

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
ARCH561: URBANISM THEMES AND CASE STUDIES

Fall 2017 2 Units Wed. & Fri. 12:00 – 1:50 ZHS 159

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“Urbanization is now unstoppable.” – Anna Tibaijuka, ex-Director UN-Habitat

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a critical studies course on cities, their formation, evolution, devolution and mutation through the forces of world and human progress. The course will be bookended by evidence of the city’s historical structuralization and its continued transformation through global systemics.

Cities across geographical boundaries in a global spatial atlas are vibrant and complex ecologies. Throughout history their (often) contradictory configurations and manifestations must be understood as active and provocative participants in the experiments and progress of human life. As both object and subject, city formation and growth involve a complex web of cultural agencies and human activities. Key among them is the solidification and advancement of *economic, political, social* and *technological* systems as *urban processes*. Despite the fact that the earliest catalyst for what would eventually become urban form was the human settlement, from which emerged the concept of society and civility, urban history would tell us that with each successive *cultural* cycle, the city would undergo morphological changes and urban systemic recalibrations. The interrelationship between urban form and urban process would eventually result in today’s globally amalgamated cities. Today, the world is urbanized with over 50% of the world’s population concentrated in cities generating more than 80% of the global GDP. It is projected that by 2050 and accounting for global population increase, three quarters of the world’s population will be urban dwellers. This portrays an increasingly interconnected world – one where the rapid flow of capital, people, goods, information and ideology draw more and more of the globe into webs of interconnection. This is the world of globalization - a far cry from the early Neolithic Proto-cities that gave birth to the concept of the city and the urban. This course will introduce to the students those historical urban shifts and processes through urban history and urban theory that eventually provided the grounding for understanding the complexities of today’s global cities and the rise of an even larger urban structure, the mega region.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Sessions

The course will run for 1 hour and 50 minutes every Monday and Wednesday in ZHS 159. Classes are held during the lunch hour so please adjust your lunch schedule accordingly. The course will be taught in a hybrid seminar/lecture format, you will be expected to participate in discussions of the course themes and subjects. You should arrive prepared and having completed the assigned reading(s) and be prepared to be called upon for a response and/or to answer specific questions during class.

Course Readings

Each session of the course will be accompanied by a specific theme and a set of reading(s) that will be provided to you on Black Board. There are no other required

textbooks for this course. You are to download the weekly readings directly from Black Board. Given the dense nature of the readings, it is highly recommended that you print out the readings, keep them in a 3 ring binder and make notes and highlight salient content/concepts in the margins of the readings. The reading(s) assigned consist of both introductory and advanced level material and therefore will require sufficient amount of time in order to absorb and digest their content. It is highly recommended that you do not wait till the night before to read them but rather 'pace' your way through them from week to week. You will be expected to come to each session having read the required reading(s) for the session and be ready to answer specific and synthetic questions about the content of the readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Students will be responsible for attending each lecture and doing the required reading(s) each week – Having a thorough comprehension of the lecture subjects and the readings will provide the necessary baseline knowledge required to pass the course. There will be two quizzes that test subject matters covered in lectures and assigned readings and a final exam that will test the students' total comprehension of the course.

Grading breakdown as follows:

Class Participation 10%

2 Quizzes @ 25% each 50%

Final Exam: 40%

COURSE SCHEDULE, THEMES AND ASSOCIATED READINGS (Readings are subject to change)

Week 1

Wed. Aug. 24 - Course Intro

Fri. Aug. 26 - The City in History Through History (A Primer)

Required Readings:

- Whitfield, Peter, "The City in History." Cities of the World. Berkeley: The University of California Press. Pp. 9 – 25.
- Kostof, Spiro. "The City in History." The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History. London: Bulfinch Press, 1991. Pg. 29 – 37.

Week 2

Wed. Aug. 31 – City Systematics (diversification of lineage through time)

Required Readings:

- Mumford, Lewis, "The Crystallization of the City." The City in History. New York: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 1989. Pg. 29 – 54.
- Kostof, Spiro. "The City as Artifact." The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History. London: Bulfinch Press, 1991. Pg. 9 – 29.

Fri. Sept. 2 - City Taxonomy

Required Readings:

- Kostof, Spiro. "What is a City." The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings Through History, London: Bulfinch Press, 1991. Pg. 37 - 41.
- Rossi, Aldo, "Introduction: Urban Artifacts and a Theory of the City." The Architecture of the City. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1989 (5th Edition). Pp. 21 - 27.

Week 3

Wed. Sept. 7 – City Systemics (In the context of systems science and philosophy)

Required Readings:

- Eade, John & Mele Christopher. "Understanding the City." *Understanding the City: Contemporary and Future Perspectives*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2002. Pp. 3 – 11.
- Sudjic, Deyan. "Theory, Policy and Practice." *The Endless City*. London: Phaidon Press, 2007. Pp. 32 – 51.

Fri. Sept. 9 – The Social Regime

Required Readings:

- Logan, John R. & Molotch, Harvey L. "The Social Construction of Cities," *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economies of Place*. Berkeley: U. Of California Press, 1987. Pp. 1 – 15.
- Power, Anne. "At Home in the City." *The Endless City*. London: Phaidon Press, 2007. Pp. 364 – 371.

Week 4

Wed. Sept. 14 – The Economic Regime

Required Readings:

- Logan, John R. & Molotch, Harvey L. "The City as a Growth Machine," *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*, Berkeley, U. of California Press, 1987. Pg. 50 - 98.
- Liang, Andrew. "Capital Production and Social Equity: Finding Balance in Chinese Cities." *Docomomo Journal* No. 50: High Density. 2014/01. Pp. 29 – 35.

Fri. Sept. 16 – The Political Regime

Required Readings:

- Peñalosa, Enrique. "Politics, Power, Cities." *The Endless City*. London: Phaidon Press, 2007. Pg. 307 – 319.
- Brenner, Neil. "Urban Governance – At What Scale?" Lecture Transcript from "Urban Age" Conference, Delhi, India.
- Brenner, Neil. "Introduction: Cities, States, and the Explosion of Spaces." *Urban Governance and the Rescaling of Statehood*. New York, Oxford University Press, 2004. Pg. 1 – 5.

Week 5

Wed. Sept. 21 – Mid-term Exam

Fri. Sept. 23 - Global [De]territorialization: Urban Migration & The Global City

Required reading:

- Inda, J., Rosaldo, R., "Tracking Global Flows." *The Anthropology of Globalization: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2008 (Second Edition). Pp. 3 – 46.
- Sassen, Saskia. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept." *Brown Journal of World Affairs*. Volume 11, No. 2, (Winter/Spring): Pp. 27 – 43.

Week 6

Wed. Sept. 28 – Informal & Temporary Urbanism

Required Readings:

- Tiwari, Geetam. "Informality and its Discontents," *The Endless City*, London:

Phaidon Press, 2007. Pg. 348 – 351.

- Alsayyad, Nezar. "Urban Informality as a 'New' Way of Life." Global Metropolitan Studies: Berkeley Institute of Urban and Regional Development Faculty Publications.

Fri. Sept. 30 – Between Drosscape and Ruralization

Required Readings:

- Berger, Alan. "Discourse for Landscape and Urbanization." Drosscape: Wasting Land in Urban America. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2007. Pg. 26 – 45.
- Krause, Monika. "The Ruralization of the World." Public Culture. Volume 25, No. 2 Issue 70 (Spring 2013).

Week 7

Wed. Oct. 5 – The Rise of the Mega Regions & The Information City

Required Readings:

- Florida, Richard., "Rise of the Mega-Region." Who's Your City." New York: Basic Books, 2008. Pp. 41 – 60.
- Castells, Manuel, "Everyday Life in the Electronic Cottage: The End of Cities?" Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. Pp. 424 – 429.
- Castells, Manuel, "The Transformation of Urban Form: The Informational City," Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010. Pp. 429 - 440.

Fri. Oct. 7 – Final Exam

NAAB ACCREDITATION

To successfully pass this course, students will demonstrate the following:

Realm A

A.1. Communication Skills: Ability to read, write, speak and listen effectively.

A.5. Investigative Skills: Ability to gather, assess, record, apply, and comparatively evaluate relevant information within architectural coursework and design processes.

A. 7. Use of Precedents: Ability to examine and comprehend the fundamental principles present in relevant precedents and to make choices regarding the incorporation of such principles into architecture and urban design projects.

A. 8. Ordering Systems Skills: Understanding of the fundamentals of both natural and formal ordering systems and the capacity of each to inform two- and three-dimensional design.

A. 9. Historical Traditions and Global Culture: Understanding of parallel and divergent canons and traditions of architecture, landscape and urban design including examples of indigenous, vernacular, local, regional, national settings from the Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern hemispheres in terms of their climatic, ecological, technological, socioeconomic, public health, and cultural factors.

Realm C

C. 2. Human Behavior: Understanding of the relationship between human behavior, the natural environment and the design of the built environment.

C. 6. Leadership: Understanding of the techniques and skills architects use to work collaboratively in the building design and construction process and on environmental, social, and aesthetic issues in their communities.

C. 8. Ethics and Professional Judgment: Understanding of the ethical issues involved in

the formation of professional judgment regarding social, political and cultural issues in architectural design and practice.

C.9. Community and Social Responsibility: Understanding of the architect's responsibility to work in the public interest, to respect historic resources, and to improve the quality of life for local and global neighbors.

ADDITIONAL COURSE CONSIDERATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY

Adopted by the University Committee on Curriculum, May 1, 2007

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.