



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 (P&D) DVST – 3500 (4 credits) Fall Semester 2009

Course Overview

Cities are centers of individual opportunity and civic engagement and also sites of economic disparity and political inequality. In this course, we will focus on understanding the economic and political nature of cities and the practical application of power in an urban context. The course will consider how political and economic decisions of individuals, private enterprises, civil society organizations, governments and global institutions shape life in cities.

We will also question and evaluate the political, social and economic sustainability of institutional structures, policies and practices in Detroit, Delhi, Cape Town and Buenos Aires. By observing, reflecting and debating issues and processes of urban development, students will learn to question and analyze the forces and factors that shape the city from top down, bottom up and outside in.

Key Questions:

- What are the major global, local and spatial economic forces that create and shape cities?
- What is the role of the state in managing urban life and commerce and how does the political process control the actions of the state?
- What drives the pursuit of “development” and what does it mean in cities?
- How do global institutions influence the political choices of nations and cities?

Course Objectives

- To experience, observe, understand and respond to the impacts of economic forces, government policy, citizen action on the physical, social and economic development of the city;
- To provide students with a theoretical understanding of urban politics and development as well as to examine the local particularities of political institutions and processes in the cities we visit;
- To learn theoretical and methodological tools to analyze policies and practices of urban politics and development.

Course Methodology

This course aims to provide a framework for comparing, understanding and interpreting what we see in each city. Faculty sessions will include a combination of lectures and discussions. Programmatic activities of IHP, including faculty sessions, site visits, guest lectures and home-stays, are considered an integral and essential part of the course.

Course Requirements

Active participation of all students and completion of the course assignments listed below are basic requirements for this course. Students adhering to the course requirements will see growth in their skills of perception, public presentation, writing, critical thinking, and reasoning.

Required readings are contained in your course reader; the recommended readings will be available by request. Each student is also encouraged to use her/his own initiative to find supplementary resources.

Intellectual curiosity and engagement with the course readings are important components of success in this course, and it is expected that assigned readings will be completed before course sessions.

Class Participation (25%)

Students are expected to attend and participate in all faculty sessions and program activities. Classes include faculty lectures and guest lectures as well as site visits. Participation includes completing all assigned readings and engaging guests, faculty, and fellow students during class times.

Assignment 1 (paper): Why is this here? (25%)

The assignment in India will be handed out upon arrival in Delhi.

Assignment 2 (debate): Upgrading informal settlements (25%)

The assignment in South Africa will be handed out upon arrival in Cape Town.

Assignment 3 (paper): Visualizing policy (25%)

The assignment in Argentina will be handed out upon arrival in Buenos Aires.

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 beginning of the day 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

Topics covered in each module will draw on site visits, guest lectures, and other activities, in addition to the assigned readings. The order of the modules may be rearranged to respond to activities or opportunities presented in the Country Programs.

DETROIT, USA

24 August – 6 September 2009

The Market I: Why Cities Exist and Why They Fail

Why is there a persistent need for people and business to gather in urban areas? How have the factors driving agglomeration changed over the centuries, and why has this left some cities (like Detroit) in the dust during a period of rapid global urbanization?

- Pacione, Michael. 2001. *Urban Geography*. Chapter 3: "The Origins and Growth of Cities" pp.37-67 and Chapter 15: "Poverty Deprivation in the City" (pp. 289-321). London: Routledge.

DELHI, INDIA

7 September – 4 October 2009

Overview of Concepts to Come

- Gilbert, Alan and Josef Gugler. 1999. *Cities, Poverty and Development: Urbanization in the Third World*. Chapter 1: "Urban Development in a World System" (pp. 14-32). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Davis, Mike. 2006. *Planet of Slums*. Chapter 1: "Urban Climacteric" (pp. 1-19). New York: Verso.

Development I: Economic Growth and Inequality

Why is economic growth alluring and why is it inadequate to maintaining development progress? We will look at growth and inequality trends in India and other countries and how these relate to major policy choices.

- Willis, Katie. 2005. *Theories and Practices of Development*. Chapter 1: "What Do We Mean by Development" (pp. 1-29). New York, Routledge.
- Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. Chapter 2: "The Ends and the Means of Development" (pp. 35 – 53). New York: Anchor Books.

The State I: Public Goods, Externalities and the Role of the State

If fundamental market forces create the city and drive the development of the distribution of goods and services why does a government inevitably emerge to be an additional force in the shaping of urban life and commerce? To answer this we look at some of the classic examples of externalities and public goods in economics and how they justify a role for public intervention in private behavior (e.g. pollution, safety, and public health).

- Schofield, John. 1987. *Cost-Benefit Analysis in Urban and Regional Planning*. Chapter 1: "Welfare Economics and the Foundations of CBA" (pp. 11-26). London: Unwin Hyman Ltd.
- Banerji-Guha, Swapna. 2009. "Neoliberalizing the 'Urban': New Geographies of Power and Injustice in Indian Cities" (pp.95-106). *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. XLIV, no. 22.

Housing I: Housing as a Public Good

Roads, sewers and police are examples of typical government responsibilities because provide "goods" which are undeniably "public" in nature. In other words, they would not be satisfactorily provided by private market participants. Houses and apartments appear to the realm of private markets in most capitalist oriented societies, but is this actually true? Why is housing sometimes considered a public good and how do governments intervene to promote housing?

- Gilbert, Alan and Josef Gugler. 1999. *Cities, Poverty and Development: Urbanization in the Third World*. Chapter 5: "The Housing of the Urban Poor" (pp. 114-54). New York: Oxford University Press.

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

5 October – 8 November 2009

Politics I: From Apartheid to Democracy in South Africa

Democracy is a fragile network of institutions and requires more than the right to vote to succeed. What enabled a post-apartheid South Africa to transition and create a new democracy in the last two decades and where has this transition been unsuccessful? What key institutions are visible at the urban scale in Cape Town?

- Frankental, Sally and Owen Sichone. 2005. *South Africa's Diverse Peoples*. Chapter 5: "The 'Naturalization' of Apartheid" and Chapter 7: "Ethnic Diversity in Post-Apartheid South Africa" (pp. 123-138, 205-230). Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

The Market II: Spatial Forces in Cities

Major economic forces drive the distribution of uses across the city and within neighborhoods. We expect to see the CBD in the center and farms at the edge, but why does this happen and how do shifts in technology change it? What are the other more subtle dynamics that we see in cities that push some uses apart and other uses together?

- Heikkila. 2002. *The Economics of Planning*. The Economics of Urban Structure (pp. 79-102). New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Urban Policy Research.

The State II: Governance Structures

The government structures that exist to serve the public interest have boundaries and political bodies that are in many ways a product of particular time period during which the cities took shape. How do these anachronistic entities manage to regulate and service a city in a completely different reality? What new systems are created to accommodate change, and where do old systems prevent optimal outcomes?

- Frug, Gerald and David Barron. 2008. *City Bound: How States Stifle Urban Innovation*. "The Regional City" (pp. 205-233).
- Marks, Rafael and Marco Bezzoli. 2001. "Palaces of desire: Century City, Cape Town and the ambiguities of development (pp.28-44)." *Urban Forum*, vol. 12, no. 1.

Housing II: Upgrading Informal Settlements

Crowded, unsafe and unsanitary informal settlements provide a picture of a how markets can fail to provide adequate housing, especially the urban poor. How have governments and NGOs intervened to improve conditions in these places? Have these policies improved the place or the people in them?

- De Soto, Hernando. 2000. *The Mystery of Capital*. Chapter 3: "The Mystery of Capital" (pp. 39-67). New York: Basic Books.
- Huchzermeyer, Marie and Karam. 2006. *Informal Settlements: A Perpetual Challenge?* "The New Instrument for Upgrading Informal Settlements in South Africa" (pp. 41-58). Cape Town: UCT Press.

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

8 November – 12 December 2009

Development II: Neoliberalism and Structural Adjustment

The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization wield tremendous power in influencing the policies of nations in the global south. How have these institutions changed since their inception and do their policies promote or undermine development? Are global financial institutions necessary and can they represent the needs of those they serve?

- Willis, Katie. 2005. *Theories and Practices of Development*. Chapter 2: “Classical and Neoliberal Development Theories” (pp. 1-29). New York, Routledge.
- Stiglitz, Joseph. 2003. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. Chapter 1: “The Promise of Global Institutions” (pp. 3-22). New York: Norton.

Politics II: Ceding Control

In many ways the definition of “development” in the “developing world” requires the secession of control to western ideals and global political bodies. While these ideals may be well founded and these institutions may be well intending, their very existence and immense power can prevent a functioning indigenous political process from taking shape.

- Esteva, Gustavo. 1992. In Wolfgang Sachs, ed. *The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power*. “Development” (pp 6-23). London: ZED Books.

Housing III: Microfinance as an Alternative

The practice of microfinance has emerged as an alternative to traditional development lending in an effort to invest through mechanisms that more directly serve those in need, while at the same time build lasting local institutions. As a consumer lending model, how does microfinance provide for positive change in urban areas, in particular informal housing settlements?

- Harper, Malcolm. 1998. *Profit for the Poor: Cases in Microfinance*. Section 1: “Introduction and Some General Issues” (pp. 1-29). Intermediate Technology: London.

Recommended Reading

The following readings are recommended for a range of purposes including introduction and in-depth material on the city or the discipline, methods and concepts. Readings are intended to augment your observations, experiences, and learning in the cities we visit. They are invaluable resources for clarifying concepts and deepening your understanding of what you are experiencing. Readings can be tailored to your individual needs, and rather than saddle you with the weight of additional readings, the recommended readings will be made available as per your request to the faculty.

Theory and Context

- Davis, Mike. 2006. *Planet of Slums*. Chapter 2-4 (pp. 20-94). New York: Verso.
- Elster, Jon. 1986. "The Market and the forum: Three Varieties of Political Theory" (pp. 139-154). In Thomas Christiano, ed., 2003, *Philosophy and Democracy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Harvey, David. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Chapter 3: "The Neoliberal State" (pp. 64-86). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Hayek, F. A. 1945. "The Use of Knowledge in Society" (pp. 519-529). *The American Economic Review*, vol. 35, no. 4.
- Holston, James and Arjun Appadurai. 1996. "Cities and Citizenship, Public Culture" (pp. 187-202). *Public Culture: Bulletin of the Project for Transnational Cultural Studies*, vol. 8.
- Mandela, Nelson. 1964. "I Am Prepared To Die." From testimony during Rivonia Trial, Pretoria Supreme Court, April 20.
- Miraftab, Faranak. 2004. "Public-Private Partnerships" (pp. 89-98). *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, vol. 24.
- Polak, Paul. 2008. *Out of Poverty*. "Twelve Steps to Practical Problem Solving" (pp. 13-23). San Francisco: BK Currents.
- Woolcock, Michael and Deepa Narayan. 2000. "Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research and Policy" (pp. 225-243). *The World Bank Research Observer*, vol. 15, no 2.

India

- Das, Gurcharan. 2002. *India Unbound*. Chapter 4: "Blind Then, Blind Now" and Chapter 5: "If We Were Once rich, Why Are We Now Poor?" (pp. 44-68). New York: First Anchor Books.
- Sen, Amartya. 1999. *Development as Freedom*. Chapter 1: "The Perspective of Freedom" (pp. 35-53). New York: Anchor Books.
- Harper, Malcolm. 1998. *Profit for the Poor: Cases in Microfinance*. Chapter 15: "Puri Gramin Bank and DSS Balipatna, Orissa, India" (pp. 124-139). London: Intermediate Technology.

South Africa

- City of Cape Town. 2006. "Development Issues in Cape Town."
- Constitution of South Africa. 1996.
- Robins, Steven. 2008. "Rights" (pp. 182-192). In Shepherd and Robins, ed. *New South African Keywords*. Athens: Ohio University Press.
- Van der Waal, Kees. 2008. "Development" (pp. 58-67). In Shepherd and Robins, ed. *New South African Keywords*. Athens: Ohio University Press.
- Von Lieres, Bettina. 2008. "Democracy and Citizenship" (pp. 47-55). In Shepherd and Robins, ed. *New South African Keywords*. Athens: Ohio University Press.

Argentina

- Cooper, Andrew F. and Bessma Momani. 2005. “Negotiating out of Argentina’s Financial Crisis: Segmenting the International Creditors” (pp.305-317). *New Political Economy*, vol. 10, no. 3.
- Grugel, Jean and Maria Pia Ruggirozzi. 2007. “The Return of the State in Argentina” (pp. 87-107). *International Affairs*, vol. 83, no. 1.
- Kliksberg, Bernardo. 2008. “Poverty and Development: Lessons from Argentina” (pp. 1-10). *Progressive Governance*, April.