

## Arts & Science 3EH3 – Exploring Hamilton Inquiry

2017-2018 (Term 1)

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**Instructor:** Dr. John Maclachlan  
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**Office:** GSB 230/MacPherson  
**Office Hours:** Th: 11:00-12:00

**Class Times:** F: 11:30-2:20; BSB 138

### Course Description:

In this course, we will have the opportunity to explore the City of Hamilton from political, community and geologic perspectives. Our focus will revolve around opportunities to interact with members of the community throughout this course and to assist in exploring the challenges and successes of this dynamic and changing city. This will all be completed through classroom discussion, bus trips to areas within the City and the occasional van rental.

The course will be organized in a unique manner. We will be spending much of our class time in discussions with various members of the Hamilton community, often off campus. For example, we are meeting with Fred Eisenberger (Mayor of Hamilton) at City Hall prior to attending a budget meeting on Transit. There will also be discussions with the executives from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Tim Hortons Field and researchers from the Bay Area Restoration Council. Not all classes will be away from the assigned classroom as we will take in-class opportunities to explore questions such as 'How are escalating real estate prices affecting the City' and 'Is the LRT a good thing or not?'

### Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Communicate the complex municipal issues of the City of Hamilton
2. Discuss the future directions of the City of Hamilton
3. Relate the challenges and opportunities of the City of Hamilton to various municipalities

### Required Texts:

There is no textbook for this course although readings will be assigned both by the instructor and the guest speakers no longer than a week prior to them being necessary. When possible all readings will be posted on Avenue.

### Course Schedule:

A full course schedule will be posted prior to the first class on Avenue. This will include when and where the class will meet. For both the January 6<sup>th</sup> and January 13<sup>th</sup> class we will be meeting in BSB 121.

### Assignments and Evaluation:

Reflections	Various (September – December)	= 20%
Bus Ride	October 27 <sup>th</sup>	= 10%
Student Seminar and paper	Various (December 3 <sup>rd</sup> for paper)	= 35%
Choose 2 of 5 assignments	Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> and Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup>	= 20%
Participation	Throughout term	= 15%

### General Course Schedule

As this course will have potential complications in scheduling due to both weather and guest lectures the following schedule is meant as a guide and may change. The schedule will be updated on Avenue as changes occur. The course readings will be, for the most part, determined by the class during the selection of your seminar projects.

**September 8<sup>th</sup>** – Introduction and course outline

**September 15<sup>th</sup>** – Discussion of the classes views on Hamilton and determining questions to ask both the McMaster President and the Mayor of Hamilton. A set of readings is to be created by the

class (details posted on Avenue)

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** – A visit from McMaster President Patrick Deane. Readings posted on Avenue.

**September 29<sup>th</sup>** – Discussing the Hamilton waterfront (on location) with the Bay Area Restoration Council

**October 6<sup>th</sup>** – Meet in Beasley Park at noon to discuss community activism.

**October 13<sup>th</sup>** – Reading week

**October 20<sup>th</sup>** - A discussion with the mayor of Hamilton at City Hall. This will be followed by attending a City Budget Meeting.

**October 27<sup>th</sup>** – The 'bus ride' assignment takes place during class.

**November 3<sup>rd</sup>** – A look at urban sprawl with Hamilton City Planners.

**November 10<sup>th</sup>** – Meeting with representatives from the Hamilton Tiger-Cats at Tim Horton's Field

**November 17<sup>th</sup>** – A Geologic tour of Hamilton (aka "The Rocks Beneath Our Feet")

**November 24<sup>th</sup>** – Student seminars

**December 1<sup>st</sup>** – Student seminars and wrap up

### **Assignment Descriptions & Evaluation Criteria:**

#### **Reflections (20%)**

Throughout the course you will be asked to reflect on our discussions and journeys. Each week, starting with week two and ending week 11, you will be asked to complete a short reflection on your thoughts towards the class discussion. For example on September 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be visited by McMaster President Dr. Patrick Deane and you will be asked afterwards to discuss/write about the experience. On November 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be taking a tour of downtown with Heritage Planners and on November 17<sup>th</sup> we will looking at the rocks beneath Hamilton. Each of these days will call for a short reflection with instructions closer to the date. Each reflection will be worth 2% of your final grade

#### **Bus Ride (10%)**

You are going to ride the bus. On Oct. 27th you will take a bus from McMaster to Eastgate Square (<http://www.eastgatesquare.ca/>) where we will meet and discuss the journey. The final deliverable will be due November 17th with numerous types of formats allowable.

#### **Student Seminar and Paper (35%)**

Working as individuals or in groups of 2-3 students will be responsible for exploring an aspect of Hamilton. This could be done by choosing a geographic area to answering a pressing question. Students will be responsible for setting up readings and engaging the class in a discussion on the issue. Students will be graded on their presentation/seminar, the associated paper and their assessment of a classmate's seminar. All papers are to be completed individually and will be due on December 3rd.

#### **Choose two of five assignments (20%)**

In this case students will be given a series of short assignments where they can choose which ones they would like to do. This will be assigned on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Assignments will include options such as attending a public lecture (and reflecting on it).

#### **Participation (15%)**

Participation is extremely important for a class such as this. Each week we will be building on the knowledge of the week before making attendance imperative. Each week there will be small deliverables and class discussion that everyone is expected to participate in. During the September 15th class we will take some time to discuss what accounts as a quality class participant.

#### **Policy Statements**

Assignment Deadlines & Missed/Late Work:

Students are expected to hand in all assignments on the specified due dates. Late submissions will be subject to a penalty of 20% per day (including weekend days). Assignments submitted after the beginning of class on the due date will be counted as one day late. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes.

Given that some course assignments require electronic submission, you should familiarize yourself with the Avenue to Learn Assignment in advance of the deadlines, and ask for assistance as necessary. Problems with electronic submission WILL NOT be accepted as an excuse for lateness.

### **Academic Integrity Statement**

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: <http://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.

### **MSAF**

In the event of an absence, students should review and follow the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.” Please consult the MSAF statement on our website (<https://artsci.mcmaster.ca/forms-requests/>) and direct any questions or concerns to Shelley Anderson or Rebecca Bishop in the Arts & Science Program Office as appropriate.

### **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or email [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

### **Email Contact and Student Responsibility**

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 students to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes. Announcements will be made in class and by using the course email distribution list.