

CITIES AND DEVELOPMENT (Fall 2003)

GEOG 900 Seminar in Geography
Schedule: W 3:30-6:00, Rm 548 Science Hall
Credits: 1-3 **Meets with:** Geog 675
Prereq.; Graduate student standing

also listed as:

GEOG 675 Special Topic: Cities and Development
Schedule: T 3:30-6:00 pm, Rm 548 Science Hall
Credits: 3 **Breadth:** S **Level:** A **Meets with:** Geog 900
Prereq.; Junior, Senior or Graduate Student or instructor consent

Contact Details

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Description: This course examines the relationship between cities and the 'development' process. Global scale assessments of urbanization processes lay the context for detailed analyses of issues such as the role of the state in the development process, the relationship between cities and citizenship, postcolonial urbanism, transnational urbanism, and city futures. While these are long-standing issues of debate in various disciplines, and in inter-disciplinary networks, our interest will be in recent work that addresses new theoretical, methodological and empirical questions.

This seminar is reading and discussion intensive. A sample of research monographs, representing work in several disciplines, will be assigned to ensure we cover a series of interrelated themes. Following an introductory session, each text will receive one week of course time. The geographic and temporal terrain that the empirical and theoretical material is drawn from extends from 18th century London to 20th century Southeast Asia (esp., Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore), Europe and North America.

Readings: The course texts are listed below and divided into several sections. For the benefit of those of you deciding on whether or not to take the course, I have also included brief synopses of each text that were extracted from the respective book jackets or publisher's web sites (though slightly edited).

The texts will be available at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gillman (just off of State Street). I do realize this is a large number of books, especially for the undergraduates registered in the course. I have therefore attempted to ensure that the selected texts are relatively cheap and in paperback form. Some of the texts are also available on the web, and all of the texts will be placed in the Geography library under short-term (two hour) loan.

GEOG 675/900 - Outline Schedule

Week 1: September 4 -- INTRODUCTION and OVERVIEW
United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (2001) *The State of the World's Cities 2001*

Weeks 2/3: September 11 & 18
Olds, Kris (2001) *Globalization and Urban Change*

Week 4: September 25
World Bank (2000) *Cities in Transition* [guest: Stephen Malpezzi] + paper abstract due

Weeks 5/6: October 2 & 9
Ogborn, Miles (1998) *Spaces of Modernity* +paper topic to be confirmed on 2 October

Week 7: October 16
Abu-Lughod, Janet (1999) *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: America's Global Cities*

Week 8: October 23
No Class/Research Time

Week 9: October 30
Abu-Lughod, Janet (1999) *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: America's Global Cities*

Week 10: November 6
Cities and Development *Filmfest* [title(s) to be confirmed]

Weeks 11/12: November 13 & 20
Roy, Ananya (2002) *City Requiem, Calcutta* + paper due on 20 November

Week 13: November 27
Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14: December 4
Kong, Lily, and Yeoh, Brenda (2003) *The Politics of Landscapes in Singapore: Constructions of Nation*

Week 15: December 11
Sardar, Ziauddin (2000) *The Consumption of Kuala Lumpur*

Detailed Outline

I. Introducing the City

UNCHS (2001) *The State of the World's Cities 2001*, Nairobi: UNCHS. ISBN 9211314763. \$16.95 @ Rainbow. Web: <http://www.unchs.org/Istanbul+5/statereport.htm>

The 2001 edition of *The State of the World's Cities* is a milestone in the efforts of the United Nations to build and disseminate knowledge for policy-makers and the general public: for the first time, the city, rather than the country, is used as the basic unit of analysis. While providing a detailed portrait of urban life at a critical juncture, it states that cities are not only hubs of dynamism, change and opportunity but also places of exploitation, disease and unemployment, crime, drug abuse and pollution.

II. The Urbanized Spaces of Modernity

Olds, Kris (2001) *Globalization and Urban Change: Capital, Culture and Pacific Rim Mega-Projects*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0199256969 \$29.95

This book provides a grounded analysis of globalization and urban change in the late twentieth century. Drawing upon multi-locale fieldwork, I examine the role of two elite transnational cultures - ethnic Chinese property developers and modernist architects - in the planning and development of Pacific Rim mega-projects.

World Bank (2000) *Cities in Transition: World Bank Urban and Local Government Strategy*, Washington, DC: World Bank. ISBN: 0-8213-4591-5. \$25 @ Rainbow. Web: http://www.worldbank.org/html/fpd/urban//publicat/cities_in_transition_full.pdf

This book discusses some key development issues, such as the need for a new urban strategy for the World Bank, pursuing a vision of sustainable cities, a renewed World Bank strategy for urban and local assistance, and requirements for implementing the new strategy. The book discusses how local governments in partnership with other public agencies, the private sector, and the residents can ensure the delivery and financing of essential services and promote the welfare and productivity of the urban society.

Ogborn, Miles (1998) *Spaces of Modernity: London's Geographies 1680-1780*, New York: Guilford Press. ISBN: 1572303654. \$25

This text provides a reinterpretation of London during a period of dramatic change, and presents ways of understanding the coming modernity through the transformation of urban landscapes. The book starts an exploration of the major theoretical approaches to modernity. This is followed by studies of a number of sites within London that demonstrate the coming of modernity.

III. Developmental Urbanism

Abu-Lughod, Janet (1999) *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: America's Global Cities*, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 0816633363 \$24.95

New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles—for all their differences, they are quintessentially American cities. They are also among the handful of cities on the earth that can be called “global.” Janet L. Abu-Lughod’s book is the first to compare them in an ambitious in-depth study that takes into account each city’s unique history, following their development from

their earliest days to their current status as players on the global stage. Abu-Lughod clarifies how each city's global role is—and will be—affected by geography, ethnicity of population, political institutions, and tradition of governance.

Roy, Ananya (2002) *City Requiem, Calcutta: Gender and the Politics of Poverty*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 0-8166-3933-7 \$22.95

The book emphasizes how gender itself is spatialized, and how gender relations are negotiated within the geopolitics of modernity and through the everyday practices of territory. Thus Roy shows how urban developmentalism, in its populist guise, reproduces the relations of masculinist patronage, and, in its entrepreneurial guise, seeks to reclaim a bourgeois Calcutta, gentlemanly in its nostalgias. In doing so, her work expands the field of poverty studies by showing how a politics of poverty is also a poverty of knowledge, a construction and management of social and spatial categories.

Kong, Lily, and Yeoh, Brenda (2003) *The Politics of Landscapes in Singapore: Constructions of Nation*, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press. ISBN: 0-8156-2980-X \$19.95

This book shows how power relations that define and challenge the concept of 'nation' are played out in and through landscapes. These broad themes are engaged with through an analysis of a range of development issues in Singapore.

Sardar, Ziauddin (2000) *The Consumption of Kuala Lumpur*, London: Reaktion Books. ISBN: 1861890575 \$29.95

Kuala Lumpur is the postmodern city writ large, a city that, within the short span of a decade, has been transformed from a sleepy capital into a technological marvel with a thriving, diverse and affluent cultural life. Using anecdotes, classic Malay myths and tales, and observations based on real and imaginary wanderings through the city, the author traces Kuala Lumpur's origins and charts the remarkable changes experienced by the city and its people.

Format and Evaluation

As noted above, this course is reading and discussion intensive. We will do something rare in academia (unfortunately!) - read whole books from start to finish, and enter into a relaxed discussion about the ideas contained in the books, as well as the context(s) that the books need to be viewed within. In other words, we will be pursuing substantive issues, theoretical and conceptual elements, and also approaches to *writing about* cities and the "development" process.

I will lead off the discussion of each book, laying the context for our subsequent discussion of key themes, debates, ideas, etc. Given the nature of the course I expect every student to maintain a steady pace with respect to the course texts.

Weekly Reaction Pieces and Class Participation (50% of grade)

To facilitate this, all students are *required* to bring in sufficient copies of a 1-2 (single space) *reaction piece* for distribution to the entire class. For example, if we are discussing *Spaces of Modernity* you must complete the review before the class, run off sufficient copies for everyone, and bring them for distribution at the start of class. If

you are unable to do this on a consistent basis (barring illness) please do not register in this class.

Reaction pieces are required because they help spur on discussion, facilitate the "participation" of relatively quieter people, force you to complete reading the book on time, and enable everyone to take something away from class for their files. Let me assure you that students love reading their colleagues' reaction pieces - everyone has a different insight on each book, yet some commonalities and points of consensus often emerge as well. The capacity to write short articles is also worth developing.

In addition, 2-3 people will be assigned responsibility to help *facilitate* discussion with me each week. The facilitators are required to send me (via email) some prospective discussion questions by 12 noon on the day of class (i.e. Thursdays). I will merge these discussion questions with my questions, and bring along a list of discussion questions to each class.

Given how book/discussion oriented this course is, your *contribution to discussions, facilitation, and the weekly reaction pieces* will be worth 50% of your grade.

Research Paper (50% of grade)

The remaining 50% of your grade is derived from a research paper on the topic of your choice (subject to my approval). The paper should be on a theme related to 'cities and development'. I would like you to prepare this paper with the aim of submitting it to a professional journal that published urban-oriented work (e.g., *Cities, Development and Change, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography, Urban Geography, Urban Studies*).

In terms of length:

- Undergraduates should aim for a 15-20 page double-spaced paper.
- Graduate students should aim for a 25-30 page double-spaced paper.

Please note that the deadlines for this paper are being frontloaded (i.e., I want you to be finished with this early and not in the midst of the winter "rush" season). More specifically:

- You are required to submit a 50-100 word abstract of your proposed topic in class on **Week 4**. Multiple abstracts are permitted if you have multiple interests;
- We need to agree on one topic by the end of **Week 5**;
- The final version is due in class on **Thursday 20 November (Week 12)**.

A 10% per day *late penalty* will be applied against the final paper grade unless you have a doctor's note explaining why you have a legitimate medical reason for missing the deadline. Please note that there is *no* flexibility with respect to the application of the late penalty.