

IDEV 4950-02/6910-03 Urban Spaces and Development
Payson Center for International Development

Spring 2011

Friday 9:00-11:45

Weinmann Hall, Room 302

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Overview of Course

A survey of urban designs, people and institutions around the world to reveal the range of ‘urban’ problems and opportunities in relation to historical trajectories of development and the aspirations of enhancing urban livability and human development. Emphasis is placed on the lives, livelihoods and physical and virtual “spaces” of the poorest and marginalized — in informal settlements, squatter communities, low-income neighborhoods, favelas and interstices of polarized world cities. The course will follow a multi- and interdisciplinary approach — bringing together diverse disciplines (law, architecture, geography, demography, economics and more) which provide distinct analytical lenses (Social Institutions, Place/Space, and People) through which we can usefully view urban places, spaces, people and their problems. Case studies from around the cities from around world will be examined, such as Sao Paulo, Mexico City and Nairobi as well as emergent secondary cities such as Atlanta, Nakuru, and Bogota as well as rapidly growing new small towns such as Lago Agrio (Ecuador) and Bungoma (Kenya).

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

Upon completing this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity of, and common challenges facing “urban” places around the world.
- Synthesize the historical, institutional, social, environmental and physical (built and natural) characteristics shaping cities, and marginalized informal settlements
- Apply formal definitions and data sources to characterize urban places, their evolution, contemporary problems
- Examine and integrate different academic disciplinary perspectives to understand contemporary urban problems and potential solutions
- Analyze development actor response to urban challenges and opportunities
- Assess and evaluate urban challenge and response through group case study

III. Course Texts

- Davis, M. Planet of Slums. Verso. 2006
- Martine, G. , G. McGranahan, M. Montgomery, R. Fernandez-Castilla (Eds.) The New Global Frontier: Urbanization, Poverty, and Environment in the 21st Century. Earthscan Publishing. London 2008
- Neuwirth, R. Shadow Cities: A billion squatters, a new urban world. Routledge 2006.

IV. REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

a. Attendance

(i) Classes: Attendance to the regularly scheduled classes (Friday 9:00-11:5) is mandatory

b. Informed Participation

Active class participation is a critical component of this course. During class activities, students must regularly demonstrate a solid knowledge of the readings and online resources assigned for that week. Thoughtful reflection on the meaning of course readings and respectful interest in the contribution of others is critical to successfully meeting this course requirement. Students who are shy or feel uncomfortable speaking in front of groups should consult with the instructor to develop alternative strategies for success.

In addition, students are required to lead, contribute and participate in online discussion each week during class. Students should expect to reflect on class themes and provide related case studies on the region/city chosen for their final project. Students should also expect to identify and share multimedia (videos, blogs, websites) and data sources. This is a major component of class participation. In terms of the online discussions, meaningful participation includes posing thoughtful questions and providing critical insights and reactions to questions and case studies posted by others.

The Blackboard Site for the course hosts all relevant documents. All students are expected to have an account and access the site regularly for readings, assignments, handouts, and optional resources. Visit <https://blackboard.tulane.edu/> and contact the Blackboard Administrators to create an account if you do not have one.

c. Assignments

Details for each individual assignment will be posted on blackboard and provided in class.

(i) REFLECTION: Two reflection papers will be assigned during the course. The reflection should be between 850-1000 words in length. These assignments will provide students with an opportunity to think critically about topics discussed in class and to raise unanswered questions.

(ii) MINI QUIZZES & ACTIVITIES: Students should expect to complete quizzes and activities on the breadth of material and definitions covered in the class.

(ii) FINAL PROJECTS: Students will work in teams of 3-4 to assess and analyze the response to an informal settlement challenge through a specific case study. Teams will produce a final paper and presentation that reflects the interdisciplinary and applied nature of the class.

Student groups should expect to meet with professors twice during the semester to discuss their projects. Potential topics include: Urban Agriculture in Nairobi, Public Transportation in Medellin, Climate Change Adaptation in Bangkok, Housing Solutions in Quito.

d. Tulane Honor Code – All work should be your own unless you are specifically authorized to collaborate. Students are invited to obtain help at the Writing Workshop. Students must provide full references APA style for paraphrased materials as well as direct quotations. Plagiarism of web sites, other students' papers, people or library materials is an honor offense. I will bring suspected violators before the Honor Board.

e. Evaluation- Students must complete all required written work and participate actively in class discussions. (See above for specific information on participation and assignments.) The breakdown of the grade for this seminar is

- Class participation (20 points)
 - Includes Quizzes, Class Participation, and Online Discussion
- Reflection Papers (10 points each)
- Final Project (60 points)
 - 20 points presentation, 20 points team paper, 20 points individual section

IV. SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS

The following schedule is tentative. Assignments and discussion dates are subject to change. Students are responsible for keeping abreast of changes announced in class and on the course Blackboard site.

Week 1 14 January 2011

Introduction

Introduction of course material and topic. Overview of global and local parameters of urban spaces, historical review, development actors, data sources, etc.

NGF: pp. 1-35

PoS: pp.1-49

SC: Preface and Prologue; 177-204

Week 2 21 January

People, Places, and Policies: Demography, Geography, and Development

Demography, Rural-Urban Migration, Social and Economic Geography, Development Frameworks

NGF: pp.38-51(Urbanization, Poverty, and Inequity-Rural and Urban Links) pp.302-314 (Africa Overview)

SC: pp.66-79

Week 3 28 January 2011

People, Places, and Policies: Livelihoods

Micro-Level Case Studies: Kenya, Livelihoods

NGF: pp. 132-143 (Organizations of the Urban Poor and Equitable Urban Development: Process and Product)

PoS: pp. 77-94 (Illusions of Self-Help)

SC:

Week 4 4 February 2011

People, Places, and Policies: Physical Spaces

Review of physical conditions of informal settlements throughout world, development actors and their historic role in improvements

NGF:
PoS: pp.122-150 Slum Ecology
SC: pp.201-233

Week 5 11 February 2011

People, Places, and Policies: Urban Spaces and Climate Change
Review of "big picture" environmental opportunities and challenges related to urban spaces
NGF: pp. 161-183 (Climate Change) and pp. 184-201 (Urban Ecosystems)
PoS: pp. 174-198
SC: 101-141 (Mumbai)

Week 6 18 February 2011

People, Places, and Policies: Ecosystem Services & Small-Scale Service Provision
Review of environmental and health impacts of informal settlements
NGF:
PoS:
SC:

Week 7 25 February 2011

People, Places, and Policies: Legal Responses
Topic of lecture...
NGF: pp.78-97 (Land and Services for the Urban Poor)
pp.354-366 (Latin American Policies Lessons Learned)
PoS: pp. 51-69
SC:

Week 8 4 March 2011

Student Presentations
Student presentation of selected topic for course assignment

Week 9 11 March 2011

NO CLASS — MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY

Week 10 18 March 2011

Looking Toward The Future: Global Response
Macro review of global actors and global responses [Potential Guest Lecture: George Gatoni-World Bank]
NGF:
PoS: pp. 152-173
SC:

Week 11 25 March 2011

Looking Toward The Future: National Level Response and Legal Pluralism
Topic of Lecture...
NGF: pp.99-114 (Informality and Poverty in Latin American Policy)?
PoS: pp. 96-120
SC: 25-65 (Rio)

Week 12 1 April 2011

Looking Toward The Future: Innovative Structural Solutions
Projective examples of upgrading in Latin America
NGF:
PoS:
SC: 309-315 Time Future

Week 13 8 April 2011

Looking Toward The Future: Civil Society and Social Entrepreneurship

Topic of lecture...

NGF:

PoS:

SC:

Week 14 15 April 2011

Looking Toward The Future: NGO Response

Topic of lecture...

NGF:

PoS:

SC:

Week 15 Date/Time based on Final Schedule for Spring 2011

Final Student Presentations