ANT 347Y1Y

Metropolis: Global Cities

2013-14 Syllabus

Instructors:  
Prof. Joshua Barker, j.barker@utoronto.ca (Fall session)
Sharon Kelly, sharon.kelly@utoronto.ca (Winter session)
(Every effort will be made to respond to email within 72 hrs.)

Class Times:  
Tuesday 12-2

Location:  
Earth Sciences Centre B149

Office Hours:  
Tuesdays from 2:30-3:30 p.m.
Anthropology Building, 19 Russell Street, Room 228

Teaching Assistant:  
Sunyoung Yang, sunyoung.yang@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

For the first time in human history more than half of the world’s population live in cities. The tremendous growth of cities around the world poses a challenge to anthropologists, whose discipline originated in the study of small groups and villages. This course addresses this challenge by examining attempts by anthropologists and others to make sense of the socio-cultural aspects of urban life.

The first half of the course takes a global view of cities, drawing out some of the main problems and questions that orient anthropological research on city life. How are we to define and categorize cities? How do we understand the relation of cities to the world economic system? How does life in the modern and postmodern city differ from other modes of life? To help work through these questions, students are introduced to some of the theoretical and methodological tools anthropologists have developed for studying cities: theories of space and place, the idea of spatial practices, the methodological focus on social groups and subcultures, and the flaneur’s technique of studying fragments of everyday city life. Throughout the term, students will be encouraged to reflect upon the cultural and social significance of specific sites in the metropolis: the mall, the intersection, the home, the street, the park, the billboard, etc.

The second half of the course builds upon anthropological theories and concepts introduced in the first semester, and applies these frameworks to urban ethnographic research. Through a close reading of two full-length ethnographic studies of urban life (in East Harlem, New York and Kunming, China), we will explore the ways in which cities are imagined, produced and experienced by a range of actors. We will consider questions relating to the social, political and economic lives of cities, situating accounts of everyday life against macro-processes such as globalization and economic restructuring. Some of the themes we will cover include citizenship, social stratification and marginalization, crime, inner-city life, gentrification, urban
development, housing, architecture and the built environment. We will also explore the practice of fieldwork in an urban context. What are the techniques that anthropologists use to make sense of the teeming cities around them? How do they approach the complexities of the city – size, density, diversity – using a variety of ethnographic methods?

**Course Readings**

Required readings for this course consist of two books and a set of articles.

1) All articles required for the course will be available via Blackboard.

**Important Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 15:</td>
<td>Flaneur Assignment due (at 12 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 3:</td>
<td>Mid-term Test (in-class test)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 14:</td>
<td>Research Paper proposal due (at 12 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 11:</td>
<td>Research Paper due (at 12 p.m.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA:</td>
<td>Final Exam (to be held during exam period)</td>
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**Method of Evaluation**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flaneur Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audio/Visual + Written Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Test</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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**Assignments and Participation**

*Flaneur Assignment:* The flaneur assignment involves writing about one’s first-hand observations of city life in the Toronto area. The details of assignment will be explained in the 3rd meeting of the class. The length of the assignment is 2000-2500 words. A digital copy (via Blackboard) must be handed in by the due date/time.

*Term Test/Final Exam:* There is a mid-term test, and an end-of-year exam. The test and exam will focus on readings, lectures, and classroom discussion. They will include both an essay portion and a short answer portion. The exam emphasizes the content of the second half of the course but includes concepts introduced during the first half of the course.
Participation: The participation grade will be based on performance in class, on meetings with the instructors and TA outside of class, and on participation in the online class discussion board/blog. If class size permits, the class will be periodically divided up into several small discussion groups. Discussions will focus on assigned questions related to each week’s readings and on broader issues related to urban anthropology and city cultures.

Audio/Visual Essay + Short Written Essay + Statement of Collaboration: Each person will participate in a group presentation of an audio/visual essay to the class. The topic of the a/v essay will be arrived at in consultation with the instructors. The a/v essay will be prepared and presented as a group and the collaboration process will be documented in a statement of collaboration (1 paragraph, signed by all group members). The a/v essay will be 5 min. maximum. The group may also provide a short verbal introduction (less than 4 minutes). In addition to the a/v essay, each student will also write a short essay of their own on the topic of the presentation. The written short essay is 750 to 1000 words in length and is due on the same day as the presentation. It should be submitted via Blackboard by 12 p.m.

Research Paper Proposal: The research proposal is a 1-page description of the student’s proposed research paper topic. It will include a one-paragraph description of the paper topic, a working thesis, and a list of three academic sources which you will use in your essay (you cannot use sources that are listed on the syllabus). The proposal will not be graded but instead is designed to provide feedback while your paper is in its preliminary stages.

Research Paper: The research paper (3000 words) provides students with the opportunity to explore in depth an issue relating to urban anthropology. Topics and source material for the paper will be chosen in consultation with the instructors and TA. A digital copy (via Blackboard) must be handed by the due date.

Policies and Protocols

Policy on Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be treated as such. Plagiarism or cheating will be dealt with according to The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters, which is available in full online at:


Please also refer to this detailed explanation of what constitutes plagiarism:
http://anthropology.utoronto.ca/ant100/plagiarize.html
Policy on Lateness: There will be a penalty of 5% per day an assignment is late, including weekends (deducted from the actual assignment grade). Requests for extensions must be made in writing and presented in person. A note from the University doctor must accompany such requests.

Accessibility: The University provides academic accommodations for students with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs. Please contact Accessibility Services at accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or 416-978-8060 if you require an accommodation.

Policy on Turnitin.com: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com website.

Schedule and Readings

Sep 10: Introduction

Sep 17: Imagining the City and City Typologies
  ○ Film: Metropolis
  Suggested:

Sep 24: Methods of Research and Writing: The Flaneur and the Figure

Suggested:

Oct 1: Metropolis and Modernity

Suggested:

Oct 8: Political Economy of Cities
○ Film: Urban Development in Jakarta (20 min)

Suggested:

**Oct 15: Metropolis and Postmodernity**

○ Film: Lagos/Koolhaas

*Suggested:*


**Oct 22: Street Life**


*Suggested:*


**Oct 29: Cities , Citizenship and Belonging**


*Suggested:*


Nov 5: Markets
○ Presentation: Tokyo + Jakarta

Suggested:

Nov 12: FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES

Nov 19: Greening the City
○ Presentations: New York + Berlin

Suggested:

Nov 26: Mediating the City & Review

Suggested:

Dec 3: Test

Jan 7: Theory & Ethnography
○ In addition, please review the typologies covered in the first term

**Jan 14: Ethnographic Methods in an Urban Context: Doing Fieldwork in the City**

○ Presentations: London + Istanbul


**Suggested:**


**Jan 21: Divided Cities**

○ Presentations: Caracas + Cairo

○ Bourgois, Introduction and Chapter 1

**Suggested:**


**Jan 28: Ethnic Enclaves and Spatial Segregation**

○ Presentations: Los Angeles + Buenos Aires

○ Bourgois, Chapters 2 + 3

**Suggested:**
Feb 4: Legal & Illegal Economies

- Presentations: Johannesburg + Ho Chi Minh City
- Bourgois, Chapters 4 + 5

Suggested:


Feb 11: Violence and Intimate Relations

- Presentations: Mexico City + Damascus
- Bourgois, Chapters 6 + 7

Suggested:


Feb 18: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

Feb 25: Structure and Agency

- Presentations: Vancouver + Lagos
- Bourgois, Chapter 8, Conclusion and Epilogue

Suggested:


**March 4: Housing: Public and Private**

○ Presentations: Mumbai + Singapore

○ Zhang, Introduction and Chapter 1

*Suggested:*

○ Engels, Frederick. 1872. The Housing Question. Available online: [http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_The_Housing_Question.pdf](http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_The_Housing_Question.pdf) [Suggested in particular is Part 2: How the Bourgeoisie Solves the Housing Question]


**March 11: Real Estate Development and Urban Change**

○ Presentations: Hong Kong + Dubai

○ Zhang, Chapters 2 + 3

*Suggested:*


**March 18: Spatial Politics: Class, Consumption, Displacement**

○ Zhang, Chapters 4 + 5

*Suggested:*


**March 25: Urban Governance**

○ Zhang, Chapters 6 + 7, Epilogue

  *Suggested:*


**April 1: Class Wrap-Up and Review**

Note: The final exam will be held during the exam period (date TBA)