

Urbanization and Development

WWS 540/SOC 575

T– 1:00 – 4:00 pm
290 Wallace Hall

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Objectives

The purpose of this seminar is to examine theoretical approaches to urbanization and development and their utility in understanding selected cases in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. We give special attention to (a) the relationship between urbanization and capitalist evolution; (b) demographic patterns and social stratification in contemporary urban structures; and (c) poverty and the informal economy as alternative means of survival.

A growing proportion of the world's population—nearly 40 percent now lives in cities. The Americas are second only to Europe in urbanization rates but it is only in this hemisphere that the most powerful nation coexists with some of the poorest countries on the planet. Urbanization in Africa is of a different character than equivalent processes in Asia, Europe, or the Americas. Asia also exhibits distinct patterns of urbanization, especially as China, India, and Indonesia enter the global marketplace. We discuss those variations from a historical point of view and with an eye on recent changes brought about by the application of neo-liberal economic policies and growing economic integration on a world scale.

Bibliography

1. Giovanni Arrighi, *The Long Twentieth Century*, 1994.
2. Giovanni Arrighi, *The Resurgence of East Asia*, 2006.
3. Peter Evans, *Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*, 1995.
4. Patricia Fernández-Kelly and Jon Shefner (eds) *Out of the Shadows: Political Action and Informal Economy in Latin America*, 2006.
5. Patricia Fernández-Kelly and Jon Shefner (eds) *NAFTA and Beyond: Alternative Perspectives in the Study of Global Trade and Development*.
6. Henri Pirenne, *Medieval Cities*, 1970.
7. Alejandro Portes and Bryan R. Roberts, "Coping with the Free Market City: Collective Action in Six Latin American Cities at the End of the Twentieth Century." *Latin American Research Review*.

8. Alejandro Portes, Cristina Escobar and Alexandria Walton Radford, "Immigrant Transnational Organizations and Development: A Comparative Study." *International Migration Review*.
9. Saskia Sassen, *Territory, Authority, Rights*, 2006.
10. Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*, 1992
11. Abdou Maliq Simone and Abdelghani Abouhane (eds) *Urban Africa: Changing Contours of Survival in the City*, 2005.

Grading

- 1/3 Take-home midterm exam
- 1/3 Class presentation and report
- 1/3 Take-home final exam

Syllabus

Unit 1:

Urbanization and Capitalist Development in Historical Perspective

Feb 12, 19

The Rise of the Modern City

Pirenne, *Medieval Cities*

Feb 26

From Feudalism to Capitalism and Beyond

Arrighi, *The Long Twentieth Century*, Part 1 and 2

Unit 2:

Cities in the Age of Globalization

March 4, 11

Post-Industrial Capitalism and the City

Sassen, *Territory, Authority and Rights*, Ch 1, 3, 4,5, 6

March 24

Development, Urbanization and the State

Evans, *Embedded Autonomy*, Ch 1 - 6

March 31

The Development of Underdevelopment

Scheper-Hughes, *Death Without Weeping*, Ch 1,2, 4, 8,9

Unit 3:
Urbanization and Development in Asia

April 1

Tigers, Geese and Behemoths: Asia in the
Age of Globalization

Arrighi, *The Resurgence of
East Asia*
Fernández-Kelly and
Shefner, *NAFTA and Beyond*,
Ch 6, 12

Unit 4:
Urbanization in Africa

April 8

Cities in the Margins

Simone and Abouhani,
Urban Africa

Unit 5:
The Informal Sector

April 15

Rural-Urban Migration, Poverty, and Survival

Fernández-Kelly and
Shefner, *Out of the Shadows*

Unit 6:
Models of Development, Labor Markets, and Class Inequality

April 22

Neo-Liberalism and the Latin American City

Portes and Roberts, "Coping
with the Free Market City."
Portes, Escobar and Walton,
"Immigrant Transnational
Organizations."
Fernández-Kelly and
Shefner, *NAFTA and Beyond*,
Ch 3, 4, 5

Unit 7:
Urban Struggles under Neo-Liberal Adjustment

May 29, May 6

Resistance and Compliance in the Age of Globalization

Fernández-Kelly and
Shefner, *NAFTA and Beyond*,
Ch 1, 2, 7, 8, 10