

# Urban Studies 650: Urban Governance

## Fall 2010

Thursdays 5:30 - 9:20

Dr. Matt Hern

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### *Course Content*

This course will investigate the nature and contours of contemporary urban governance with a focus on Vancouver and Canadian examples, but comparative cases will be drawn from the United States, South America, Asia and other jurisdictions. The course will ask the basic questions: How do urban decisions get made? Who makes them? What are some comparative governance models?

We will use various historical, theoretical and political frameworks to approach these questions and develop tools for pragmatic and critical analysis. The class will confront students with many of the current administrative and political challenges of local, urban and regional governance in the 21st century. It will enable students to critically evaluate the varied nature and development of governance through assessments of differing forms and gain critical tools for assessing urban problems and their proposed solutions.

Critically the course will make a distinction between governance and government, and consider various participatory examples of citizen control and local self-governance. Further we will also spend time covering some theoretical territory around Foucault, governmentality, disciplinary institutions and contemporary forms of neo-liberal and globalized power in urban governance.

### *Course Readings*

Required readings will be listed in the syllabus and will come from journal and news articles available electronically via the SFU library and other sources freely available on the internet.

### *Grading*

Class participation	20%
Two responses to readings	10%
Local governance project	25%
Final paper	35%
Final presentations	10%