



GEOG 3940 Urban Geography Seminar

Spring 2013 | Monday 2p – 5:30p

Boettcher West 123 | Department of Geography and the Environment

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Office hours: Monday 1p – 2p & Thursday 1p – 2p | Boettcher West 112 | tel: 303.871.4387

Course materials available at www.blackboard.du.edu

Course Description “International comparison of economic and social, positive and negative aspects of urban systems” (Course Catalog)

Spring 2013 special topic

Global urban perspectives on social justice, urbanization, and comparative urbanism

The focus of this seminar will be upon three current trends in urban geography: social inequalities, global urbanization, and comparative urban approaches. First we will briefly cover some foundations and history of urban geography as a discipline. Then we will spend time reading and discussing current works on these three contemporary themes. In the final half of the course we will read current and seminal research papers on cities, with particular discussion through the lens of these three themes. The flow of this final half will follow a regional approach.

Course goals and outcomes

“...students in geography should read widely, and read their heads off!”

- Peter R. Gould (1932 – 2000)

Why a seminar? Adequate space and time for reading extensively can get lost in our contemporary society. Thus, a weekly seminar is a helpful platform to establish a set of reading goals, construct knowledge and learning in discussion, and otherwise keep us accountable. By the end of the quarter, all students should:

- Be knowledgeable (through reading and discussion) about the current urban geography themes of urban social justice, comparative urbanism, and global urbanization.
- Be knowledgeable (through reading and discussion) about a variety of very current urban geography research (since year 2000) in the regions of Latin America, Africa, East Asia, South and Southeast Asia, and Europe.
- Be knowledgeable (through reading and discussion) about foundations, key ideas, terms, and trends in urban geography that arise throughout the variety of readings (e.g. neoliberalism, splintering urbanism, urban form, globalization, transnational urbanism, postmodernism).
- Become an expert (through final term paper) about one urban topic or place.

Learning expectations:

This is seminar-style course that meets once weekly. We will focus on reading, writing, and discussion participation/leading. Attendance and participation is essential. Your grade will be determined by the following learning expectations. The course grading scale is noted below.

Reading (25%) Given the nature of a seminar, students are required to complete all the readings, on time. For each class period (excluding 3/25, 6/3) students will submit an annotated bibliography or reading journal. This can include a summary of the article and its key points, as well as questions you have, or connections made to other readings. The point of an annotation/journal is to give you good reference to your thoughts from when you originally read the article. Undergraduates, annotations / journal entries for each article should be a minimum of 175 words; for graduates, annotations / journal entries for each article should be a minimum of 350 words. Each weekly annotation will receive a grade on a five point grading scale. (3.125% each, * 8 class periods, excluding 3/25, 6/3).

Active participation (25%) Students are required to actively participate and constructively contribute to each class discussion. Assessment of participation will be self and instructor.

Discussion leadership (25%) Students are required to lead some of the discussion during each class period (excluding 3/25, 6/3). Graduate students will be in charge of one reading, while pairs or trios of undergrads will work together for one reading. Ideally students should send around reading and discussion questions by Friday, for the following seminar session.

Course grading scale:	
94 – 100% = A	73 – 76% = C
90 – 93% = A-	70 – 72% = C-
87 – 89% = B+	67 – 69% = D+
83 – 86% = B	63 – 66% = D
80 – 82% = B-	60 – 62% = D-
77 – 79% = C+	below 60% = F

Discussion questions can take on many forms; please have a variety of questions. For each reading it is best to have at least 5 discussion questions. Initial questions can be factual and understanding type questions (*what are the three main forms of cities the author discusses? What are their differences?*), or questions of clarification or uncertainty (*what does the author mean by _____... I didn't understand polycentrism. What does it mean?*). More in-depth questions should be about personal opinions and experiences, making relations or transferring across readings and ideas, or synthesizing (*from your personal experience and observation, do you agree more with the LA School or Chicago school? Why?... What is your opinion of the research methods used in this article?... How does the issue of homelessness in this paper relate to how homelessness was addressed in last week's reading?...*)

Final paper (25%) Students are required to write a final term paper. The topic can be tailored to your personal interest, but should focus on a specific city, or an urban problem, and be more international in focus, rather than US-centric. Undergraduate students might write a research paper based on ideas generated from any study abroad experience. Grad students should use this opportunity to explore a topic of interest beyond their thesis. Specific criteria are forthcoming, but should be ~ 20 pages in length, with 15 additional outside academic sources. For undergraduates the requirement is ~12 pages with a minimum of 8 additional outside academic sources. All students will give a short presentation of their research on June 3. Most additional outside articles should come from the following journals:

- Environment and Planning A, (B), (C), (D)*
- Professional Geographer*
- Urban Studies*
- Urban Affairs*
- Annals of the Association of American Geographers*
- Urban Geography*
- Cities*
- Urban Affairs Review*
- International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (IJURR)*
- Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA)*
- European Urban and Regional Studies*

Graduate vs. undergraduate expectations

As an upper-level seminar, all students are expected to participate and engage in class in a manner that is different than a lecture-based course. Particularly in this context active engagement and thoughtful contribution is expected, over passive absorption. Since the engagement of ideas during class time is dependent upon our mutual exposure to reading materials, it would be difficult to assign different amounts of reading for graduate and undergraduate students; we all need to come to the table with the same set of knowledge. Thus, to create the most active and engaging seminar discussions involving all students, there will not be separate reading assignments based on student level. However, given that graduate and undergraduates arrive with different academic backgrounds or experiences, and carry different workloads during this quarter, there are some varied expectations:

1. The weekly reading annotations for undergraduates will be shorter.
2. For the weekly discussions, graduate students are expected to lead discussion *independently*, while undergraduates will do so in *pairs* or *triads*.
3. The final term paper will have different expectations.

Tips for success

- Have a weekly reading strategy. Don't plan to read everything on Sunday night. Spread the work throughout the week.
- Take advantage of the new Anderson Academic Commons! Rumor has it there are numerous places for quiet reading in this new space.
- Read interactively with the text. Highlight, make margin notes, jot your key points down on the front page, circle unfamiliar terms or idea. For this type of reading, is digital reading the best approach for interactive reading? [Suggestion: since there aren't textbooks to buy, spend some money to print out all the readings, and mark them up!]
- Don't get discouraged if you don't understand portions of an article. What parts make sense? What parts are unclear? Also, some articles will use statistical procedures in their methods. Really good authors can make the most complex stats comprehensible to the layperson. Not all are good authors!
- When is the best time to write your annotations? Immediately after reading one article? After reading all the articles? Find out what works best for you. But do it when it's fresh in your mind.
- Before class, spend some time refreshing yourself on the readings, particularly if you read them earlier in the week.
- On the articles in which you are not leading discussion, come with your own questions and talking points prepared.

Course Policies

- Accommodations can be made for students with disabilities provided they notify the Disabilities Services Program office first.
- Please hold all texting, emailing, or web surfing until the end of class, or designated break times. Laptops should only be used for purposes of note taking.
- We only have 10 meeting times this quarter. Attendance for all seminars is required. **If you miss any seminar, for any reason**, you must complete an essay (5 pages minimum, double spaced, 1" margins, 11 pt. Times New Roman) on the readings. This is in addition to the required annotations. This essay should not be a summary (which your annotation covers); it should be a critical and substantive engagement with issues raised in the readings. The essay is due by Friday morning 9am, on the week of the seminar missed. Failure to turn in an essay will result in a 10% final grade reduction.

GEOG 3940: Course Calendar

SECTION 1 Foundations of urban geography

If you have not taken an urban geography course, or even much human geography in general, we will spend two weeks surveying the history, methods, schools of thought, and research agendas in urban geography. This should be helpful for everyone.

Week 1 (March 25)

Course introduction

1. Kahn, Michael. 1971. *The Seminar*.

Discuss the noted problems of seminars, and key suggestions.

Exercise: *Our urban (geographical) imaginations*

Group reading & presentation of two urban geography overviews:

2. Mayer, Harold M. 1954. Urban Geography. In P.E. James and C. F. Jones (eds.) *American Geography: Inventory and Prospect*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 142-66.
3. Stuart Aitkin, Don Mitchell, and Lynn Staeheli. 2004. Urban Geography. In G. Gaile and C. Willmott (eds.) *Geography in America at the Dawn of the 21st Century*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 2 (April 1)

1. Hackworth, J. R. 2007. The place, time, and process of neoliberal urbanism. In *The neoliberal city: Governance, ideology, and development in American urbanism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press: 1-16.
2. Beaverstock, J., P. Taylor and R. Smith. 1999. A roster of world cities. *Cities* 16(6):445-458.
3. Knox, Paul L., 1991. The restless urban landscape: Economic and sociocultural change and the transformation of Metropolitan Washington, DC. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 81(2):181-209.
4. Hanson, Susan, 2003. The weight of the tradition, the springboard of tradition: Let's move beyond the 1990's. *Urban Geography* 24(6): 465-478.
5. Florida, Richard. 2003. Cities and the creative class. *City & Community*. 2(1):3-17.
6. Dear, Michael. 2002. Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a debate. *City & Community*. 1(1):5-32.
7. Pacione, Michael. 2009. Concepts and theory in urban geography. In *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, Hoboken: Taylor & Francis, pp. 18 – 34.

SECTION 2 Contemporary themes in urban geography

In this section we will read the ideas behind three major themes of urban geography today: social justice, global urbanization, and comparative urbanism.

Week 3 (April 8)

Theme 1: *Comparative urbanism: What is the 'comparative urbanism' approach?*

1. Jenny Robinson, 2006. Introduction: Post-colonising urban studies. In *Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development*. London: Routledge, pp. 1-12.
2. Jan Nijman. 2007. Comparative Urbanism. *Urban Geography* 28(1):1-6.
3. Kevin Ward. 2008. Toward a comparative return in urban studies? Some reflections. *Urban Geography* 29:405-410.
4. Katherine V. Gough, 2012. Reflections on conducting urban comparisons. *Urban Geography* 33(6):866-878.

Theme 2: *Global urbanization*

This week, at the annual AAG conference in Los Angeles, one conference theme is: "Beyond the Los Angeles School: Global Urbanization". Much of the conversation here is not just on the *growth* of cities, but also processes of urban change and global connectedness.

1. Kingsley Davis. 1965. The urbanization of the human population. In *The City Reader*, LeGates and Stout (eds.), 5th ed., (2011). pp. 20-30.
2. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs/Population Division. 2012. Key findings of the 2011 revision *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision* pp. 3-15
3. Robert Potter and Sally Lloyd-Evans. 1998. The Nature and Scale of Urbanisation in the Developing World in *The City in the Developing World*, 2nd ed. Essex: Longman. pp. 3-26,

4. Frauke Kraas. 2007. Megacities and global change: key priorities. *Geographical Journal* 173:79-87
5. Wm. Solecki, Karen C. Seto, and Peter J. Marcotullio. 2013. It's time for an urbanization science. *Environment Magazine* 55(1):12-16
6. Cathey Yang Liu, 2012. From Los Angeles to Shanghai: Testing the applicability of five urban paradigms. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36(6):1127-1145

Film: *Urbanized*, 2011. A documentary film by Gary Hustwit, 85 min. (Swiss Dots Ltd.)

Week 4 (April 15)

Theme 3: *Social Justice | spatial inequalities | splintering urbanism*

1. Susan Fainstein 2010. *The Just City*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press
 - Everyone reads Introduction, Chs. 1,2,6 (conclusion)
 - Split the following chapters
 - o Chapter 3 "New York"
 - o Chapter 4 "London"
 - o Chapter 5 "Amsterdam"
2. Olivier Coutard, 2008. Placing splintering urbanism. *Geoforum* 39:1815-1820.

SECTION 3 Global perspectives

The remaining weeks will focus on reading urban-related studies from different regions of the world. I have selected these from leading urban journals, and they represent very cutting edge / recent urban research. Most are published in the last 3 years or so. If you have other readings of interest, I am willing to make substitutions.

Week 5 (April 22) LATIN AMERICA

****special note**** Due to the visit of Dr. David Keeling this week, Monday's class will be shortened. We will hold a special breakfast roundtable discussion with Dr. Keeling on Friday, April 26. More details forthcoming. Also, everyone is highly encouraged to attend his colloquium talk at 4pm on Thursday, April 25.

1. Bryan R. Roberts. 2005. Globalization and Latin American cities. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29(1)110-123.
2. Dennis Conway and Robert B. Potter. 2012. Transnational urbanism in Port of Spain: Returning middle-class urban elites. *Urban Geography* 33(5):700-727
3. Eduardo Marques. 2012. Social networks, segregation and poverty in São Paulo. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36(5):958-979.
4. Eveline Dürr. 2012. Urban poverty, spatial representation and mobility: Touring a slum in Mexico. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36(4):706-724.
5. Christian Isendahl and Michael E. Smith. 2013. Sustainable agrarian urbanism: The low-density cities of the Mayas and Aztecs *Cities* 31:132-143.
6. Juan M. Arbona and Benjamin Kohl. 2004. City Profile: La Paz – El Alto *Cities* 21(3):255-265.

Film: *Cities on Speed: Bogotá Change*. 2009. København: Copenhagen Int'l Film Festival (58 min.)

Please prepare for a Friday discussion with Dr. David Keeling

7. David Keeling 2005. "Waterfront redevelopment and the Puerto Madero project in Buenos Aires, Argentina." In Chabrera et al. (eds) *Cities and urban geography in Latin America*. Castellon de la Plana, Spain: Publicaciones Universitat Jaume I, Serie Colección Américas (PR), pp. 113-136.

Week 6 (April 29) AFRICA

1. chapters from: Garth Myers 2011. "African cities: Alternative visions of urban theory and practice"
2. McLees, Leslie. 2013. A postcolonial approach to urban studies: Interviews, mental maps, and photo voices on the urban farms of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. *The Professional Geographer* (forthcoming).
3. Doan, Petra and Charles Yaw Odoro. 2012. Patterns of population growth in peri-urban Accra, Ghana. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36(6):1306-1325.
4. Richard Grant and Martin Oteng-Ababio. 2012. Mapping the invisible and real "African" economy: Urban e-waste circuitry. *Urban Geography* 33(1):1-21.
5. Njoh, Ambe J. 2006. African cities and regional trade in historical perspective: Implications for contemporary globalization trends *Cities* 23(1):18-29.
6. Sietchiping, Remy, Melissa Jane Permezel, and Claude Ngomsi. 2012. Transport and mobility in sub-Saharan African cities: An overview of practices, lessons and options for improvements. *Cities* 29: 183-189.
7. Jaglin, Sylvie. 2008. Differentiating networked services in Cape Town: Echoes of splintering urbanism? *Geoforum* 39:1897-1906.
8. Jenkins, Paul. 2000. City profile: Maputo. *Cities* 17(3):207-218.

Film: *Cities on Speed: Cairo Garbage* 2009. København: Copenhagen Int'l Film Festival (55 min.)

Week 7 (May 6) EAST ASIA

1. Select chapters from: John Friedman 2005. *China's urban transition*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press.
2. Carlos Balsas. 2013. Gaming anyone? A comparative study of recent urban development trends in Las Vegas and Macau *Cities* 31:298-307.
3. Lily Kong. 2012. Creating urban spaces for culture, heritage, and the arts in Singapore: Balancing policy-led development and organic growth. In *The politics of urban cultural policy: Global perspectives*, Grodach and Silver (eds). Hoboken: Taylor & Francis. pp. 154-164.
4. Xiangming Chen and Tomas de' Medici. 2010. The "instant city" coming of age: Production of spaces in China's Shenzhen special economic zone. *Urban Geography* 31(8):1141-1147.
5. Hong Zhu, Junxi Qian, and Yun Gao. 2011. Globalization and the production of city image in Guangzhou's metro station advertisements. *Cities* 28:221-229.
6. Jiaping Wu. 2011. Globalization and emerging office and commercial landscapes in Shanghai. *Urban Geography* 32(4):511-530.
7. Mike Douglass, Bart Wissink, Ronald van Kempen. 2012. Enclave urbanism in China: Consequences and interpretations. *Urban Geography* 33(2):167-182.

Film: *Cities on Speed: Shanghai Space* 2009. København: Copenhagen Int'l Film Festival (60 min.)

Week 8 (May 13) EUROPE

****special note**** Due to the visit of Dr. Bill Howard this week, Monday's class will be shortened. We will hold a special breakfast roundtable discussion with Dr. Howard on Friday, May 17. More details forthcoming. Also, everyone is highly encouraged to attend his colloquium talk at 4pm on Thursday, May 16.

1. Djémila Zeneidi, 2011. The French-style Americanization of homelessness in Bordeaux, *Urban Geography* 32(7):1009-1022.
2. Wills et al. 2001. "London's low-paid foreign-born workers", in *Global cities at work: New migrant divisions of labour*. London: Pluto Press, pp. 59-93.
3. Gerardo del Cerro Santamaría, 2007. "Architecture, globalization, and the Guggenheim project", *Bilbao: Basque Pathways to Globalization*. Amsterdam: Elsevier, pp. 101-126.
4. Michael Pacione, 2011. Continuity and change in Scotland's first garden suburb: The genesis and development of Pollokshields, Glasgow. *Urban Geography* 32(1):23-49.
5. Jana Temelová, Nina Dvořáková 2012. Residential satisfaction of elderly in the city centre: The case of revitalizing neighbourhoods in Prague. *Cities* 29:310-317.
6. Please prepare for the Friday discussion with Dr. Bill Howard
Select chapters from Sir Peter Hall. 1998. *Cities in Civilization*. New York: Pantheon Books.
 - *The Utilitarian City: London 1825-1900*

- *The City of Perpetual Public Works: Paris 1850-1870*
- *The City as Freeway: Los Angeles 1900-1980*
- *The Social Democratic Utopia: Stockholm 1945-1980*
- *The City of Capitalism Rampant: London 1979-1993*

Week 9 South, Southeast, and Southwest Asia

1. Yasser Elsheshtawy. 2013. Where the sidewalk ends: Informal street corner encounters in Dubai. *Cities* 31:382-393.
2. Davide Ponzini. 2011. Large scale development projects and star architecture in the absence of democratic politics: The case of Abu Dhabi, UAE *Cities* 28:251-259.
3. Gandy 2008. Landscapes of disaster: Water, modernity, and urban fragmentation in Mumbai *Environment and Planning A* 40(1):108-130.
4. José Edgardo Abaya Gomez, Jr. 2013. The billboardization of metro Manila. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37(1)186-214.
5. Freek Colombijn and Martine Barwegen. 2009. Racial segregation in the (post)colonial city: The case of Indonesia. *Urban Geography* 30(8):838-856.
6. TBA

Film: *Cities on Speed: Mumbai Disconnected* 2009. København: Copenhagen Int'l Film Festival (58 min.)

May 27 –Memorial Day – No class

Week 10 (June 3: 2p – 3:50p only) FINAL DISCUSSION

This is the scheduled final exam period. Note the shortened time.

We will reserve this time for student term paper presentations, or final discussion of readings, as necessary.