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Office Hours: Mon. and Tues. 11am-12pm in SSMS 3013 and by appointment

SOCIOLOGY 185S: THEORIES OF THE GLOBAL CITY

Summer Session B: August 1-September 10, 2011

M T W, 9:30-10:50am in Phelps 2516

Course overview: In 2008 the world's population became predominantly urban. This marks a watershed moment in human history and will have profound global impacts, economically, politically, environmentally, and of course, socially. What does it mean that more than half the world's population now lives in cities? Can urban theory, which has traditionally been dominated by the West, account for new forms of urban existence? This course focuses on theories of urbanism and urbanization with a special emphasis on global cities. By global cities, we do not just mean Tokyo, London, and New York, but also those places which we might not consider as important nodes of global capitalism: Dakar, Bangalore, and Mexico City, for example. What does urban existence look like in these places?

The first half of the class examines foundational works in urban sociology, with a special emphasis on American urban sociology as well as early European sociological writings on the city. The second half of the class will complicate these theories by introducing globalization and theories of the Third World City into our study. In the course we will attempt to tackle questions like the following: What is the relationship between cities and modernity? How do we characterize social life in cities? How are cities changing? How does globalization impact urbanization and urbanism?

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the role "the urban" plays in your own life
2. Explain why cities and the concept of "the urban" matter to sociologists
3. Learn about and analyze key differences and commonalities between a variety of urban theories
4. Explain how the functions of cities have changed throughout the 20th and 21st century
5. Articulate the complex interplay between cities and "modernity" within social theory
6. Describe and critique the relationship between cities and globalization

Readings: There are two required books for this course. Additional readings will be posted to GauchoSpace. The required books are available at the bookstore and online. They are:

Davis, Mike. 2006. *Planet of Slums*. New York: Verso. ISBN: 9781844671601

Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele, eds. 2005. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 978-0-415-32343-7.

Course Requirements

Participation and Attendance (20%): It goes without saying that attendance and participation are crucial to the learning process in a theory course. I believe that the best way to learn is through dialogue in every sense of the word: dialogue with the readings, with me, and with your classmates. This is an upper level theory course and it is likely that you will struggle with some of the material. That's normal; in fact, it's good. In order to facilitate discussion so we all gain a deeper understanding of the required texts (as well as to pressure you to do the reading), **I require that you prepare a discussion question for each class session based on the readings due that day. You will turn these questions in at the beginning of class in order to get attendance credit. If you do not turn in a question, you will be counted as absent.** Students will not get credit for questions that make only vague references to the text (i.e. "What is Mike Davis's main argument?").

Tests (20% each): There will be two in-class tests. Test 1 will cover the content of the first half of the course, and Test 2 will cover material from the second half of the course. Tests will include true/false questions based on the readings, lectures, and films shown in class, identification questions, where you will be given a quote and asked to identify the author, and short answer.

Final Paper (40%): This will be a 6-8 page analytical paper based on course materials and will be due the last day of the course. I will hand out instructions for the paper by the middle of the session. Please note that there are two intermediate due dates on which you will be required to bring portions of your paper to class in order to workshop with your peers. A portion of your paper grade will be determined by your completion of these intermediate assignments. Papers are due at the **beginning** of class. Late papers will not be accepted except in very limited cases involving medical or family emergencies.

General Policies and Guidelines

Laptops and Cell phones: Laptops are permitted for note taking only. Surfing the web, chatting online, and looking at pictures is not only disrespectful to me and to your peers; it is also very distracting. If the TA or I catch you misusing your laptop during class, we may ask you to leave, which would be pretty embarrassing. It should go without saying that any use of cell phones in the classroom is not permitted.

Communication: If an emergency comes up in the course of the quarter that affects your ability to successfully complete the requirements for the course, please notify us as quickly as possible so that we can try to accommodate you. At the end of the quarter it is often too late to make accommodations. No one should fail a course because of a personal or family emergency.

A Note on Academic Integrity: I take all forms of academic integrity, including plagiarism, very seriously. Anyone caught plagiarizing or engaging in other forms of academic misconduct will not only receive an “F” in the class, but may also be referred to the Committee on Student Conduct. Please take the time to educate yourself on UCSB’s guidelines for academic integrity at <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>. Questions about proper citation should be directed to myself or to the TA.

Students with Disabilities: Please register with DSP (<http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu/>) by the end of the **first week** of the course so that we can make the necessary accommodations.

Schedule

Week 1: Theories of the Metropolis: From Berlin to Chicago

Monday, August 1: Introduction to course, view film in class: *Berlin, Symphony of a Great City*

Tuesday, August 2: Early European Sociology and the Modern Industrial Metropolis.

- Tönnies, Ferdinand. “Community and Society” (Reader, page 16)
- Simmel, Georg. “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (Reader, page 23).

Wednesday, August 3: Flâneurie and The Chicago School: Urban Ecology

- Park, Robert Ezra. “Human Ecology” (Reader, page 65).
- Wolff, Janet: “The Invisible Flâneuse: Women and the Literature of Modernity” (posted on GauchoSpace).
- Benjamin, Walter. Short excerpt on the Arcades (we will read together in class)

Week 2: Cities as Places of Hope and Despair: Urban Inequalities

Monday, August 8: The Great Migration, Immigration, and early takes on urban inequalities

- DuBois, W.E.B. “The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study” (Excerpts posted on GauchoSpace).
- Portes, Alejandro and Robert Manning. “The Immigrant Enclave: Theory and Empirical Examples” (Reader, page 152).
- View short film on Jacob Riis.

Tuesday, August 9: Segregation and the Ghetto

- Guest speaker: Emily Tumpson Molina
- Wacquant, Loïc and William Julius Wilson. “The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion in the Inner City” (Reader, page 124).
- Massey, Douglas S. and Nancy A. Denton. “Segregation and the Making of the Underclass” (Reader, page 134).

Wednesday, August 10: The Carceral City: Stratification and Exclusion and the LA School

- Caldeira, Teresa “Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation” (Reader, page 327).
- Davis, Mike. “Fortress LA” (posted on GauchoSpace)

Week 3: Neoliberalism, Privatization, and Global Cities

Monday, August 15: **TEST 1.**

Tuesday, August 16: Neoliberalism and The Privatized City

- Zukin, Sharon. “Whose Culture? Whose City?” (Reader, page 281).
- Woods, Clyde. 2009. “Les Misérables of New Orleans: Trap Economics and the Asset Stripping Blues, Part 1.” *American Quarterly*. 61: 769-796. (posted on GauchoSpace).

Wednesday, August 17: Global City

- Friedmann, John. “The World City Hypothesis” (Reader, page 223).
- Sassen, Saskia, “The Urban Impact of Globalization” (Reader, page 230).

Week 4: Globalization and “Other” Cities

Monday, August 22: Rapid Urbanization

- Davis, Mike. “Planet of Slums” Chapters 1 and 2.
- View film: *Last Train Home* in class.

Tuesday, August 23: Living in Slums: Survival Under Structural Adjustment

- Davis, Mike. “Planet of Slums” Chapters 6 and 7.

Wednesday, August 24: New Urban Futures

- Davis, Mike. “Planet of Slums” Chapter 8.
- **THINK ABOUT WHICH READINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE FOR YOUR FINAL PAPER OVER THE WEEKEND!**

Week 5: New Paradigms

Monday, August 29: The Third World City: Imagining New Paradigms for Urban Theory

- Robinson, Jennifer. 2006. *Ordinary Cities: Between Modernity and Development*. London: Routledge (Excerpts posted on GauchoSpace).
- AlSayyad, Nezar and Ananya Roy. 2006. "Medieval modernity: On citizenship and urbanism in a global era," *Space and Polity*, 10:1, 1-20. (Posted on GauchoSpace).

Tuesday, August 30: On the Ground Urbanism- Informalization

- **TOPIC, READINGS, AND THESIS STATEMENT FOR FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS**
- Bayat, Asef. 2004. "Globalization and the Politics of Informals in the Global South." In *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America, and South Asia*, eds. A. Roy and N. AlSayyad, 79-102. Lanham: Lexington Books. (Posted on GauchoSpace).
- Simone, AbdouMaliq. 2004. *For the City Yet to Come: Changing African Life in Four Cities*. Durham: Duke University Press (Excerpts posted on GauchoSpace).

Wednesday, August 31: **TEST 2.**

Week 6: Urban Futures: Agency, Resistance and Wrap-up

Monday, September 5: LABOR DAY. NO CLASS.

Tuesday, September 6: Informalization, cont. and workshop final papers.

- **TOPIC SENTENCES FOR FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS**
- View film: *Garbage Dreams* in class.

Wednesday, September 7: Wrap up.

- **FINAL PAPERS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**
- Kohler, Bettina and Markus Wissen. "Glocalizing Protest: Urban Social Movements and Global Protests" (Reader, page 346).
- Finish film: *Garbage Dreams* in class.