

V18.0602-001

Cities in Global Context **Spring 2008**

Monday and Wednesday 11-12.15
Place TBA

Instructor: Anne Rademacher
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Office hours: TBA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores contemporary urban processes in transnational and cross-cultural perspective. Drawing on theories of globalization, development, and migration, we will consider how the global context shapes debates about cities, and complicates our understanding of social life in urban places.

As arenas of complex political and economic processes, twenty-first century cities host economic growth as well as economic disparity, and they function in ways both politically liberating and politically limiting. In global context, cities may be seen as centers of commerce and cultural production, as places where social and spatial order are administered, and as sites of hope, struggle, creativity, and ingenuity. Anchoring our examination in ethnographies of specific cities, we will analyze local, regional/national, and global perspectives on questions of urban equity, migration, violence, ecology, and citizenship.

Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the urban networks across which capital, labor, and ideas travel. We will probe how these networks can provide particular kinds of access, and how they can reproduce boundaries and inequalities.

Three broad analytical questions will guide our inquiry:

- How have contemporary urban places developed in relation to historic, economic, social, and global influences?
- How, and by whom, are various urban socioeconomic problems and solutions articulated?
- What, and where, are the social, political, and economic cleavages around which people mobilize (race/ethnicity, caste/class, gender, geography, etc.) in the twenty-first century city?

REQUIREMENTS

This course covers a wide range of topics and case studies. To do well in the course, it is essential that you attend all lectures and recitation sessions, and complete all the required readings before coming to class. The lectures will assume that you have read the readings thoroughly, and will often introduce additional material that does not appear on the syllabus.

Due to the structure and content of the course, attendance is mandatory at all lectures and recitations. Attendance will be taken at every class, and grade penalties will accrue to any student missing more than three sessions without a written excuse from a doctor/health services or the appropriate advisor/dean.

A 2-page commentary is due at regular intervals, for a total of 5 commentaries over the course of the semester. Further instructions about the content of these papers will be provided in class. Late commentaries will not be accepted.

A final take-home essay exam will be administered at the end of the course.

Your final grade will be computed based on the following distribution:

- Attendance at all lectures and recitations + participation in discussions (15%)
- Commentaries (40%)
- Final essay exam (45%)

READINGS

Required Books, available where again?:

- Caldeira, T. 2001. *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Liechty, M. 2003. *Suitably Modern: Making Middle Class Culture in a New Consumer Society*. Princeton University Press.
- Alley, K. 2002. *On the Banks of Ganga: When Wastewater Meets a Sacred River*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press.
- Ferguson, J. 1999. *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Sharma, Kalpana. *Rediscovering Dharavi*. Delhi: Penguin Books.

A reading packet with all other required readings is available for purchase at Unique Copy Center, 252 Greene Street, 212-420-9198.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

January 28:

Introduction: Thinking Globally through Networks, Scales, and Modern Urban Spaces

Dawson, Ashley and Brent Edwards. 2004. Introduction: Cities of the South. *Social Text* 81 22:4.

Tsing, Anna. 2000. The Global Situation. *Cultural Anthropology* 15(3).

Sassen, S. 2002. Locating Cities on Global Circuits. *Environment and Urbanization* 14:1: 13-30.

Kinver, Mark. Challenges Facing an Urban World. BBC News 13 June 2006.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5054052.stm>

January 30 and Feb 4:

Social Structure, Social Transformation, and Urban Spaces

Coser, Lewis. "Karl Marx: The Work" "Emile Durkheim: The Work" "Max Weber: The Work," in Masters in Sociological Thought (Harcourt Brace Jovanovitch 1971).

Harvey, David. "The Time and Space of the Enlightenment Project," in The Condition of Postmodernity, (1990 Blackwell) pp. 240-259

Lefebvre, Henri. 2003 (1968). "The Urban Revolution." In Brenner, Neil, and Roger Keil (eds). The Global Cities Reader. New York: Routledge.

February 6:

The 'Problem' of Cities

UNFPA State of World Cities Report 2007: "Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth." Intro + Chapters 1-4

Access at

<http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2007/english/introduction.html>

"Burgeoning Cities Face Catastrophe" Guardian UK. Access at

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2007/jun/28/climatechange.conservaion>

Urban Population in Africa, Asia to Double by 2030. Access at

[http://voanews.com/english/archive/2007-06/2007-06-27-](http://voanews.com/english/archive/2007-06/2007-06-27-voa52.cfm?CFID=151304366&CFTOKEN=75195612)

[voa52.cfm?CFID=151304366&CFTOKEN=75195612](http://voanews.com/english/archive/2007-06/2007-06-27-voa52.cfm?CFID=151304366&CFTOKEN=75195612)

BBC interactive map of urban growth

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/world/06/urbanisation/html/urbanisation.stm>

February 11: Commentary #1 Due

Globalization and Uneven Development I

Ferguson, J. 1999. *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 1.

Harvey, David. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. London: Oxford UP. Introduction.

**February 13:
Globalization and Uneven Development II**

Sen, Amartya. 2002. "Globalization and Poverty." Transcript of lecture Santa Clara (CA) University (Institute on Globalization).

<http://www.scu.edu/globalization/speakers/senlecture.cfm>

Evans, Peter. 2002. *Livable Cities? Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability*. Introduction and Chapter 1.

February 18: No classes

February 20: Invisible Labor, Contested Citizenship

Holston, James, and Arjun Appadurai. "Cities and Citizenship." *Cities and Citizenship*. J. Holston. Durham, Duke University Press: 1-18.

Film: Dirty Pretty Things

**February 25:
Migration and Mobility I**

Ferguson, J. 1999. *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapters 2,3, 4, and 5.

"In a World on the Move, A Tiny Land Strains to Cope" NY Times Magazine

Access at

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/24/world/africa/24verde.html?_r=1&ex=1185076800&en=dda73987f6c2cecc&ei=5070&oref=slogin

Snapshot of Global Migration, NY Times. Access at

http://www.nytimes.com/ref/world/20070622_CAPEVERDE_GRAPHIC.html

**February 27:
Urbanization & Housing in Place I**

Sharma, Kalpana. 2000. *Rediscovering Dharavi: Stories from Asia's Largest Slum*. New Delhi: Penguin. Selections in reader: Introduction + 1-32. *Available only on reserve at Bobst Library

Film: My Migrant Soul

**March 3:
Commentary #2 Due
Urbanization & Housing in Place:II**

Sharma, Kalpana. 2000. *Rediscovering Dharavi: Stories from Asia's Largest Slum*. New Delhi: Penguin. Selections in reader: 32-174. *Available only on reserve at Bobst Library

BBC "interactive tour" of Dharavi

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/shared/spl/hi/world/06/dharavi_slum/html/dharavi_slum_intro.stm

Mumbai Slum Dwellers Fight Development Plan. BBC UK. Access at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/6970800.stm>

March 5 & 10: Urbanization & Housing as Metanarrative

Davis, Mike. 2004. Planet of Slums: Urban Involution and the Informal Proletariat. *New Left Review* 26: 5-34.

Perlman, Janice. 2003. The Reality of Marginality in Annanya Roy and Nezar AlSayyad, eds. *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, South Asia, and Latin America*. Lexington Press.

Rademacher, Anne and Raj Patel. 2002. "Retelling Worlds of Poverty: Reflections on Transforming Participatory Research for a Global Narrative" in Brock, Karen, and Rosemary McGee, eds. *Knowing Poverty: Critical Reflections on Participatory Research and Policy*. London: Earthscan.

March 12: Visibility, Class, and Violence I

Caldeira, Teresa. 2001. *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Introduction + Chapters 1, 6, 7, 8

March 17 & 19 Spring Break

March 24: Commentary #3 Due Visibility, Class, and Violence III

Caldeira, Teresa. 2001. *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 2 (53-104).

When Life is Nasty, Brutish, and Short: Violence and Street Children. In Hecht, Tobias. 1998. *At Home in the Street: Street Children of Northeast Brazil*. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 118-148.

"War on Rio's Drug Gang Slums" BBC UK. Access at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6251828.stm>

"Brazil Launches Slum Reform Drive" BBC UK. Access at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/6263750.stm>

Film: News from a Personal War

March 26: Commodities and Consumption I

Ferguson, J. 1999. *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 6.

Liechty, Mark. 2003. *Suitably Modern: Making Middle Class Culture in a New Consumer Society*. Princeton UP. Chapters 3 and 5.

**March 31:
Commodities and Consumption II**

Liechty, Mark. 2003. *Suitably Modern: Making Middle Class Culture in a New Consumer Society*. Princeton UP. Chapters 6, and 7.

**April 2:
Urban Nature, Urban Culture I**

Alley, K. (2002). *On the Banks of Ganga: When Wastewater Meets a Sacred River*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

**April 7: Commentary #4 Due
Urban Nature, Urban Culture II**

Alley, K. (2002). *On the Banks of Ganga: When Wastewater Meets a Sacred River*. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press. Chapters 3 and 4.

**April 9:
Cities as Ecosystems**

Pickett, S.T.A., M.L. Cadenasso, J.M. Grove, C.H. Nilon, R.V. Pouyat, W.C. Zipperer, and R. Costanza. 2001. Urban ecological systems: linking terrestrial ecological, physical, and socioeconomic components of metropolitan areas. *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics*. 32:127-157

Rebele, F. 1994. Urban ecology and special features of urban ecosystems. *Global Ecology and Biogeography Letters*. 4:173-187

“Urban Modification of Rainfall.” Access at <http://rsd.gsfc.nasa.gov/912/urban/index.htm>

**April 14:
The ‘Environmental Problem’ of Cities**

UNFPA State of World Cities Report 2007: “Unleashing the Potential of Urban Growth” Chapters 5 and 6. Access at <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2007/english/introduction.html>

World Resources Institute. 1996. *The Urban Environment*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Selections)

Black, Richard. Finding Green in the Concrete Jungle. BBC News 19 June 2006. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/5072642.stm>

**April 16: Commentary #5 Due
Urban Sustainability**

Unni, W. (1995). "Sustainable Development in the Mega-city: Can the Concept be Made Applicable?" Current Anthropology 36(4): 635-655.

Daly, H. E. (2002). *Sustainable Development: Definitions, Principles, Policies*. Washington, D.C.

Lee, K. N. 2006. Urban sustainability and the limits of classical environmentalism. *Environment and Urbanization*; 18(1) 9-22

**April 21:
Inventing the Sustainable City**

"Design for the Other 90%" Access at <http://other90.cooperhewitt.org/>

Film: The Next Industrial Revolution

**April 23:
Urban 'Nature' and Social Life**

"Urban poor increasingly made homeless in India's drive for more 'beautiful' cities" Access at http://www.citymayors.com/development/india_urban1.html

Baviskar, Amita. *Between Violence and Desire**
Tarlo 2000

**April 28:
Revisiting the Maps**

Gandy, Matthew. 2005. Learning from Lagos. *New Left Review* 33.

Film: Lagos/Koolhaus

**April 30:
Conclusions: Urban Transformation in Global Contexts**

Sen, Amartya. 1999. "The Importance of Democracy." In *Development as Freedom*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. Pp. 146-159

Chatterjee, Partha. 2004. *Populations and Political Society*. In *The Politics of the Governed : reflections on popular politics in most of the world*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Appadurai, A. 2002. Deep Democracy: Urban Governmentality and the Horizon of Politics. *Public Culture* 14(1):21-47.

Ferguson, J. 1999. *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 6.

**May 5:
Final exam will be handed out in class; due date TBA**

