

# Global Studies 160: Globalizing Urban Inequalities

## Course Description

This course introduces students to histories and debates of urbanization in the Global South—and of the Global South in the Global North. As a course committed to critical perspectives, two questions will be underlying our discussions. First, we will ask: how have the various institutions and practices covered in the course contributed to shaping, or resisting to, the production of urban inequality? Second, how can we disrupt the geographical understanding of a “Global South” and situate these histories and debates in relation to, and within, the United States?

## Learning Objectives

To cultivate a nuanced understanding of processes of urbanization, the course has the following main learning objectives:

- To think critically about the interrelated nature of economic globalization, urban development, and inequality.
- To develop analytic writing, storytelling, and editing skills, collaborative capabilities, and critical discussion skills

## Course Requirements

### 1. Class Attendance and Participation:

Active class participation means completing the assigned readings, attending lectures, guest talks and film screenings, and engaging in reflective discussion. Students are expected to actively participate in lectures and discussion.

### 2. Reading Reflections & Discussion Questions:

You are required to submit six reading reflections (250 words each) based on the readings assigned for any given session. On our first day of class, you will sign-up for specific sessions to submit reading reflections. These reflections should be critical and not merely summarize the readings. You can discuss unusual insights that challenge the way you think about an urban problem, compare and contrast ideas from different authors, or link discussions from the readings to cities that you are familiar with (in the Global South or North). As part of your reflection, submit a discussion question based on the readings assigned. You can also submit a clarification question, in case there is something you feel confused about and want to examine more closely with your colleagues. We will select a few of the questions submitted for our discussion during the last part of class sessions.

You should post your reading reflections to bCourses under the “Discussions” tab.

### **Grading Structure**

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Leading class discussion: 20%  
(2 Sessions, 10% each)
- Reading Reflections: 25%  
(Five Reflections, 5% each)
  
- Lab Project: 35%  
(Summary: 5%)  
(Outline: 10%)  
(Final Report 20%)

### **Academic Integrity**

All University policies regarding academic honesty apply in this course. Plagiarism and cheating are not tolerated. Please review university policies regarding academic honesty. While the internet has made plagiarism easier, it has also made it dramatically easier to detect plagiarism, so make sure that you understand and follow the guidelines.

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

#### Introduction

Third World, Developing Countries, Global South

- In-class discussion about podcasts/podcasting with Isabel Penaranda
- *Discussion Leaders: Salil Bodwadkar, Victoria Young*

#### Part I. Histories of Urbanization in the Global South

Week 1.2 Colonial Cities

- *Discussion Leaders: Week 1.3 Utopian Cities*
  - *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

Week 1.3 Colonial Cities

- *Discussion Leaders: Week 1.3 Utopian Cities*
  - *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

Week 1.4 Auto-constructed Cities

- Guest Speaker: Priscila Coli
- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 1.5 Auto-constructed Cities

- Guest Speaker: TBD
- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 2.1: Debt cities

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*
- In-class peer review activity

## Week 2.2: Debt cities

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*
- In-class peer review activity

## Week 2.3: World-class Cities

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 2.4: World-class Cities

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 2.4: No class, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday

## Part II. Debates of Urbanization in the Global South & North

### Week 3.1 Land Tenure

- (Guest Speaker: TBD)
- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

### Week 3.2 Land Tenure

- (Guest Speaker: TBD)
- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

### Week 3.3 Housing

- (Guest Speaker: TBD)
- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

### Week 3.3 Housing

- (Guest Speaker: TBD)
- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

### Week 3.4 Urban Infrastructure: Water

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 3.5 Urban Infrastructure: Power

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 4.1: Security and Risk (Guest Speaker: TBD)

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 4.2 Equity and Right to the City: LA in focus

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 4.3 Sustainable Cities: LA in focus

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## Week 4.4 Sustainable Cities: LA in focus

- *Discussion Leaders: TBD*

## *Week 4.5: Final*

## **READING SCHEDULE**

### **Introduction**

#### **Third World, Developing Countries, Global South**

*How and why did certain parts of the world get constituted as “Third World,” “Developing Countries,” or “Global South”? How did urbanization become important in these trajectories? What is the “urban revolution” from the Global South?*

Readings (13 pp.):

- Goldman, Michael. 2015. “Development and the City.” *In Cities of the Global South Reader*, edited by Faranak Miraftab and Neema Kudva, 54–65. Routledge Urban Reader Series. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.
- Dados, Nour and Raewyn Connell. 2012. “The Global South.” *Contexts* 11 (1): 12–13.

### **Part I. Histories of Urbanization**

#### **Colonial Cities**

*From Asia to Africa, how have late colonial cities been shaped? What role did urban planning and architecture play in projects of colonialism? What are the enduring forms and legacies of colonialism in cities today?*

Readings (49 pp.):

- Prakash, Gyan. 2010. “The Colonial Gothic.” In *Mumbai Fables*, 25–74. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Recommended Films:

- o The Battle of Algiers(war/drama, 1966, 2:00)  
*Algerian people struggle to overthrow the French Colonial Government in Algiers, Algeria*

## Utopian Cities

*How was built space used to create a new way of life? How were socialist and modernist cities—two types of utopian cities—connected to projects of industrialization and nation-building? What are the afterlives of these utopian cities?*

Readings (46 pp.):

- Kopp, Anatole. 1970. "Town and Revolution." In *Town and Revolution; Soviet Architecture and City Planning, 1917-1935*, 163–86. New York: G. Braziller.
- Roy, Srirupa. 2007. "Cities of Hope: Steel Townships and the Spatial Practices of the Nation-State." In *Beyond Belief: India and the Politics of Postcolonial Nationalism*, 133–156. Durham: Duke University Press.

Recommended Film:

- Brasilia: City of Hope (documentary, 1960s, 14')  
*Propaganda film by Standard Oil Company about construction of Brasilia*
- City on the Water (documentary, 1975, 16')  
*Film by architect Charles Correa on urban planning solutions for Mumbai*

## Auto-constructed Cities

*What characterizes the process of auto-construction in peripheries of many cities of the Global South? Which conditions have driven this mode of urbanization? What are some of the outcomes of this process of city-making?*

Readings:

- Caldeira, Teresa. 2017. "Peripheral urbanization: Autoconstruction, transversal logics, and politics in cities of the global south." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* Vol. 35(1) 3–20.
- Balaban, Utku. 2011. "The Enclosure of Urban Space and Consolidation of the Capitalist Land Regime in Turkish Cities." *Urban Studies*. 48(10) 2162–2179.

Recommended Readings (20 pp.):

- Castillo, Jose. 2001. "Urbanisms of the Informal: Transformations in the Urban Fringe of Mexico City." *Praxis: Journal of Writing and Building* 2: 102–111.
- Holston, James and Teresa Caldeira. 2008. "Urban Peripheries and the Invention of Citizenship." *Harvard Design Magazine* 28 (Spring/Summer 2008): 18–23.
- Saracgil, Ayse. 1999. "The Gecekondu and Turkish Modernity." *Environmental Design: Journal of the Islamic Environmental Design Research Centre* 1/2: 104–107.

Week 3.1: Debt Cities

- Prashad, Vijay, "Kingston: IMF-Led Globalization" in *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*, The New Press, 2008, pp. 224–244.
- Harvey, David. "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism." *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography* 71.1 (1989): 3-17.

## World-class Cities

*How are cities in the Global South being made into “world-class” cities? Which planning tools have been mobilized? How is urban land made into a tool for capital accumulation in a neoliberal and globalized world economy? Who is being left behind or dispossessed?*

Readings (28 pp.):

- **\*Posted under week 1\*** Mitra, Sudeshna. 2015. “Anchoring Transnational Flows: Hypermodern Spaces in the Global South.” In *Cities of the Global South Reader*, edited by Faranak Miraftab and Neema Kudva, 106–14. Routledge Urban Reader Series. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge.
- Levien, Michael. 2018. “On the Margins of a World City.” In *Dispossession Without Development: Land Grabs in Neoliberal India*, 159–178. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Recommended Film:

- *Ecumenopolis: City Without Limits* (documentary, 2012, 1:33)  
*Examines the transformations and outcomes of neoliberal urbanization in Istanbul, Turkey*

## **Part II. Debates of Urbanization**

### **Land Tenure**

*What do we understand as “informal” in land tenure? How is the “informal” entangled with the “formal”? What have been some of the policy responses to deal with informality in land tenure?*

Readings (48 pp.):

- Harris, Richard. 2014. “Urban Land Markets: A Southern Exposure.” In *The Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South*, edited by Sue Parnell and Sophie Oldfield, 109–121. London; New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- De Boeck, Filip, and Sammy Baloji. 2016. “Ngaliema’s Revenge: Urban Expansion, Chiefs, and Land; Coda: Occupation and the Politics of (Co-)Presence.” In *Suturing the City: Living Together in Congo’s Urban Worlds*, 257–93. London: Autograph ABP.

### **Housing**

*How can we characterize the “housing crisis” in cities of the Global South? How have low-income populations been able to access housing? How are emerging processes (such as financialization) affecting access to housing?*

Required Readings:

- Peattie, Lisa. “Housing Policy in Developing Countries: Two Puzzles.” *World Development* 7, no. 11–12 (November 1979): 1017–22. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X\(79\)90069-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/0305-750X(79)90069-X).
- Elinoff, Eli. “A House Is More than a House: Aesthetic Politics in a Northeastern Thai Railway Settlement: A House Is More than a House.” *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 22, no. 3 (September 2016): 610–32. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9655.12449>.

Recommend Reading:

- Rolnik, Raquel. 2019. “The Global Financialisation of Housing,” “Exporting the Model,” and “The Demand-Side Subsidies Model.” In *Urban Warfare: Housing under the Empire of Finance*, 11–22, 59–75, 82–91. London: Verso.

## Infrastructure

*What do we understand by “infrastructure”? How can we understand urban infrastructure as conduits of social and political power? What happens when infrastructures “fail” in cities of the Global South?*

Readings:

- Anand, Nikhil. 2016. “Hydraulic Publics.” *Limn* 7. <https://limn.it/articles/hydraulic-publics/>
- \*Posted under week 4\* Behrens, Roger. 2014. “Urban Mobilities: Innovation and Diffusion in Public Transport.” In *The Routledge Handbook on Cities of the Global South*, edited by Sue Parnell and Sophie Oldfield, 459–473. London; New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Thieme, Tatiana. 2017. ““Water is Life, but Sanitation is Dignity.”” *Limn* 9. <https://limn.it/articles/water-is-life-but-sanitation-is-dignity/>

Recommended Readings:

- Collier, Stephen J. 2004. “Pipes.” In *Patterned Ground: Entanglements of Nature and Culture*, edited by Stephan Harrison, Steve Pile, and Nigel J. Thrift, 50–52. London: Reaktion Books.
- Negrón-Muntaner, Frances. 2018. “Blackout: What Darkness Illuminated in Puerto Rico.” Blog. *Politics/Letters* (blog). March 2, 2018. <http://quarterly.politicsslashletters.org/blackout-darkness-illuminated-puerto-rico/>

## Security and Risk

*What are people endangered of in cities of the Global South? Who/what is perceived as a threat, and who/what is at risk? How is urban space made into an arena to deal with issues of security and risk?*

Readings (47 pp.):

- Weizman, Eyal. 2012. “The Wall: Barrier Archipelagos and the Impossible Politics of Separation.” In *Hollow Land: Israel’s Architecture of Occupation*, 161–82. London; New York: Verso. <http://asounder.org/resources/Weizman-Eyal-Hollow-Land.pdf>
- Zeiderman, Austin. 2016. “On Shaky Ground.” In *Endangered City: The Politics of Security and Risk in Bogotá*, 65–91. Durham: Duke University Press.

## Right to the City

*What is the “right to the city”? How can this idea help us understand contemporary claims to urban space? How are notions of the “right to city” translated into urban policies, insurgent planning practices, and grassroots movements?*

Readings (36 pp.):

- Fernandes, Edésio. 2007. “Constructing the ‘Right To the City’ in Brazil.” *Social & Legal Studies* 16 (2): 201–19.
- Miraftab, Faranak. 2009. “Insurgent Planning: Situating Radical Planning in the Global South.” *Planning Theory* 8 (1): 32–50.

Film Screening:

- *Dia de Festa/Housewarming Party* (documentary, 2005, 1:17)  
*Tracks the occupation of empty buildings in São Paulo, Brazil as seen through the eyes of four women*

## **Conclusion**

*How can a “Southern urban lens” generate new forms of thinking about and engagement with cities across the Global North and South?*

Readings (44 pp.):

- Bhan, Gautam. 2019. “Notes on a Southern Urban Practice.” *Environment and Urbanization* 31 (2): 639–54.
- Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. 2008. “Forgotten Places and the Seeds of Grassroots Planning.” In *Engaging Contradictions: Theory, Politics, and Methods of Activist Scholarship*, edited by Charles R. Hale, 31–60. Berkeley: University of California Press.