

Divided Cities: A Global Sociology of Urban Inequality
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Office Hours: Thursday 2:30-3:30 & by appointment
Office Location: Barrows 449

Seminar Meetings
Th 4-6pm (54 Barrows)

Overview

A majority of the world's population has now become urban, ensuring that many of the most urgent, fascinating, and frustrating questions of our time have become urban questions. This course is concerned with the planetary intensification of urban inequality over the past four decades. Drawing on social scientific studies spanning the globe, this course will examine how market processes, politics, and community institutions drive and challenge spatial polarization and marginalization. After a historical overview of the emergence of the European, US, and Colonial metropolis under capitalism, students will grapple with various processes generating urban divisions such as gentrification and displacement, ethnic segregation and ghettoization, urban informality, environmental degradation, and housing provision. As we move across the course materials, we will collectively build a comparative sociology of urban inequality – discerning how class, caste, ethnicity, nationality and other fault lines of differences are carved into social and urban space in varying economic, political, and cultural contexts.

The course is organized into three parts. The first two meetings will examine the urban transformations under early 19th and 20th century capitalism of the US metropolis, European Capital, and Colonial City. Drawing on a series of classic sociological texts, this section will also introduce students to distinct and competing theoretical approaches to studying the city. The second part of the course considers Urban Restructuring in the late 20th century, examining how globalization, de-industrialization, de-colonialization, and neoliberalization reshaped the production and experience of urban space. Once firmly situated both temporally and spatially in the chronology of uneven capitalist development, the third part of the course, which comprises fully half of our meetings, turns to making sense of the contemporary divisions of urban society and their consequences.

Design & Grading

As a capstone seminar of the sociology department, the course is not only more focused than a traditional lecture course, both topically and methodologically, it is also explicitly designed to cultivate a wider set of critical thinking skills including (a) reading analytically and critically, (b) generating novel questions, (c) relating and adjudicating between ideas and thinkers, (d) writing and discussing ideas clearly and constructively. We will workshop these skills through our weekly meetings, presentations, reading responses, and a final paper that you will develop throughout the course. After the seminar, you should walk away with a grasp of the empirical realities, key concepts, and theoretical and policy debates of contemporary urban inequality and to competently participate in graduate-level academic, policy, community-based, and professional research and practice addressing poverty.

Seminar Attendance and Participation (20%)

Seminars meet once a week and we will continuously be building comparisons and contrasts across the works covered. Therefore, attendance is absolutely crucial. You are allowed one unexcused, no-questions asked absences. *For each additional unexcused absence, your attendance/participation grade will decrease by a full letter grade.* You must email me as far in advance as possible if you expect to miss a class and have a valid reason for doing so or a doctor's note. To get full credit for the course, you must contribute actively to section discussions.

Weekly Writing Responses (20%)

Each week you will receive a short assignment (250-500 words) **due by Wednesday 5pm** on BCourses. The purpose of these assignments is to guide your reading and prepare for our weekly discussion. We will engage collectively with these responses during our seminar and they will serve as key resources for your final paper. I will provide feedback on alternating weeks. On weeks of presentations, please submit a written essay of your presentation (approx. 2000 words) in place of the reading. You are allowed one skip week without penalty and one late submission.

Midterm Critical Book Review Essay (20%)

Unlike a traditional book review that summarizes a work and notes its merits and limits, a joint critical book review presents the critic's own argument about a given topic by drawing comparisons and contrasts across two or more works. Papers will be 2,000 words in length and students will be encouraged to engage with topics and concepts that they think they may wish to use in their final research paper in application to a contemporary urban struggle.

Final Research Paper (40%)

Abstract Due April 19 & Required Meeting by April 27th (5%), Final Paper Due May 9 (35%)
Drawing from the global perspective covered in the course, students will be required to write a 12-15-page research paper on a contemporary urban struggle not covered directly in the course. Students will be responsible for investigating a place-specific topic such as gentrification in the Mission, evictions in West Oakland, police reform in the San Francisco's Bay View, affordable housing policy in the region, or the suburbanization of poverty in Antioch, etc. through secondary research. You will then be required to utilize the concepts and cases from the course to bring a new lens and analysis to your particular case.

Required Texts: All course materials will be available as downloadable PDFs on bCourses (bcourses.berkeley.edu).

Week 1. Prelude: Urban Divisions and the Right to the City

Marcuse, Peter. 1993. "What's So New About Divided Cities?" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 17, no. 3 (September): 355-365.

Harvey, David. 2007. "The Right to the City." *New Left Review*.

Part I. The Rise of Capitalism and Urban Transformation

Week 2. Making the American City: Chicago and Atlanta Schools

Park, Robert and Ernest Burgess. 1925. Selections from *The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment*. Burgess, "The Growth of the City" (47-58). McKenzie, "The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community" (73-79).

Zorbaugh, Harvey. 1929. Selections from *The Gold Coast and the Slum*. P 46-49; 63-68; 127-156.

DuBois, W.E.B. 1899. *The Philadelphia Negro*. Ch. 2 "The Negro Problem" (5-9). Ch. 9 "The Occupation of Negroes" (97-129). Ch. 16. "Color Prejudice" (347-355)

Week 3. Making the European and Colonial City: Metro-Marxism

Engels, Friedrich. 1845. "The Great Towns." Conclusion of *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. New York: Penguin: 57 – 93.

Abu-Lughod, Janet. 1965. "Tale of Two Cities: The Origins of Modern Cairo." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 7(4): 429-57.

Part II. Neoliberalization and Urban Restructuring

Week 4. Economic Restructuring: Globalization and Deindustrialization

Harvey, David. 1985. "The Urbanization of Capital." Ch1 in *The Urban Experience*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press: 17-58.

Sassen, Saskia. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Chapter TBD.

Week 5. Political Restructuring: Neoliberalization and Suburbanization

Harvey, David. 1989. "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism." *Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography* 71 (1): 3–17.

Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch. 1987. "How Government Matters." Ch. 5 in *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. Berkeley: UC Press: 147-199.

Week 6. Urban Resistance and Revolution I: US and

Abu-Lughod, Janet. 2007. *Race, Space, and Riots in Chicago, New York, and Los Angeles*. Oxford: Oxford University Press: Chapters TBD.

TBD

Week 7. CANCELLED. TURN IN MID-TERM ESSAY

Part III. Contemporary Topics in Urban Inequality

Week 8. Hyperghettoization and Antighettoization in Chicago and Paris

Wacquant, Loïc. 2008. *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Malden, MA: Polity Press: Chapters 8 and 9

_____. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh." *Punishment & Society* 3-1: 95-133.

Week 9: Gentrification and Displacement in New York and Budapest

Smith, Neil. 1996. *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*. New York: Routledge: Ch. 1, 2, 6.

Week 10: The Urbanization of Camps: US, UK, and Italy

Picker, Giovanni, Margaret Greenfields, and David Smith. 2015. "Colonial refractions: the 'Gypsy camp' as a spatio-racial political technology." *City* 19.5 (2015): 741-752.

Herring, Chris. "The new logics of homeless seclusion: homeless encampments in America's west coast cities." *City & Community* 13.4 (2014): 285-309.

Week 11: SPRING BREAK

Week 12: Housing Classes in Cape Town and Atlanta

Vale, Lawrence J. 2013. "Public Housing and the Margins of Empathy" Ch. 8 in *Purging the Poorest: Public Housing and the Design Politics of Twice-Cleared Communities* Chicago: University of Chicago Press: 314-343.

Levenson, Zachary. 2017. "Precarious welfare states: Urban struggles over housing delivery in post-apartheid South Africa." *International Sociology*.

Week 13: RESCHEDULED FOR READING WEEK.

**Week 14: Securitization, Policing and Gated Communities: Nairobi and Sao Paolo
FINAL PAPER ABSTRACTS DUE**

Caldeira, Teresa P. R. 2000. "Fortified Enclaves: Building Up Walls and Creating a New Private Order." Pp. 256-96 in *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paolo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Glück, Zoltán. 2017 "Security urbanism and the counterterror state in Kenya." *Anthropological Theory* 17.3: 297-321.

Week 15: Urban Informality: A World of Slums from Mexico City to Mumbai

Roy, Ananya. 2011. "Slumdog cities: Rethinking subaltern urbanism." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35.2: 223-238.

Davis, Mike. 2006. "Planet of slums." *New Perspectives Quarterly* 23.2: 6-11.

Week 16: Urban Resistance and Revolution II

Harvey, David. 2012. *Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution*. (P115-155).

AlSayyad, Nezar, and Muna Guvenc. 2015. "Virtual uprisings: On the interaction of new social media, traditional media coverage and urban space during the 'Arab Spring'." *Urban Studies* 52.11: 2018-2034