

Urban Affairs and Planning  
Hunter College

Cities in the Developing World  
Spring 2009  
URBG 787.72  
Wednesday 7:45 – 9:35

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**Course Description**

We are living in an age where the ease of which information, money and technology flow eliminates the effects of time and space. Fewer distinctions separate us from our urban neighbors in other countries. Complex forces both national and international are transforming long-standing traditional interactions. But have those characteristics that distinguish residents of Rio de Janeiro from those in Beirut waned with the advent of age of the iPhone? This course will explore issues that affect cities throughout the globe including social and economic policies, public programs, race-based politics, environmental policies, political parties and organizations, life-style and issue politics, emerging cultures. The course will analyze the how's and why's of these various urban patterns in cities around the world.

**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance: Every student is required to attend all classes. If a student is absent from more than one class, his or her grade will be affected.
2. Participation: Every student is required and expected to participate in class. The class will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. Participating in discussions is critical to getting the most out of the class.
3. Read. Every student is expected to read all materials assigned.
4. Leading class discussion. Every student will have the chance to lead a class discussion on the readings. Student discussion leaders will be assigned during the first class on January 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, as discussion leader, each student will be required to write and submit a short essay on their respective reading(s).
5. Final Paper: Each student will be required to write a 10-15 page paper. The paper should focus on a topic covered during the class that was of particular interest. Each student must have an approved paper topic by April 1, just before the mid term break. The paper is due on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

The final grade for the course will be based on the following weight distribution: Class attendance and preparation (i.e., reading of the materials) will account for 25% of final grade. Leading of the class discussion will make up another 25% and the final paper will count for 50% of final grade.

**Course Schedule and Readings.**

The following books are required for the course and have been order through Hunter's bookstore.

- J. John Palen. The Urban World. Paradigm Publishers. Eighth Edition. Boulder CO, 2008

- Tomas Larsson. The Race to the Top: the real story of globalization. Cato Institute. Washington DC. 2002
- Akhtar Badshah. Our Urban Future: New Paradigms for equity and sustainability. Zed Books, London. 1996
- Peter Marcuse and Ronald von Kempen, eds. Globalizing Cities. Wiley-Blackwell , Massacusettes, Oxford U.K. and Australia 2000
- Robert Neuwirth. Shadow Cities: a billion squatters in a new urban world. Routledge, New York, 2006
- Squattercity.blogspot.com. This blog is posted by Robert Neuwirth and is required reading at times throughout the semester.
- Jorge Hardoy, Diana Mitlin, David Satterswaite. Environmental Problems in an Urbanizing World. 2000

**Please note: there will be other readings assigned throughout the semester.**

### **Course Schedule**

January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to the course
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Key Paths of Urbanization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. John Palen. <u>The Urban World</u>. Part I. Pp 2-48</li> <li>• Marcuse and von Kempen. <u>Globalizing Cities</u>. “Introduction”. Peter Marcuse and Ronald von Kempen; and “The Unavoidable Continuities of the City”. Robert Beauregard and Anne Haila. Pp. 1-36</li> <li>• Alan Gilbert and Josef Gugler. <u>Cities, Poverty and Development</u>. “Introduction”, pp. 1-13</li> </ul>
February 11 <sup>th</sup>	Urban Lifestyles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Badshah, <u>Our Urban Future</u>. Chapter 7</li> <li>• Alan Gilbert and Josef Gugler. <u>Cities, Poverty and Development</u>. Chapter 6, “Social Organization in the City” Pp. 155 – 176</li> </ul>
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Employment and Labor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. John Palen. <u>The Urban World</u>. Chapter 14. Pp 294-308</li> <li>• Alan Gilbert and Josef Gugler. <u>Cities, Poverty and Development</u>. Chapter 4, “The Urban Labour Market” Pp. 87 – 113</li> </ul>



April 15<sup>th</sup>

**No Class Spring Break**

April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Environmental and Sustainability Issues

- Jorge Hardoy, et al, Environmental Problems in an Urbanizing World. Selected Chapters.

April 29<sup>th</sup>

Political Integration

- Badshah, Our Urban Future. Chapter 3
- Alan Gilbert and Josef Gugler. Cities, Poverty and Development. Chapter 7, "Patterns of Political Integration and Conflict". Pp. 177 - 219

May 6<sup>th</sup>

To Be Announced

May 13<sup>th</sup>

Conclusion

- Papers Due
- J. John Palen. The Urban World. Chapter 17. Pp 353 -371