

## **Seminar in Comparative History**

Fall 2008/ Comparative Urban History  
HSTY 476

Time: Th 5:00PM- 7:30PM  
Clark Hall 103

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**Course Description:** This course studies the history of modern cities from a global perspective. It starts with urban ideals of sixteenth-century Italian scholar, Giovanni Botero, and their implementation in Lima, the capital of the Spanish Viceroyalty of Peru. It ends with the development of post-industrial urban spaces. It explores the importance of historical process such as colonialism, capitalism, and industrialization in the transformation of cities, with particular attention to their different effects on various regions of the world. This course also looks at varied theoretical approaches and methodologies that inform the study of urban history around the world.

### **Required Readings**

#### **Books**

Teresa P. R. Caldeira. **City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo.** University of California Press, 2001.

Manuel Castells. **The Informational City: Information Technology, Economic Restructuring, and the Urban-regional Process.** Basil Blackwell, 1989.

Mike Davis. **Planet of slums** Verso, 2006.

Robert Fishman. **Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia** Basic Books, 1989.

Peter Hall. **Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century.** Wiley-Blackwell; 3 edition, 2002

Anthony D. King. **The Bungalow: The Production of a Global Culture.** Oxford University Press, 1995.

Lillian M. Li, Alison Dray-Novoy, Haili Kong. **Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City.** Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Thomas J. Sugrue **The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit.** Princeton Studies in American Politics.

Gwendolyn Wright. **The Politics of Design in French Colonial Urbanism** University Of Chicago Press, 1991.

Alejandra Osorio. **Inventing Lima: Baroque Modernity in Peru's South Sea Metropolis**. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008

## **Articles**

Narayani Gupta, "The British Town Planners in India" in *India's Colonial Encounters Essays in the Memory of Eric Stokes* 237-248

Claire Hancock "Capitale du plaisir: the Remaking of imperial Paris" in *Imperial cities : landscape, display and identity*, 64-77

Meera Kosambi, "Colonial Urban Transformations in India," in *India's Colonial Encounters Essays in the Memory of Eric Stokes* 203-236

Atiya Habeeb Kidwai, "Structural Change in the Industrial Base of Colonial Cities: The Calcutta Hinterland 1881-1921" in *India's Colonial Encounters Essays in the Memory of Eric Stokes* 249-274

## **Course Requirements and Expectations**

The final course grade will be calculated based on the following components:

### **1. Four Reaction Papers (40%)**

Students will write two-pages long reaction papers on four assigned books of their choice. Papers will be submitted before class, in person or electronically, the day the chosen book is scheduled for discussion. Each paper will include the following:

1. A discussion of the author's thesis.
2. A discussion of the author's approach and methodology
3. Your personal perspective on the work.

### **2. Class Participation (35%)**

This component will be judged on your classroom participation. You are expected to come to class having completed the assigned readings and ready to discuss them.

**3. Final Paper (30%)** Students will write a final paper in which they will provide an overview of all the assigned readings. Students will focus on the questions that these readings address successfully and explore some of the questions they fail to pose or answer. Students are also encourage to think how these books, and the comparative perspective they provide, illuminate issues relevant to their own research.

**Note:** All assignments are due on the date indicated. Late papers will be penalized 1/2 grade per day.

## **Class Schedule**

**Week 1.**

8/28 **Introduction**

**Week 2. Colonialism and the Early Modern City**

9/4 Alejandra Osorio *Inventing Lima: Baroque Modernity in Peru's South Sea Metropolis.*

**Week 3 The Industrial Revolution and the Modern City**

9/11 Robert Fishman *Bourgeois Utopias: the Rise and Fall of Suburbia*

**Week 4 An Urban Biography: Beijing**

9/18 Lillian M. Li (Author), Alison Dray-Novey (Author), Haili Kong (Author) *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City.*

**Week 5 Nineteenth-Century Colonialism and the Globalization of Architectural styles**

9/25 Anthony D. King *The Bungalow: The Production of a Global Culture.*

**Week 6 Inventing the Modern City**

10/2 Peter Hall *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century.*

**Week 7 British Colonialism and Urban Transformations in India**

10/9

Meera Kosambi, "Colonial Urban Transformations In India," 203-236

Narayani Gupta, "The British Town Planners in India" 237-248

Atiya Habeeb Kidwai, "Structural Change in the Industrial Base of Colonial Cities: The Calcutta Hinterland 1881-1921" 249-274

**Week 8 French Colonial Urbanism at Home and Abroad**

10/16 Gwendolyn Wright *The Politics of Design in French Colonial Urbanism* Claire

Hancock "Capitale du plaisir: the Remaking of imperial Paris," 64-77

**Week 9 Class, Race, and the Urban Crisis: The United States**

10/23 Thomas J. Sugrue *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*

**Week 10 Crime and Democracy: Brazil**

10/30 Teresa P. R. Caldeira *City of Walls*, Chapters 1-5

**Week 11 Urban Segregation: Brazil**

11/6 Teresa P. R. Caldeira *City of Walls* Chapters 6-9.

**Week 12 Understanding Urban Space in the Post-Industrial Era**

11/13 Manuel Castells, *The Informational City*, Chapters 1 to 3

**Week 13**

11/20 Manuel Castells, *The Informational City* Chapters 4-Conclusion

**Week 14**

11/27 Thanksgiving

**Week 15 Urban Poverty: a World perspective.**

12/4 Mike Davis *Planet of Slums*.