30 a.m. start after first week

This course surveys urban housing in North American cities, considering its economic, social and political aspects from an historical-geographical perspective. Lectures will usually run, with a break, for two hours. The schedule of topics is as follows.

Introduction: context and trends

Jan.9  1. Introduction. Context; homelessness
Jan.23  3. Canada’s housing boom

The appearance and nature of housing

Jan.30  4. Reading the landscape of urban housing
Feb.6   5. The nature of housing : similarities with other commodities
Feb.13  6. The nature of housing : differences
          Mid-term test

---------------------------------- Mid-term break --------------------------------

Housing policy

Feb.27  7. Perspectives on housing and government policy
Mar.6    8. Trends in federal and municipal housing policy

The housing market

Mar. 13  9. Land development and land use controls
Mar. 20  10. The residential construction industry
Mar. 27  11. Filtering and home finance
Apr.  3   12. Housing tenure: ownership and tenancy
Readings: The required ‘text’ is Witold Rybczynski, *Last Harvest* (2007). A list of required readings is provided separately. Most of these are available online, either through the McMaster university library website or on the web. Some other course material will be available on Avenue to Learn.

Readings are keyed to lectures.

**Assessment:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb.13</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>t.b.a. (exam period)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Late Penalties & Extensions

Extensions on assignment due dates will only be granted in exceptional circumstances (illness, etc.). If you are ill, or have another serious personal or family emergency that has affected/ will affect your ability to complete your work on time, you must get documentation which states the nature of your absence, the duration (in days), and your expected date of return to school. You must then take this documentation immediately to the office of your faculty (e.g. Social Science). If the absence is approved, your faculty office will then notify your instructor(s). It is then your responsibility, as the student, to set up an appointment or visit the designated instructor during their set office hours to agree upon what accommodations will be made. Please note that even with valid documentation, your instructor(s) reserve the right not to accommodate your absence (e.g. if it is deemed that you had ample opportunity to complete the assignment prior to the onset of the illness).

Plan ahead. A bout of the flu, just before an assignment is due, will not necessarily warrant an extension. It is your responsibility to manage your time and to get work in on time. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 15% per day - weekends count as two days, with no exceptions except as noted above.

A fuller description of guidelines for handing in assignments, and for communication, will be handed out separately.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may receive accommodations to assist them in the completion of their assignments and exams. Please contact the Centre for Student Development (MUSC Lower Level) and the Instructor as soon as possible if you require assistance.
Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.

2. Improper collaboration in group work.

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

Special notice -- in the event of labour disruption, flu pandemic … or the end of the world.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given, with explanation, and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.