

## DRAFT SYLLABUS

### Urbanization and its Discontents

#### Introduction

This seminar examines urbanization as a site of cultural practice and political debate. Since 1888, the word ‘urbanization’ has denoted two distinct phenomena: the transformation of sparsely populated agricultural land into dense industrial settlements, and the migration of people from rural to urban areas. During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, social critics in industrial cities at the center of the world economy bemoaned the loss of the agrarian countryside and denounced the human cost of industrialization. Their criticism took the form of symbolist poetry, experimental photography, modern social science, satirical articles and illustrations, landscape painting, as well as design proposals for garden suburbs.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the colonized periphery emerged as a new site of urban experimentation. Anti-imperialists in South Africa, India, and Australia, inspired by the Victorian ‘Back-to-the-Land’ Movement, created rural and suburban communes where Europeans and non-Europeans could live together equitably in a cosmopolitan community. By the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, however, anti-colonial nationalism became the dominant voice of resistance to imperialism, and nationalist leaders across Asia, Africa, and Latin America linked their new regimes to modernist techniques of master planning, environmental control, and monumental civic design.

The euphoria of decolonization proved to be short lived, and by 1960 all of the formerly colonized countries of the world had aligned themselves either with the US or the Soviet Union. As the Cold War grew hot, uncomfortable, and dangerous in South-East Asia, the Middle East, and the Caribbean, architects, planners, historians, and ecologists formed international networks with the goal of transferring technical expertise on urban management from the “North” to the “South”. In the two decades since the end of the Cold War, non-governmental cooperation across the Global South has renewed the struggle for such things as a universal right to housing. Yet, with the growth of transnational civil society movements, the most vulnerable often find themselves open to new forms of exploitation as the responsibility of national governments is eroded without the creation of new institutions of justice and new practices of accountability.

#### Course Format

This seminar is organized chronologically into six thematic units, each lasting two weeks. During the first week of each unit, we will discuss literary and philosophical texts, paintings, illustrations, photographs, and films, as well as urban design projects that sought to shape the processes of urbanization. During the second week of each unit, we will review recent historical scholarship on urbanism in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our discussion in the second week will be guided by student presentations based on the assigned readings.

## Course Requirements

1. Response Papers: Every two weeks, you will write a 300 – 400 word response paper on one literary or philosophical text from a list of required readings. The response paper is an opportunity for you to develop your interpretative skills. Use these response papers to guide the way you read texts. You might choose to focus on an aspect of the argument that was puzzling, or on a metaphor or image that is repeatedly invoked in the text.
2. Presentation: During the second week of each unit, when we are reading recent studies in architectural and urban history, two-person teams will present on the readings.
3. Final Paper: Over the course of the semester, you will research and write a 4000 – 5000 word essay based on original source(s) on an urban initiative, preferably in the Philadelphia region. Your essay might critically examine a design, public policy, or community-driven initiative. Rather than merely describe or endorse this initiative, your essay should historicize it. That is, you should situate and critique the political, economic, and cultural milieu that this initiative produces.

To assist you prepare your review essay, you are required to meet the instructor during **Week 4** to discuss your preliminary ideas for your final paper. You will submit a paragraph-long abstract of your review during **Week 5**, and a bibliography consisting of at least six articles or books during **Week 7**. You are required to meet the instructor to discuss the outline for your final paper during **Week 8**, and you will submit an outline that delineates the evidence you will be drawing on and which situates your essay in relationship to existing historical scholarship during **Week 9**.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Fortnightly response papers will gauge students' ability to analyze the themes and arguments of primary readings
2. Presentations will examine students' ability to work together in teams, conduct visual analysis and bibliographic research, and deliver oral and visual presentations
3. Final paper will test students' ability to conduct original research, and form a coherent and persuasive argument supported with evidence

## Evaluation

Class Participation	20%
Response Papers	20%
Project Presentations	20%
Final Paper	40%

**NB:** All assignments must be turned in on time in order to receive course credit.

## Office Hours

Wednesdays, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Please visit <http://goo.gl/Nfim6d> to schedule an appointment

You are required to meet the instructor at least three times during office hours over the course of the semester. You should meet the instructor at least one week prior to your project presentation. Extra office hours will be held during the fourth week of the semester so you can discuss initial ideas for the final paper. Likewise, extra office hours will be held during the eighth week of the semester so you can discuss the progress of your research and the outline for your final paper. These office hour sessions will be designed to improve your online and library research skills.

You are encouraged to meet the instructor during regular office hours to discuss other aspects of the course experience. If you are interested in pursuing advanced research in architectural and urban history, please meet the instructor at the end of the semester to discuss ways in which you final papers can be revised and expanded into a writing sample for graduate admissions, for a conference presentation, and even for publication.

## Seminar Sessions and Readings

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: **Unit 1:** Growth and Deprivation

Required Readings:

1. Baudelaire, Charles. "Tableaux Parisien." In *Selected Poems*. Translated and edited by Carol Clark. London: Penguin, 1995. (First published in the second edition of *Les Fleurs du mal* in 1861).
2. Engels, Friedrich. "The Great Towns." In *The City Reader*. Edited by Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. London; New York: Routledge, 2000. (First published in *Die Lage der arbeitenden Klasse in England* in 1845).
3. Du Bois, W.E.B. "The Negro Problem in Philadelphia," "The Question of Earning a Living," and "Color Prejudice" In *The City Reader*. (First published in *The Philadelphia Negro* in 1899).

Reference Images:

- a) Nadar, *Chambre du pont Notre-Dame* (photograph; 1861)
- b) Daumier, *La Soupe* (illustration; c. 1862)
- c) Du Bois, *American Negro* (photographic exhibition; 1900)

Recommended Reading:

Harvey, David. *Paris, Capital of Modernity*. New York; London: Routledge, 2003, especially pp. 149 – 189.

**Due:** First response paper

Week 3: **Unit 1:** Growth and Deprivation (continued)

Required Readings:

1. Al-Asad, Mohammad. "The Mosque of al-Rifa'i in Cairo." *Muqarnas* 10 (1993): 108–124.
2. Datta, Partho. "How modern planning came to Calcutta." *Planning Perspectives* 28:1 (2013): 139–147.

Week 4: **Unit 2:** Beauty and Simplicity

Required Readings:

1. Ruskin, John. "Traffic." In *The genius of John Ruskin*. Edited by John. D. Rosenberg. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1997. (First delivered as a lecture at the Town Hall in Bradford in 1864).
2. Carpenter, Edward. *Towards Democracy* (1881 – 1902), pp. 137–146.
3. Carpenter, Edward. *Civilisation Its Cause and Cure* (1889 – 1914), pp. 1, 4, 15, 16, 19, 25–28, 35–43.
4. Gandhi, M.K. *Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule* (1922), pp. 22 – 35.
5. Griffin, W.B. "Building for Nature." *Advance! Australia* 4, no. 3 (March 1, 1928): 123–7.

Reference Images:

- a) Millet, *Des glaneuses* (painting; 1857)
- b) Repin, *Ploughman* (painting; c. 1887)
- c) Gandhi and Kallenbach, Tolstoy Farm (commune; 1910)
- d) Mahony and Griffin, Castlecrag (suburb; 1920 – 1935)

Recommended Reading:

Gandhi, Leela. *Affective Communities: Anticolonial Thought, Fin-De-Siècle Radicalism, and The Politics Of Friendship*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006, especially pp. 1–12, 34–66.

**Due:** Second response paper

**NB:** Mandatory Office Hours to discuss initial thoughts on the final paper

Week 5: **Unit 2:** Beauty and Simplicity (continued)

Required Readings:

1. Coetzer, Nicholas. “Agents of Empire,” and “Models of the Self: ‘Model’ Cottages, Slum Clearance and the Garden City Movement.” In *Building Apartheid: on architecture and order in imperial Cape Town*. Burlington: Ashgate, 2013.
2. Akçan, Esra. “New City: Traveling Garden City.” In *Architecture in Translation: Germany, Turkey, and the Modern House*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2012.

**Due:** Paragraph-length description of an idea for the final paper

Week 6: **Unit 3:** Identification and Alienation

Required Readings:

1. Simmel, Georg. “The Metropolis and Mental Life.” In *The Blackwell City Reader*. Edited by Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson. Oxford; Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 2002 (First published in *Die Großstadt* in 1903).
2. Kracauer, Siegfried. “Cult of Distraction.” In *The Mass Ornament: Weimar Essays*. Translated by Thomas Y. Levin. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995. (First written in 1926).
3. Paz, Octavio. “The Present Day.” In *The Labyrinth of Solitude: Life and Thought in Mexico*. New York: Grove Press, 1962. (First written in 1950).

Reference Images:

- a) Eisenstein, *Old and New* (film; 1929)
- b) Stone, Book Cover for *Einbahnstraße* (photomontage; 1928)
- c) Rivera, *Mexico Prehispanico* (painting; 1950)

Recommended Reading:

Huysen, Andreas. “Modernist Miniatures: Literary Snapshots of Urban Spaces,” *PMLA* 122, no. 1 (January 2007): 27–42

**Due:** Third response paper

- Week 7: **Unit 3: Identification and Alienation (continued)**  
 Required Readings:
1. Gwendolyn Wright, *The Politics of Design in French Colonial Urbanism*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), pp. 1–14.
  2. Prakash, Vikramaditya. *Chandigarh's Le Corbusier: The Struggle for Modernity in Postcolonial India*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002), pp. 3–30, 96–122.
- Due:** Preliminary bibliography for final paper
- Week 8: **Unit 4: War and Peace**  
 Required Readings:
1. Le Corbusier. "Report of the French Delegate." In *Report of the Headquarters Commission...of the United Nations*. New York, 1946.
  2. Doxiadis, C.A. "Ecumenopolis." In *Britannica Book of the Year*, 1968.
  3. Newton, Huey P. "We are Nationalists and Internationalists" (1968); and "Inter-Communalism" (1970)
- Reference Images:
- a) Kandinsky, *Zwei* (painting; 1924)
  - b) Taut, *Die Stadtkrone* (urban design proposal; 1919)
  - c) Douglas, *The Black Panther* (newspaper; 1968 – 1972)
- Recommended Film:
- Godard, Jean-Luc. *Two or Three Things I Know About Her* (1967).
- Due:** Fourth response paper  
**NB:** Mandatory Office Hours to discuss preliminary outline for the final paper
- Week 9: **Unit 4: War and Peace (continued)**  
 Required Readings:
1. Hayden, Dolores. "Edge City, Heart City, Drop City: Communal Building Today." In *Seven American Utopias: The Architecture of Communitarian Socialism 1790 – 1975*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1979.
  2. Steiner, Hadas A. "City Synthesis." In *Beyond Archigram: The Structure of Circulation*. New York: Routledge, 2009.
- Due:** Page-length outline of final paper
- Week 10: **Unit 5: Resource and Expertise**  
 Required Readings:
1. Turner, John F.C. "Who Decides?" In *Housing by People: Towards Autonomy in Building Environments*. New York: Pantheon, 1976.
  2. Jacobs, Jane. "Introduction." In *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Vintage, 1961.

3. Lynch, Kevin. "The City Image and its Elements." In *The City Reader*. (first published in *The Image of the City* in 1960).
4. Alexander, Christopher. "A City is Not a Tree." *Architectural Form* 172, (April/May, 1965).

Reference Images:

- a) Jakarta, Kampung Improvement Programme (urban development; 1974)
- b) UNESCO, Agricultural Training Centre (campus design; 1977)
- c) Patwardhan, *Bombay: Our City* (documentary film; 1985)

Recommended Reading:

Davis, Mike. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso, 2006, pp. 70–94.

**Due:** Fifth response paper

Week 11: **Unit 5:** Resource and Expertise (continued)

Required Readings:

1. Dutta, Arindam. "Computing Alibis: Third World Teratologies." *Perspecta* 40 (2008).
2. Muzaffar, M. Ijlal. "Fuzzy Images: The Problem of Third World Development and the New Ethics of Open-Ended Planning at the MIT-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies." In *A Second Modernism*. Edited by Arindam Dutta, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013.

Week 12: **Unit 6:** World and Global

Required Readings:

1. Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. "Megacity" *Grey Room* 1, no. 1 (2000): 8–25.
2. Sassen, Saskia "A New Geography of Centers and Margins." In *The City Reader*. (First published in *Cities in a World Economy* in 1994).
3. Harvey, David. "The Right to the City." *New Left Review* 53 (2008).

Reference Images:

- a) Tschumi, *Parc de la Villette* (urban and landscape design project; c. 1986)
- b) *The Wire*, Season 2 (cable TV show; 2003)

Recommended Film:

*Deconstructivist Architects* (1988).

**Due:** Sixth response paper

Week 13: **Unit 6:** World and Global (continued)

Required Readings:

1. Vidler, Anthony. "Guy Debord and the Cartographies of a Landscape to be Invented." In *Scenes of the Street*. New York: Monacelli Press, 2011.
2. Wigley, Mark. *Buckminster Fuller Inc.: architecture in the age of radio*, 2015.

Week 14: FINAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS