



INTERNATIONAL HONORS PROGRAM

comparative study around the world

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International Honors Program (IHP) Cities in the 21st Century

Urban Politics and Development DVST – 3500 (4 credits) Spring Semester 2010

Course Overview

Cities are fertile ground where a range of political and development actors exert their influence. These include, but are not limited to, local politicians, non-profit organizations working on issues like the right to housing, state agencies that are responsible for urban service delivery, businesses and corporations. The interaction among them profoundly shapes cities, and the lives of citizens who inhabit them. The sum of their actions can create cities that are equitable, environmentally friendly, prosperous, safe, welcoming, participatory and democratic, i.e. liveable; or the opposite.

This course will look at the role of state, civil society and market agents in shaping cities, and consider a range of approaches to urban development. It will help develop an understanding of how formal and informal political spheres shape cities. To achieve this end, the course will direct attention to the role of city politicians and traditional power elites, as well as forces such as civil society and citizen's organizations, and transnational corporations. It will examine which groups have (more) power, which have less, how power is constantly negotiated between the different groups in society and how this affects cities.

The goal is to help students develop a politics and development lens through which they can read cities and make sense of them.

Key Questions

- What can we learn from the study of urban politics and development? How can we use these concepts and theories to understand what is happening in the cities we visit?
- How do urban development strategies deal with (or default on) important urban issues such as poverty and exclusion, environmental problems, migration and globalization? What roles do state, market and civil society play in the evolution and implementation of these strategies?
- Can equitable, eco-friendly cities that encourage citizen participation exist? What are some of the factors that could help create such cities? What are the challenges?

Course Objectives

- Introduce some of the key international, urban development and politics issues, and provide an introduction to this interdisciplinary field
- Develop a critical understanding of the impact of different urban development and political approaches
- Learn and draw inspiration from innovations and solution-oriented strategies in urban development and politics

Course Methodology

The course will use a combination of presentation, reflection, questioning and discussion techniques. The intention is to create a learning community where students actively contribute ideas and questions, and everyone helps everyone else learn. The course aims to make the most of the richness and variety of the Cities experience which encompasses guest lecturers, site visits, homestays, exercises in reading the city, cultural immersion, three other

interrelated, academic courses and much more. The assignments involve looking at particular P&D issues in the cities studied and gathering and analysing primary data from field sources.

Some of the skills that the course aims to develop are:

- critical reading, writing, analysis in an international, multidisciplinary setting
- consider multiple, at times contradictory, points of view and paradigms
- seek out diverse information sources; ability to learn from and value sources outside the classroom and learn in non-traditional ways
- ability to make informed, intelligent, cross cultural comparisons
- listening, observation and questioning skills
- teamwork, negotiation, collaboration skills
- ability to present new information creatively, in different formats
- link-making between theory and practice
- cross-cultural understanding, learning and communication
- ability to reflect on one's own learning and improve learning skills

The course covers:

- Development theories and how they reflect on the evolution of cities
- Urban development in the context of colonization
- Definition and overview of urban politics, and a consideration of actors/ forces involved
- Traditional and emerging economies of cities; the growth of “global cities”
- Cities from an ecological perspective; including a consideration of different urban futures, within the context of peak oil, resource scarcity, accelerating urbanization and climate change
- The role of civil society and social movements in urban development
- Urban inequality, social exclusion, migration, diversity
- Sustainable urban futures – what next for cities?

Course Materials

Reading materials will be distributed in each country. Students are expected to prepare readings for class and to use readings for reference in discussions as well as essays. In addition, students are encouraged to make use of the IHP in-country and traveling libraries and to investigate local resources, including news media. Reading newspapers regularly in each city offers a valuable resource for understanding current issues and debates.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

(20 %)

Students are expected to participate in faculty classes and to complete assigned readings before each class session. As stated before, faculty classes for P&D are complemented by site visits and guest lectures in each city. Therefore, participation in the course means engaging guest lectures, faculty, and fellow students as well as participating in field visits so as to develop an integrated learning experience.

Students are encouraged to take “telling” photos and collect other materials to present information visually as well as verbally.

It is expected that they will maintain a **learning notebook**, which will not be formally evaluated, but where they should **note and reflect on political/developmental aspects** of the cities visited. The notebook will help students participate more effectively in class discussions and contribute to doing the assignments.

Assignments: Detailed assignment sheets, including evaluation criteria, will be handed out in each country.

Assignment 1: Brazil

(20 %)

Writing a report on Cities program visit to a MST settlement

Rationale: Through this assignment we will attempt to understand the role played by MST - an important land rights movement in Brazil - in Brazilian politics and development.

Assignment 2: Cape Town

(30 %)

Develop and administer a survey, analyze findings and write a report on a current P&D topic in Cape Town. This assignment combines small group and individual work.

Rationale: The survey is a common tool used by governments, civil society actors and businesses to gauge public opinion and act on it. In our assignment, we will use this tool in a preliminary way to explore a current P&D issue affecting Cape Town and its citizens.

Assignment 3: Hanoi

(30 %)

Role play exercise to understand and illustrate one contentious P&D issue in Hanoi This assignment will be done in small groups.

Rationale: It is important to have an understanding of the typical players, their motivations and strategies, in the field of urban politics and development. One way to enlarge our understanding of the stakes and stakeholders is through a role play exercise.

Grading

Faculty will give grades in the form of points and will return assignments with written comments. Faculty will describe the range of points received for the assignment so that a student will know how his/her work compares with the rest of the class. At the end of the semester, your cumulative point score will be calculated in order to determine the final letter grade for the course. Point grades on individual assignments are not directly correlated to letter grades. The final letter grades will be determined on the basis of cumulative points on assignments completed across countries.

For *final* grades in IHP *Cities* courses it is useful for both faculty and students to think of letter grades in the following way. An "A" represents truly outstanding work that exemplifies thorough analysis, superior insight, and crystal clear presentation. A "B" signifies highly competent work that accomplishes the task at hand very well, through considerable thought, reasonable analysis, and an organized presentation. A "C" represents adequate work that meets basic requirements but demonstrates no distinction in terms of analytical insight or organization. A "D" is characterized by poorly or partially completed work that reflects a lack of initiative, inconsistent analysis, and/or erratic presentation. Plus and minus indicate relatively better or poorer work within each category. There is no A+.

Course Policies

Attendance and Participation: All students are expected to be present at every class session, with the only exceptions being illness (written note required from a non-IHP adult, e.g. homestay parent, or preferably, health care professional). Unexcused absences and habitual lateness *will* result in penalties reflected in your participation grade. Please inform the instructor if tardiness is anticipated. **All students are expected to come to class on time.**

Late work: In keeping with IHP policy, papers handed in late will drop one point per day, unless permission is granted otherwise. Course assignments are due at the start of class on the due date. Unexcused absences will also result in a lower grade.

Plagiarism: All students are responsible for having read the IHP statement on plagiarism, which is available in the IHP Student Handbook. Students are advised that the penalty on IHP for plagiarism may be "...expulsion from the program or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Program Director, subject to approval by the Executive Director."

Refer to the Student Handbook for IHP policies regarding academic integrity, academic warning and probation, diversity, disability, harassment protocols, and the academic appeals process.

The International Honors Program is offered in affiliation with the School for International Training, the accredited higher education institution of World Learning.

Course Chronology

NEW YORK CITY, USA

19 – 29 January 2010

Session 1 – Course Introduction and Development: An Overview

- Beall Jo and Sean Fox, *Cities and Development*, Routledge Perspectives on Development, 2009. Chapter, “Development in the First Urban Century.” Pp. 1-28, and 31-32.
- Willis Katie, *Theories and Practices of Development*, Routledge, 2007. Excerpt from Chapter, “Socialist Approaches to Development.” Pp. 75-87.
- Shepherd Nick and Steven Robins eds, *New South African Keywords*, CTP Book Printers, 2008, Chapter, “Development,” Kees van der Waal, Pp. 58-67.

The above readings are good reference for the whole course.

Recommended

- Bornstein Lisa and Jeanne M. Wolfe, in *Foresight*, Vol. 2, July 2009, “The Urban Revolution, Urban Governance and International Development,” Pp. 1-11.
- Please refer also to the two Millenium Development Goals related readings, under Guest Lectures, New York, for the Contemporary Urban Issues course.

BRAZIL

30 January - 7 March 2010

SAO PAULO

Week 1 & 2

Session 2A - Research Methods 1 (Combined methods session with C&S and UP&SE)

There are no P&D readings for this sessions.

Session 2B- Urbanization and the growth of cities (Combined history session with C&S and UP&SE)

Reading for P&D

- Jenkins Paul and Harry Smith and Ya Ping Wang, *Planning & Housing in the Rapidly Urbanising World*, Routledge, 2007, Chapter, “A New International Political Economy Approach to Urban Development in the Rapidly Urbanising World,” Pp. 56-76

Recommended

- Short John Rennie, *Urban Theory, A Critical Assessment*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006, Chapter, “Theorizing the Modern City,” Pp. 17-41

Session 3 - Civil society and social movements

- Alfred P Montero, *Brazilian Politics: Reforming a Democratic State in a Changing World*, Polity Press, 2005, Chapter “The Emergence of a Democratic Civil Society as a Force for Change,” Pp. 95-116

The following is an essential backgrounder for the Brazil assignment:

- Carter Miguel, Working Paper Number CBS-60-05, *The Landless Rural Workers Movement and Democracy in Brazil*, Centre for Brazilian Studies, University of Oxford, 25 pgs

Some recommended readings might be suggested in Brazil.

CURITIBA

Week 3-4

Session 4 – Cities in an ecological perspective (Combined session with UP&SE)

For P&D

- Newman Peter, Timothy Beatley and Heather Boyer, *From Resilient Cities, Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change*, Island Press, 2009, Chapter, “Four Scenarios for the Future of Cities: Collapse, Ruralized, Divided or Resilient City” – Pp. 35-55
- Some relevant readings will be handed out in Brazil

Recommended

- Newman Peter, Timothy Beatley and Heather Boyer, *From Resilient Cities, Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change*, Island Press, 2009, Chapter, “Climate Change and Peak Oil: The Double Whammy of Resource-Intensive Cities,” Pp. 15-34
- Marcotullio Peter J. and Gordon McGranahan, Eds., *Scaling Urban Environmental Challenges, from Local to Global and Back to Local*, Earthscan, 2007, Chapter, “In Pursuit of the Sustainable City,” Peter Evans, Pp. 274-288
- Portney Kent E., *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously, Economic Development, the Environment and - Quality of Life in American Cities*, The MIT Press, 2003, Chapter, “Sustainability, Sustainable Economic Development and Sustainable Communities: the Conceptual Foundations of Sustainable Cities,” Pp. 1-21, 42-43

SAO PAULO

Week 5

Session 5 - Urban politics in theory and practice

- Rennie John Short, *Urban Theory, A Critical Assessment*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006, Chapter, “The Political City” Pp. 144-159
- Hall Tim, Phil Hubbard and John Rennie Short, Eds., *The Sage Companion to the City*, Sage, 2008, Chapter, “Politics and Policy,” Don McNeill, Pp. 285 - 298

Recommended

- Beall Jo and Sean Fox, *Cities and Development*, Routledge Perspectives on Development, 2009. Chapter, “Shaping City Futures: Urban Planning, Governance and Politics,” Pp. 201- 228
- Evans Peter, Ed., *Livable Cities? Urban Struggles for Livelihood and Sustainability*, University of California Press, 2002, Chapter, “Introduction: Looking for Agents of Urban Livability in a Globalized Political Economy,” Peter Evans, Pp. 1-23
- Pieterse Edgar, *City Futures, Confronting the Crisis of Urban Development*, Zed Books, 2008, Chapter, “Reconceptualising the Political in Cities,” Pp. 84-107

(The last reading repeats for the last session – Urban Futures.)

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

8 March – 12 April 2010

Session 6A- Research Methods 2 (Combined session on methodology with C&S and UP&SE)

P&D reading (This is also a reference for your Cape Town assignment.)

- Chambliss Daniel F., Russell K. Schutt, *Making Sense of the Social World, Methods of Investigation*, Pine Forge Press, 2006 (Second edition), Chapter, “Survey Research,” Pp136-164 (Scan)

Session 6: Urban social inequity and exclusion (Combined session with UP&SE)

Required for P&D

- Thorn, David C., *The Transformation of Cities, Urban Theory and Urban Life*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2002, Chapter, “Urban social inequality and social exclusion ,” Pp 149-176 (Easy read, scan)
- Harriss John, Kristian Stokke and Olle Törnquist, Eds., *Politicising Democracy: The New Local Politics of Democratisation*, Palgrave-Macmillan, 2004, Chapter, “Social Movements, Socio-Economic Rights and Substantial Democratisation in South

Africa,” (Read Pp 8-15, starting with *Political capacity and Western Cape Anti-Eviction Campaign*)

Some recommended readings might be suggested later.

Session 7: Part of this session will be revision of everything preceding. Please bring your readers along. We will also discuss problems encountered and how to go forward with the Cape Town assignment.

Session 8: Global cities

Required

- McDonald David A., *World City Syndrome, Neoliberalism and Inequality in CapeTown*, Routledge, 2008, Chapter, “Cape Town as a World City,” Pp – 16-47
- Hall Tim, Phil Hubbard and John Rennie Short, Eds., *The Sage Companion to the City*, 2008, Chapter, “Migration and Settlement,” Marie Price, Pp 189-207
(An easy read; scan)

Recommended

- Willis Katie, *Theories and Practices of Development*, Routledge, 2007 edition, Chapter, “Globalization and Development, problems and solutions?” Pp 172-199

HANOI, VIETNAM

Session 9: The economy of cities in theory and practice

Required

- Rennie John Short, *Urban Theory, A Critical Assessment*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2006, Chapter, “The Economic City,” Pp 92-110
- Xuan Han Vo, Roger Baumgarte, *Comparative Economic Studies*, Fall 2000, “Economic reform, private sector development, and the business environment in Vietnam,” Pp 1-16 (Read to the end of *Concluding Remarks*)

Recommended

- Newman Peter and Isabella Jennings, *Cities as Sustainable Ecosystems, Principles and Practice*, Island Press, 2008, Chapter, “Sustainable production and consumption,” Pp 188-214
- Beresford Melanie, *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, Vol. 31 No. 2 May 2008, “Doi Moi in Review: The challenges of building market socialism in Vietnam,” Pp 221-243

Session 10: The role of state, market and civil society in Vietnam

We will discuss problems encountered and how to go forward with the Hanoi assignment, and have a discussion on the role of state, market, civil society.

Required

- Cargo Duncan Mc, Ed., *Rethinking Vietnam*, Routledge 2004, Chapter, “State, party and political change in Vietnam,” Chris Dixon, Pp 15-26
- Excerpts from Chapter, “Vietnam’s rural transformation, Information, knowledge and diversification,” Tran Thi Thu Trang, Pp 110-115
- Noland Irene, Report: *Filling the Gap: The Emerging Civil Society in Viet Nam*, January 2007, Hanoi (Read 3 pg Executive Summary at the beginning and 2 pg Conclusion at the end)

Recommended

- Kerkvliet, Benedict J. Tria, *Journal of Social Issues in South East Asia*, October 2001, Vol. 16, Nr. 2, 238-279, “An approach for analysing state-society relations in Vietnam,” Pp 238-279
- Fritzen Scott A., *Asia-Pacific Journal of Public Administration*, 2006, 28(1), revised version, “Probing system limits: Decentralization and local political accountability in Vietnam,” Pp 1-24

Session 11: Role play assignment, followed by “pulling together the threads of P&D theory and practice.” **No readings, but please bring your readers along.**

Session 12: Sustainable Urban Futures – (Combined session with C&S and UP&SE)

Required

- City Futures, Confronting the crisis of urban development, Edgar Pieterse, Zed Books, 2008, Chapter 3: *Reconceptualising the political in cities* – Pp 84-107

Recommended

- Sen Amartya, *Development as freedom*, Alfred A. Knopp, 2001, Chapter, “The perspective of freedom,” Pp 13-34
- Perlman Janice E., Molly O’Meara Sheehan, The World Watch Institute, *State of the World 2007, Our Urban Future*, Chapter, “Fighting poverty and environmental injustice in cities,” Pp 172-190