

GEOG 900 (Fall 2015)
CITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

Contact Details

Instructor: Professor Kris Olds
Office: Rm. 346 Science Hall
Schedule: Fridays 9-11:30 pm, 280 C Science Hall
Office Hours: TBD
Tel: (608) 514-2265 (mobile)
Email: olds@geography.wisc.edu
Course site: <http://citiesanddevelopment.wordpress.com/>



Astana, June 2013 (by Kris Olds)

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 interdisciplinary networks, our interest will be in recent work that addresses new theoretical, methodological and empirical questions, or else select 'classics' that have had lasting impacts.

Please note that this is a truly interdisciplinary course, and I am happily open to students registering in it from virtually any discipline. The key thing is that you love cities in all their glories and horrors. As Peter Hall (in his 1998 epic *Cities and Civilization*, p. 989) puts it:

Earthy utopias they were not, places of stress and conflict and sometimes actual misery they certainly were. Those who find them distasteful or disagreeable can – and will – get out of them to arcadian suburbs and garden cities; and policies should help them do so, if that is what they want. Cities were and are quite different places, places for people who can stand the heat of the kitchen: places where the adrenalin pumps through the bodies of the people and through the streets on which they walk; messy places, sordid places sometimes, but places nevertheless superbly worth living in, long to be remembered and long to be celebrated.

I would also like to reinforce that that this course is designed for students with wide ranging geographical and historical foci. For example, lessons from all of these texts can be applied to the development and implementation of research projects in other world regions or historic periods.

Readings and Schedule: 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. 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 21st century Pacific Asia, Europe and North America.

The Fall 2015 course texts are listed below. Making the decision about what to include was a very challenging one given all the fascinating books to choose from! This list of books (on a Google doc I created) of recent cities books might be of interest too more generally:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J7bRZZMWkrMCWtzO-n0kIrlJFoKupe15eL0Cpiuxwqs/edit>

The assigned texts will be available at *A Room of One's Own Bookstore*, 315 W Gorham St, Madison, WI 53703. I do realize this is a large number of books. I have therefore attempted to ensure that the selected texts are relatively cheap and in paperback form. All of the texts, apart from those that are freely available on the web, will be placed in the Geography library (2nd floor, Science Hall) under short-term (two hour) loan.

SCHEDULE**PART I – WRITING CITIES****Week 1: September 4**

Note: no required readings

Week 2: September 11

Bunnell, Tim (2016, forthcoming) *From World City to the World in One City: Liverpool through Malay Lives*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/Section/id-324293.html>

Note 1: I will also be providing you with the manuscript, the associated book proposal, the anonymous reviews, and the author's CV. Please be sure to review all of these documents though they are not to be circulated.

Note 2: The author of Week 3's book, Rick Keller, will be a speaker from 3:30-5:00 pm on September 11th in the Yi-Fu Tuan seminar series. The seminar takes place in Room 180, Science Hall and you should, needless to say, attend the lecture if at all possible.

Week 3: September 18

Keller, Richard (2015) *Fatal Isolation: The Devastating Paris Heat Wave of 2003*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/F/bo20145393.html>

Note: I will also be providing you with the associated book proposal, the anonymous reviews, and the author's CV. Please be sure to review all of these documents though they are not to be circulated. Rick Keller will be joining us from approximately 9-10 am.

Week 4: September 25

Note: No class – individual meetings with me in Room 346 about presentation topics and research strategies. Please start reading Week 5's book too as it is a lengthy text.

PART II – CITIES: OBJECTS AND SPACES OF MODERNITY**Week 5: October 2**

Abu-Lughod, Janet (1999) *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: America's Global Cities*, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.
<https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/new-york-chicago-los-angeles>

Week 6: October 9

Note: No class. Please start reading Week 7's book, though, as it is a particularly challenging text to work through – you need to take your time with this one, in particular. Weeks 8-11 are the peak busy period this term too so the more reading you do this week the better.

Week 7: October 16

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

<http://www.guilford.com/books/Spaces-of-Modernity/Miles-Ogborn/9781572303652>

Week 8: October 23

Vora, Neha (2013) *Impossible Citizens: Dubai's Indian Diaspora*, Durham: Duke University Press.

<https://www.dukeupress.edu/Impossible-Citizens/>

Week 9: October 30

Brenner, Neil (2004) *New State Spaces: Urban Governance and the Rescaling of Statehood*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/new-state-spaces-9780199270064?cc=us&lang=en&>

Week 10: November 6

Hsing, You-tien (2010) *The Great Urban Transformation: Politics of Land and Property in China*, New York: Oxford University Press.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-great-urban-transformation-9780199644599?cc=us&lang=en>

Week 11: November 13

Ghertner, Asher (2015, forthcoming) *Rule By Aesthetics: World-Class City Making in Delhi*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199385577.do>

Week 12: November 20

Note: No class meeting

THANKSGIVING BREAK

PART III – SPEAKING CITIES**Week 14: December 4**

Note: Conference-style presentations

Week 15: December 11

Note: Conference-style presentations

End of Class Social:

Viewing & Discussion: *In the Mood for Love* (dir Wong Kar Wai, 2000) + dinner. Location TBD

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 reading pace with respect to the course texts. It is worth noting that you must read each text from start to finish – this is a key underlying ‘success’ factor for you (as a student) and us (all of us associated with the course).

Book Reviews and Class Participation (80% of grade)

To facilitate learning and learning-oriented discussions, all students are *required* to prepare a book review for each of the assigned course books.

There are many different models to adopt when developing book reviews, and I will outline these during Week 1. I also recommend that you collect and read a sample of book reviews in journals such as the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Urban Studies*, and *Urban Affairs Review*.

The book reviews need to be completed by 8:00 am on the Fridays before we meet. I will be creating a UW-Madison Dropbox for you to upload the file. Please ensure that you:

1. Save the file in PDF format only
2. Save the file like this: FAMILYNAMEREVIEWABULUGHOD.pdf
3. Upload to the Dropbox site I will give you access to.

I will then merge these files and send out the compilation of reviews to everyone in the class.

The book reviews 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' book reviews – everyone has a different insight on each book, yet some commonalities and points of consensus often emerge as well. The capacity to write regularly (it gets easier over time, believe me!) is also worth developing.

In addition, two 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 6:00 pm on the day before the class (i.e. Thursdays).** I will merge these discussion questions with my questions, and bring along a list of discussion questions to each class on a 1-2 page handout. Anyone in the class is permitted to send me questions too – just do so by the above deadline (i.e. 6:00 pm on Thursdays).

Given how book/discussion oriented this course is, your *contribution to discussions, facilitation, and the weekly book reviews* will be worth 80% of your grade.

Conference-style Presentations (20% of grade)

The remaining 20% of your grade is derived from a 20-25 minute long conference-style presentation to the class during Weeks 14 & 15. I will explain the logic of this component of the course when we meet in Week 1. Week 4 is also allocated to one-on-one meetings regarding the presentation topics and the associated research process.

Code of Conduct: The formal UW-Madison code of conduct for students is available here: <http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html>. Also see <https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/students/>. I recommend that you review these sites if you have not seen them before. The rules that apply to student conduct relate to your right and responsibilities. The university's Writing Center also has some nice tips on how to avoid plagiarism: http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html. I will assume, in 100% of cases that might emerge, that you have read this material. Please be careful when constructing your book reviews!

Happy Reading!