Description: This course examines the relationship between cities and the ‘development’ process. Reviews of global scale assessments of urbanization, and debates about the production and circulation (e.g., via citation practices) of knowledge about cities, lay the context for detailed analyses of issues such as the role of the state in the urban development process, new theories of urbanization, postcolonial urbanism, the “politics of sexuality and intimacy” in global cities, urban infrastructures, urban governance, and “new urban frontiers.” While many of these issues are long-standing topics 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:

Earthly 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.

By the end of the course, students should be able to identify and summarize important features of urbanization processes and patterns throughout major historical periods in different parts of the
world; evaluate and analyze important concepts and approaches to analyzing cities and
development processes; demonstrate knowledge about the significance of current research &
writing about cities and development processes; identify and summarize key dimensions of the book
publishing process.

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.

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. We will also view and discuss a small number of relevant
feature films and documentaries in the course, strategically spread throughout the term to provide
a cities-related respite from the somewhat intense reading load. All of these documentaries and
movies are directly relevant to a Cities & Development course.

The Fall 2019 course texts are listed below, along with summaries via their respective publishers.
Making the decision about what to include was a very challenging one given all the fascinating books
to choose from! A few additional new reads were also considered but I did not assign them this
particular term – see:

https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Seeing+Like+a+City-p-9780745664262

https://www.oapen.org/search?identifier=625674

https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/metainterface


https://www.ubcpress.ca/vancouverism

Oxford University Press.

Callaci, Emily (2019) Street Archives and City Life: Popular Intellectuals in Postcolonial
Tanzania, Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
https://www.dukeupress.edu/street-archives-and-city-life
https://www.versobooks.com/books/2871-the-new-enclosure

https://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/M/bo33775284.html

https://www.versobooks.com/books/2111-in-defense-of-housing

https://www.dukeupress.edu/spaceship-in-the-desert


https://www.dukeupress.edu/fungible-life


The assigned books (see below) 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 College Library in Helen C. White Hall under short-term (two hour) loan. You are obviously welcome to source the paperback or digital versions of these books through alternative outlets, if so desired.

Please note that I will also be sharing most of the authors’ CVs and the book proposals and reviews that the authors received. This information is important to help better understand the nature of the book publishing process. We’re very fortunate to have support on this specific learning endeavor via the kindness of Roger Keil (Week 5), Natalie Oswin (Week 7), Neha Vora (Week 8), You-tien Hsing (Week 10), Hiba Bou Akbar (Week 12), and Derek Hyra (Week 14).
Their CVs, book proposals, etc., are being shared with us for use in classroom-only context, and are not to be shared with anyone else – thanks. I also knew the now deceased Janet Abu-Lughod (Week 3) and so will speak to these book publishing issues regarding *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: America's Global Cities* when we meet.

**SCHEDULE**

**Week 1: September 4**

Introductions, Syllabus, Key Themes, Classroom Principles, Learning Outcomes, Access to Books, Facilitator Roles & Preferences

**PART I – CITIES: OBJECTS AND SPACES OF MODERNITY**

**Week 2: September 11**

Viewing & Discussion: *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City* (dir Walter Ruttmann, 1927)

Location TBD

Note: Our Week 3 book is 640 pages long so please be sure to schedule your reading & review time carefully.

**SUMMARY**: At once an invaluable photographic record of life in Weimar Berlin and a timeless demonstration of the cinema's ability to enthrall on a purely visceral level, *Berlin, Symphony of a Great City* (*Berlin, die Symphonie der Grosstadt*) offers a kaleidoscopic view of a single day in the life of a bustling metropolis.

Carl Mayer (*The Last Laugh*), influenced by the naturalistic Kammerspiel movement, envisioned "a melody of pictures" sprung from daily reality instead of the stylized artificiality of the studio-bound expressionist film. Following Mayer's rough outline, photographer Karl Freund deployed a team of cameramen to explore the avenues, alleyways and factories of Berlin and secure hidden-camera glimpses of the people and machinery that provide the city with its constant motion. The many hours of footage were then edited into a series of five acts, like movements of a symphony, by Walther Ruttmann as a continuation of his experiments with abstract motion (see Opus I).

*Berlin* defined the formula of the "city symphony" film and according to John Grierson - the filmmaker/critic who coined the term "documentary" - "No film has been more influential, more imitated."

**Week 3: September 18**


SUMMARY: New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles-for all their differences, they are quintessentially American cities. They are also among the handful of cities in the world that can truly 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.

Unlike most other global cities, New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles all quickly grew from the nearly blank slate of the American landscape to become important beyond the nation’s borders early in their histories. As a result, Abu-Lughod is able to show the effect of globalization on each city’s development from its beginnings. While all three are critical to global economics and the spread of American culture to the farthest reaches of an increasingly interlinked world, their influence reflects their individual histories and personalities. In a masterful synthesis of historical and economic information, 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.

New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles are more than global players: they are also home to forty million people. Abu-Lughod closes the book with a set of vignettes that captures the cities’ differences as perceived by one who has lived in them. Bringing together the local and the global in thoroughly unexpected and enlightening ways, this important volume offers fascinating insight into these vital urban centers.

**Week 4: September 25**


Link: [http://www.guilford.com/books/Spaces-of-Modernity/Miles-Ogborn/9781572303652](http://www.guilford.com/books/Spaces-of-Modernity/Miles-Ogborn/9781572303652)

SUMMARY: From the civility of Westminster's newly paved streets to the dangerous pleasures of Vauxhall Gardens and the grand designs of the Universal Register Office, this book examines the identities, practices, and power relations of the modern city as they emerged within and transformed the geographies of eighteenth-century London. Ogborn draws upon a wide variety of textual and visual sources to illuminate processes of commodification, individualization, state formation, and the transformation of the public sphere within the new spaces of the metropolis.

**Week 5: October 2**


SUMMARY: The urban century manifests itself at the peripheries. While the massive wave of present urbanization is often referred to as an 'urban revolution', most of this startling urban growth worldwide is happening at the margins of cities.
This book is about the process that creates the global urban periphery – suburbanization – and the ways of life – suburbanisms – we encounter there. Richly detailed with examples from around the world, the book argues that suburbanization is a global process and part of the extended urbanization of the planet. This includes the gated communities of elites, the squatter settlements of the poor, and many built forms and ways of life in-between. The reality of life in the urban century is suburban: most of the earth’s future 10 billion inhabitants will not live in conventional cities but in suburban constellations of one kind or another.

Inspired by Henri Lefebvre's demand not to give up urban theory when the city in its classical form disappears, this book is a challenge to urban thought more generally as it invites the reader to reconsider the city from the outside in.

**PART II – GLOBAL CITY LIVES**

**Week 6: October 9**

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

Location TBD

Link: https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0118694/

**SUMMARY:** Hong Kong, 1962: Chow Mo-wan (Tony Leung Chiu-wai) and Su Li-zhen (Maggie Cheung Man-yuk) move into neighboring apartments on the same day. Their encounters are formal and polite--until a discovery about their spouses creates an intimate bond between them. At once delicately mannered and visually extravagant, Wong Kar-wai's IN THE MOOD FOR LOVE is a masterful evocation of romantic longing and fleeting moments.

With its aching musical soundtrack and exquisitely abstract cinematography by Christopher Doyle and Mark Lee Ping-bin, this film has been a major stylistic influence on the past decade of cinema, and is a milestone in Wong's redoubtable career.

Source: https://www.kanopy.com/product/mood-love

**Week 7: October 16**


Free Project Muse version: https://muse.jhu.edu/book/65774

*Global City Futures* offers a queer analysis of urban and national development in Singapore, the Southeast Asian city-state commonly cast as a leading "global city." Much discourse on Singapore focuses on its extraordinary socioeconomic development and on the fact that many city and national governors around the world see it as a developmental model. But counternarratives complicate this success story, pointing out rising income inequalities, the
lack of a social safety net, an unjust migrant labor regime, significant restrictions on civil liberties, and more.

With *Global City Futures* Natalie Oswin contributes to such critical perspectives by centering recent debates over the place of homosexuality in the city-state. She extends out from these debates to consider the ways in which the race, class, and gender biases that are already well critiqued in the literature on Singapore (and on other cities around the world) are tied in key ways to efforts to make the city-state into not just a heterosexual space that excludes "queer" subjects but a heteronormative one that "queers" many more than LGBT people. Oswin thus argues for the importance of taking the politics of sexuality and intimacy much more seriously within both Singapore studies and the wider field of urban studies.

**Week 8: October 23**

List Price: $24.95

Link: [https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=27908](https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=27908)

**SUMMARY:** *Teach for Arabia* offers an ethnographic account of the experiences of students, faculty, and administrators in Education City, Qatar. Education City, home to the branch campuses of six elite American universities, represents the Qatari government's multibillion dollar investment over the last two decades in growing a local knowledge-based economy. Though leaders have eagerly welcomed these institutions, not all citizens embrace the U.S. universities in their midst. Some critics see them as emblematic of a turn away from traditional values toward Westernization. Qatari students who attend these schools often feel stereotyped and segregated within their spaces.

Neha Vora considers how American branch campuses influence notions of identity and citizenship among both citizen and non-citizen residents and contribute to national imaginings of the future and a transnational Qatar. Looking beyond the branch campus, she also confronts mythologies of liberal and illiberal peoples, places, and ideologies that have developed around these universities. Supporters and detractors alike of branch campuses have long ignored the imperial histories of American universities and the exclusions and inequalities that continue to animate daily academic life. From the vantage point of Qatar, *Teach for Arabia* challenges the assumed mantle of liberalism in Western institutions and illuminates how people can contribute to decolonized university life and knowledge production.

**Week 9: October 30**

Viewing & Discussion: *La Haine* (dir Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995)
Location TBD

Link: [https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113247/](https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113247/)
SUMMARY: Mathieu Kassovitz took the film world by storm with LA HAINÉ, a gritty, unsettling, and visually explosive look at the racial and cultural volatility in modern-day France, specifically the low-income banlieue districts on Paris’s outskirts.

Aimlessly passing their days in the concrete environs of their dead-end suburbia, Vinz (Vincent Cassel), Hubert (Hubert Koundé), and Said (Said Taghmaoui) -- a Jew, an African, and an Arab -- give human faces to France's immigrant populations, their bristling resentment at their marginalization slowly simmering until it reaches a climactic boiling point. A work of tough beauty, LA HAINÉ is a landmark of contemporary French cinema and a gripping reflection of its country's ongoing identity crisis.

Kassovitz won Best Director and the film was nominated for the Palm d’Or at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival.
Source: https://www.kanopy.com/product/la-haine

PART III – URBAN POLITICS/PLANNING/INTERVENTIONS

Week 10: November 6


Link 1: https://bit.ly/2KGWUOW

Link 2 (Free ACLS-Humanities version): https://hdl-handle-net.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/2027/heb.32155

SUMMARY: As China is transformed, relations between society, the state, and the city have become central. *The Great Urban Transformation* investigates what is happening in cities, the urban edges, and the rural fringe in order to explain these relations. In the inner city of major metropolitan centers, municipal governments battle high-ranking state agencies to secure land rents from redevelopment projects, while residents mobilize to assert property and residential rights. At the urban edge, as metropolitan governments seek to extend control over their rural hinterland through massive-scale development projects, villagers strategize to profit from the encroaching property market. At the rural fringe, township leaders become brokers of power and property between the state bureaucracy and villages, while large numbers of peasants are dispossessed, dispersed, and deterritorialized, and their mobilizational capacity is consequently undermined.

*The Great Urban Transformation* explores these issues, and provides an integrated analysis of the city and the countryside, elite politics and grassroots activism, legal-economic and socio-political issues of property rights, and the role of the state and the market in the property market.
**Week 11: November 13**

Viewing & Discussion: *Natura Urbana: The Brachen of Berlin* (dir Gandy, Matthew, 2019)
Location TBD

Link: [https://www.naturaurbana.org/](https://www.naturaurbana.org/)
Link: [https://www.rethinkingurbannature.org/about/](https://www.rethinkingurbannature.org/about/)

**SUMMARY:** *Natura Urbana: The Brachen of Berlin* tells the post-war history of Berlin through its plants. The film takes us from the Trümmerlandschaften and their unique ecologies to the abandoned roofs of the Friedrichshagen Waterworks on the edge of the city. Encountering an extraordinary variety of spontaneous vegetation from all over the world that has sprouted along railway lines, street corners, and in the distinctive Brachen of Berlin.

In *Natura Urbana* the changing vegetation of Berlin serves as a parallel history to war-time destruction, geo-political division, and the newest phase of urban transformation. *Natura Urbana* takes us on a unique journey through Berlin ranging from the botanical microcosm of cracked paving stones to elaborate attempts to map the entire city in terms of its distinctive ecological zones.

**Week 12: November 20**


Link: [https://ww.sup.org/books/title/?id=25764](https://ww.sup.org/books/title/?id=25764)

**SUMMARY:** Beirut is a city divided. Following the Green Line of the civil war, dividing the Christian east and the Muslim west, today hundreds of such lines dissect the city. For the residents of Beirut, urban planning could hold promise: a new spatial order could bring a peaceful future. But with unclear state structures and outsourced public processes, urban planning has instead become a contest between religious-political organizations and profit-seeking developers. Neighborhoods reproduce poverty, displacement, and urban violence.

*For the War Yet to Come* examines urban planning in three neighborhoods of Beirut’s southeastern peripheries, revealing how these areas have been developed into frontiers of a continuing sectarian order. Hiba Bou Akar argues these neighborhoods are arranged, not in the expectation of a bright future, but according to the logic of "the war yet to come": urban planning plays on fears and differences, rumors of war, and paramilitary strategies to organize everyday life. As she shows, war in times of peace is not fought with tanks, artillery, and rifles, but involves a more mundane territorial contest for land and apartment sales, zoning and planning regulations, and infrastructure projects.
**Week 13: November 27**

*Note:* No class meeting due to Thanksgiving Recess

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**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

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**Week 14: December 4**


**SUMMARY:** For long-time residents of Washington, DC’s Shaw/U Street, the neighborhood has become almost unrecognizable in recent years. Where the city’s most infamous open-air drug market once stood, a farmers’ market now sells grass-fed beef and homemade duck egg ravioli. On the corner where AM.PM carryout used to dish out soul food, a new establishment markets its $28 foie gras burger. Shaw is experiencing a dramatic transformation, from “ghetto” to “gilded ghetto,” where white newcomers are rehabbing homes, developing dog parks, and paving the way for a third wave coffee shop on nearly every block.

*Race, Class, and Politics in the Cappuccino City* is an in-depth ethnography of this gilded ghetto. Derek S. Hyra captures here a quickly gentrifying space in which long-time black residents are joined, and variously displaced, by an influx of young, white, relatively wealthy, and/or gay professionals who, in part as a result of global economic forces and the recent development of central business districts, have returned to the cities earlier generations fled decades ago. As a result, America is witnessing the emergence of what Hyra calls “cappuccino cities.” A cappuccino has essentially the same ingredients as a cup of coffee with milk, but is considered upscale, and is double the price. In Hyra’s cappuccino city, the black inner-city neighborhood undergoes enormous transformations and becomes racially “lighter” and more expensive by the year.

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**PART IV – PRODUCING & CIRCULATING KNOWLEDGE**

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**Week 15: December 11**

*Note:* End of term discussion of broad patterns regarding authors’ career trajectories, research funding, citational practices, audiences, the publishing industry, and good old fashioned luck/serendipity.
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 (100% 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 11:59 pm on Tuesday evenings before we meet on Wednesday mornings. 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, help 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. Tuesdays). 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 Tuesdays).
Given how book/discussion oriented this course is, your contribution to discussions, facilitation, and the weekly book reviews will be worth 100% of your grade.

**Final Grade Scale and Grading Policy**

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**Resources and Expectations**

The UW Writing Center is an incredible resource that has proven valuable for undergrads, grad students, and faculty members. I highly recommend it no matter how confident you are in your writing. Visit [http://writing.wisc.edu](http://writing.wisc.edu) for more information.

All of your reviews must be 100% individual work. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and can lead to major penalties that might remain on your record in perpetuity, or even lead to your dismissal from your major and UW-Madison. It is also unethical to share resources (including other students’ previous work) in relationship to course responsibilities.

The formal UW-Madison code of conduct for students is available here [https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/students/](https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/students/) and I recommend that you review it if you have not seen it before. The rules that apply to student conduct relate to your right and responsibilities.

Please note that the university’s Writing Center also has some nice tips on how to avoid plagiarism: [https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quotingsources/](https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/quotingsources/)

Please be careful when constructing your book reviews!

*Welcome Aboard!*