

Fall 2014
Wednesdays 7:20-10:00pm
Hanover Hall L003
Office Hours: Mon. 1-2pm, Wed 2-3pm,
or by appointment.

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SOCI 853: Cities in a Global Society Syllabus

In this course, we will explore urban sociology, critical urban studies, and globalization studies to understand cities in a global context. This course includes classics and some of the newest works in these fields. We will explore cities in the Global North, the Global South, and the Second World of socialism. We will focus on debates on global cities, modernism and post-modernism, informality, and global urban inequalities, as well as examine a variety of methods to study urban trends.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to

- Understand different forms of urbanization within a global context.
- Discuss major terms, themes, and debates in urban sociology, critical urban studies, and globalization studies.
- Understand various research methodologies for studying cities in a global context, as well as the differences between comparative approaches and global or transnational approaches.
- Write an extended literature review on an urban topic of your choice.

Course schedule and readings

Part I: Introduction

August 27: Global Cities Debate (Paper #1)

- Sassen, Saskia. 2001. *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton University Press.

September 3: Global Cities Debate (Paper #2)

- Smith, Michael Peter. 2000. *Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Part II: Modernism and Post-Modernism

September 10: Modernist Architecture and the City (Paper #3)

- Ren, Xufei. 2011. *Building Globalization: Transnational Architecture Production in Urban China*. University of Chicago Press.
- Jacobs, Jane. [1961] 1992. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. Vintage. Chapter 1.*

September 17: Modernism and Cities of Rebellion (Paper #4)

- Holston, James. 1989. *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia*. University of Chicago Press.

September 24: Socialist vs. Capitalist Modernity (Paper #5)

- Thaler, Wolfgang, Maroje Mrduljas, and Vladimir Kulic. 2012. *Modernism In-Between: The Mediatory Architectures of Socialist Yugoslavia*. Jovis.

October 1: Making the Modern, Global City (Paper #6)

- No class meeting. During this week, go on Southwest Heritage Walking Tour in DC: http://www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=700fde5d-3534-4ade-b902-3b8ecd95a137&groupId=701982
In Paper #6, talk about this week's readings and about modernism in SW DC. Also, during the tour, think about gentrification in SW DC.
- Ghannam, Farha. 2002. *Remaking the Modern: Space, Relocation, and the Politics of Identity in a Global Cairo*. University of California Press.

October 8: The Informality of Modernism and Postmodernism (Paper #7)

- Roy, Ananya and Nezar AlSayyad, eds. 2004. *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, South Asia, and Latin America*. Lexington Books.

Part III: Global Inequalities in Cities

October 15: Segregation and Gentrification (Paper #8)

- Sugrue, Thomas. 1996. *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit*. Princeton University Press.

October 22: Segregation and Gentrification (Paper #9)

- Murray, Martin. 2010. *City of Extremes: The Spatial Politics of Johannesburg*. Duke University Press.

October 29: Segregation and Gentrification (Paper #10)

- Logan, John and Harvey Molotch. [1987] 2007. *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*. University of California Press.
- Smith, Neil. 2002. "New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy," *Antipode* 34(3): 427-450.*

November 5: Inequalities and Citizenship (Paper #11)

- Holston, James. 2009. *Insurgent Citizenship: Disjunctions of Democracy and Modernity in Brazil*. Princeton University Press.

Part IV: Exploring the City and Urban Methodologies

November 12: Henri Lefebvre (Paper #12)

- Lefebvre, Henri. [2003] 1970. *The Urban Revolution*. University of Minnesota Press.

November 19: Walking and Heterotopias (Paper #13)

- de Certeau, Michel. "Walking in the City" and "Spatial Stories"*
<http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/DeCerteau-Practice-Excerpts.pdf>
- Foucault, Michel. 1967. "Of Other Spaces, Heterotopias."*
<http://foucault.info/documents/heterotopia/foucault.heterotopia.en.html>
- Doron, G. M. 2000. "The Dead Zone and the Architecture of Transgression," *City* 4(2).*

*November 23: **Exchange drafts of final paper by email by midnight.***

*November 26: Thanksgiving Recess *No Class**

December 3: A City Tour (Paper #14)

- Davis, Mike. 1990. *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*. Vintage.

Return comments on drafts (in hardcopy during class).

Final Paper Due: Wednesday, December 10th at 10:15pm by email (jbockman@gmu.edu).

Course Requirements

Class participation	20%
Short weekly papers	20%
Comments on research paper	5%
Final Research Paper	55%

To receive a passing grade, all four components must be completed.

Grading scale

A	95	over 93
A-	92	90-92
B+	88	87-89
B	85	83-86
B-	82	80-82
C+	78	77-79
C	75	73-76
C-	72	70-72
D	65	60-69
F	0	0-59

Class participation: Participation includes attendance, being on time, bringing the reading, asking questions, and, especially, participating in discussion. The weekly readings will be used extensively during class discussion.

Short weekly papers: This is a 2-page paper on the readings each week. You can write more than two pages if you wish. Please include:

- 1) What is/are the main argument(s) of the reading?
- 2) Choose a passage (or two or more) that illuminates at least one of these arguments.
- 3) What do you find most interesting or surprising about the reading?
- 4) How does it relate to previous readings and discussions we have had?

5) Discuss or list one or two questions you have about the reading.

The paper must be turned in by email (jbockman@gmu.edu) at 4:00pm on Wednesdays. You can drop two weekly papers from your grade: 12 out of 14 papers will go towards your grade.

Comments on Final Paper

Each student will give a draft of their final paper to two other members of class. These “commentators” will write at least one page of comments about the draft to the author to help the author improve the final paper. These comments will be submitted with the final paper and graded.

Final research paper

Each student will prepare a 20-page extended literature review on either a particular city or on a particular global urban theme. Your papers should advance your own intellectual project (your thesis or dissertation). I will meet with each of you individually during the semester to discuss your work and to generate a topic. I am glad to read drafts of the research paper. With your research paper, please include the commentators’ comments and memo explaining how you incorporated their comments.

Late Policy

For each day that any written work is late that grade will be reduced by a step (e.g., an A paper will become an A- paper one day after the due date, a B+ paper two days after the due date, etc).

Laptop, E-Book, I-Phone Policy

I do not allow the use of laptops, e-book readers, i-phones, or other devices in class because I want everyone to be fully present in the classroom. Therefore, hardcopies of all the books and articles must be used in the classroom.

MA Student Requirements:

MA students have the same required components and percentages as above, but slightly different page and focus requirements: Class participation; Short weekly papers (2 pages; 10 out of 14 recorded); Final Research Paper (15 pages; choose a debate within urban sociology or critical urban studies, discuss this debate using at least 2 authors from the class syllabus and at least 2 authors not from the syllabus). I may include the commenting requirement if there are enough MA students in class.

Required Texts

The books listed without a* in the course schedule above are required for the course and are available from the bookstore. The syllabus and articles/book chapters listed with a* in the course schedule above will be available on Blackboard. Hardcopies of the books and articles must be used, not electronic copies.

Additional Items:

- **Academic Integrity:** I will not tolerate plagiarism. Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are

responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

- **Mason Email Accounts:** Mason uses only Mason e-mail accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason e-mail account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

- **Office of Disability Services:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services at 703.993.2474 or <http://ods.gmu.edu>. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

- **Writing Center:** A114 Robinson Hall;(703) 993-1200, <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

- **University Libraries** "Ask a Librarian,"
<http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

- **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):** (703) 993-2380,
<http://caps.gmu.edu>

- **University Policies:** The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.

- Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course): September 2, 2014
- Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course): September 26, 2014
- Selective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course): September 29 - October 17, 2014 (undergraduates only)