

ARCH 684-001 - Fall 2015 Graduate Seminar

Topologies of New Liberal Urbanization: Learning from Asian Metropolises

Course Instructor: Adrian Blackwell, adrian.blackwell@uwaterloo.ca

Class hours: Wednesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Class location: 2026

Office location: 2024

Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-12:00 (please e-mail the instructor to schedule meetings in advance)



OMA, Shenzhen Stock Exchange, 2014

Topologies of New Liberal Urbanization: Learning from Asian Metropolises

This course will act as an introduction to contemporary urban theory through an examination of urbanization occurring in emerging Asian metropolises. In the last forty years we have witnessed a shift in the global balance of power, a world economy once dominated by Europe and North America economy is tilting toward Asia. In the process Asian countries have initiated an unprecedented process of urbanization, which is both the result and driver of this global economic rebalancing. The far smaller growth that North American and European cities have experienced over the same period has been a byproduct of the incredible expansion of the world's productive capacity and consumer markets, through the opening of China, the center of this emerging Asian market system, to capitalist development. We need to better understand this process for three reasons: (1) because Asia is the world's construction site; (2) it is the most dynamic laboratory for studying processes of urbanization; and (3) we are directly tied to its economy through global capital and commodity chains.

This investigation will be organized through six polarized topologies of Neoliberal Urbanization: ports/borders, infrastructures/centers, villages/compounds, the capitalization/appropriation of nature, creativity/mimicry of labour, and the appreciation/depreciation of capital. These both designate expansive territories of contemporary theoretical inquiry and are themselves forces that have concrete formal effects within cities. For this reason the course will involve discussion of canonical theoretical texts on each of these topologies, as well as texts which localize them in the Asian context. Each student will be responsible for presenting readings to the class, and for exploring one of these topologies through both writing and diagrams. The course will function as a laboratory for building tools to better understand the relationships between political and economic processes of globalization and the forms of contemporary urbanization.

Course objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to contemporary debates about urban theory, urban space and processes of urbanization, as well as key thinkers who have engaged these issues. Secondly it will serve as a laboratory through which to explore contemporary urbanization in contemporary Asia.

Course requirements:

The seminar will involve close readings of texts each week for 9 weeks from week 2 to week 10. You will be required to have finished the readings and to participate in all class discussions with an informed perspective on each text. Over the term you will express your engagement with the ideas of the seminar through four 400-500 word (one page single spaced written reading responses. You will also make two verbal presentations on a reading, which will briefly summarize the essay's thesis and key points and raise questions for class discussion. The term project is a graphical and textual analysis of an Asian metropolis through the framework of one of the six topologies of new liberal urbanization that we are studying.

This will include at least 4 drawings of the topology and an up to 5000 word critical essay. This final project has three deadlines: A project proposal of 1000 words, an illustrated in class presentation of the key arguments and evidence, and the final written document.

Relative weight and due date for assignments:

1a - Seminar Participation	10%
1b - 4 Reading Responses	4 x 5% = 20% due by 6pm the Tuesday before class
1c - 2 In-class presentations of readings	2 x 10% = 20% due by 6pm the Tuesday before class
2a - project proposal	5% - due October 7
2b - In class presentation of research	15% - due either, November 25 or December 2
2c - Final Hand-in	30% - due December 12

Description of the Course Assignments:

Assignment 1 - Seminar participation and reading

Each class will begin with a presentation of the day's themes by the course instructor. After this individual students will introduce the class's three readings, one at a time, and ask the class to answer specific questions about them. The instructor will moderate and focus the ensuing conversation amongst the class comparing the three readings. The class will finish with the instructor introducing next week's class.

1a - Seminar participation

10% in class

Each Student is expected to have read the week's assigned texts and to participate during the discussion during each class. Carefully read the reading each week, underline important passages, and take notes on its key concepts. Come to class with questions you have about both readings. The primary purpose of the discussions is to engage the content of the readings themselves, in order to explore and better understand the ideas of key theorists of contemporary Asian urbanization. It is important that you engage the content of the readings and not simply your general knowledge of the subjects discussed.

1b - Four reading responses

4 x 5% = 20% due by e-mail by 6pm the Tuesday before class

Each student will submit 4 reading responses of 400- 500 words, or one page of single spaced text 10pt or larger. The reading responses should compare key concepts from two of the three readings assigned for the week. Each response should be framed as a concise essay. The first half should consist of a clear description of the key ideas of each thinker and end with your thesis about the relationship between their ideas. The rest of the response should argue for the points of agreement and divergence between them. All references to the texts should include page numbers. The reading response can make reference to other thinkers with footnotes, but should not contain unsubstantiated conjecture. The days that you will submit reading assignments will be decided on the first day of class. (Please name files as follows: Date_Lastname_Lastnameofauthor_Lastnameofauthor2, ex: 150916_Blackwell_Harvey_Smith)

1c - In class presentations of two readings before class

2 x 10% = 20% due by e-mail by 9am Tuesday before class

Each student will lead the discussion during two classes of the term. In advance of the class prepare a short hand out of 500 words and an explanatory diagram, illustrating the key theses and arguments of one of the two readings and a series of 2 detailed questions about the reading for the class. **Questions should make specific reference to ideas in the text and focus discussion on the text itself.** A digital copy of your hand out is due by 9:00am on the Tuesday before class. You are responsible for making double-sided

copies for each class member on no more than one piece of paper. The days that you will do-in class presentations will be decided on the first day of class. The presentations are distinct from the reading responses and will occur on weeks when you are not required to write a reading response. (Please name files as follows: Date_Lastname_Lastnameofauthor_Lastnameofauthor2, ex: 150916_Blackwell_Harvey_Smith)

Assignment 2 – Topologies of New Liberal Urbanization

The term project involves the investigation of one of two Asian municipalities - Shanghai and Beijing - through the lens of one of six topologies of new liberal urbanization.

2a - project proposal / Topology Diagram 1

5% - due October 7

Each student will prepare an illustrated proposal for their term project. The proposal should be 500 words and contain one diagram of your hypothesis about the Topology you are studying.

2b - In class presentation of research

20% - November 25 or December 2

Each student will present their findings as a 15 minute paper presented to the class. All papers should be accompanied by diagrams illustrating your Topology at 4 scales: Regional Scale (1:2,000,000) Scale of the Metropolis (1:500,000), District Scale (1:100,000), neighbourhood Scale (1:20,000) all on 8.5 x 11" PDF projected digitally. The purpose of the presentation is to workshop your ideas and to rehearse the form of the academic paper. It should have a clear thesis and substantial evidence. Following every 3-4 presentations we will have 30 minutes of discussion.

2c – Final Project

25% - due December 12

Write a research essay that makes a specific argument about the relationship between the physical form of space and its specific political and economic effects. The essay should be 4000-5000 words in length and include diagrams illustrating your Topology at 4 scales: Regional Scale (1:2,000,000) Scale of the Metropolis (1:500,000), District Scale (1:100,000), neighbourhood Scale (1:20,000) all on 8.5 x 11" horizontal format Sheets.

Course Schedule and Readings

Week 1 – September 16 - Introduction to Topologies of New Liberal urbanization

Jamie Peck and Adam Tickell, "Neoliberalizing Space" in Neil Brenner and Nik Theodore Eds. *Spaces of Neoliberalism: Urban Restructuring in North America and Western Europe* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers Ltd, 2002) 33-57.

Adrian Blackwell, "Casting Nets: On the Co-constitutive Dispersions of Governance, Production and Urbanization in Contemporary China" in Peter Mortenbock and Helge Mooshammer eds. *Networked Cultures: Parallel Architectures and the Politics of Space* (Rotterdam: NAI Publishers, 2008) 100-109.

Adrian Blackwell, "Shenzhen: Topology of a Neoliberal City" in Rodolphe el-Khoury and Edward Robbins Eds. *Shaping the City: Studies in History, Theory and Urban Design 2nd Edition* (London: Routledge, 2013), 278-311.

Week 2 – September 23 – Uneven Development forms Urban Topologies

David Harvey, "Notes Towards a Theory of Uneven Geographical Development" in *Spaces of Global Capitalism: Towards a Theory of Uneven Geographical Development* (London: Verso, 2006), 71-116.

Neil Smith, "Toward a Theory of Uneven Development I: The Dialectic of Geographical Differentiation and Equalization" in *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008 [1984]), 132-174.

Neil Smith, "Toward a Theory of Uneven Development II: Spatial Scale and the Seesaw of Capital" in *Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008 [1984]), 175-205.

Suggested Readings:

Doreen Massey, "Social Relations and Spatial Organization" in *Spatial Divisions of Labour: Social Structures and the Geography of Production* (London: Macmillan, 1984), 12-66.

Week 3 – October 7 – Neoliberalism as a Spatio-Temporal Fix

David Harvey, "Capital Bondage" in *The New Imperialism* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), 87-136.

William Davies, "The Promise and Paradox of Competition: Markets, Competitive Agency and Authority" in *The Limits of Neoliberalism: Authority, Sovereignty and the Logic of Competition* (London: Sage, 2014), 35-69.

Hai Ren, "The role of reunification with Hong Kong in the neoliberalization of the Chinese state" in *Neoliberalism and Culture in China and Hong Kong* (New York: Routledge, 2010), 1-27.

Suggested Readings:

Bob Jessop, "Spatial Fixes, Temporal Fixes and Spatio- Temporal Fixes" in N. Castree and D. Gregory, eds, *David Harvey: a Critical Reader* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006) 142-66.

Giovanni Arrighi, "Spatial and Other "Fixes" of Historical Capitalism" in *The Journal of World-Systems Research*, X, 2, summer 2004, 527-539

Week 4 – October 7 – Spatial Topologies: From the Urban Revolution to Planetary Urbanization

Henri Lefebvre, "From the City to Urban Society" in *The Urban Revolution*, Trans. Robert Bononno (Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press, 2003), 1-22.

Christian Schmid, "Networks Borders, Differences: Towards a Theory of the Urban" in Neil Brenner Ed. *Implosions/Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization* (Berlin: Jovis, 2013), 67-85.

Neil Brenner and Christian Schmidt, "Towards a New Epistemology of the Urban" in *CITY*, 2015 Vol. 19, Non. 2-3, 151-182.

Week 5 – October 14 - Ports / Borders

Giovanni Arrighi, "China's Market Economy in the Long Run" in Ho-fung Hung Ed. *China and the Transformation of Global Capitalism* (Baltimore, Maryland: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009), 23-49.

Sandro Mezzadra and Brett Neilson, "Zones, Corridors, And Postdevelopmental Geographies" in *Border As Method, or, The Multiplication of Labour* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013), 205-242.

Aiwha Ong, "Zoning Technologies in East Asia" in *Neoliberalism As Exception : Migrations in Citizenship and Sovereignty* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), 97-118.

Week 6 – October 21 - Infrastructures / Centers

Deb Cowan, "Logistics Cities: The Urban Heart of Empire" in *The Deadly Life of Logistics: Mapping Violence in Global Trade* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014)

Keller Easterling, "Zone: The Spatial Softwares of Extrastatecraft" in *Places*, (June 2012) Jan 2015.

Manual Castells – "The Space of Flows", in *The Rise of the Network Society, The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture Vol. I.* (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell 1996). 407-459.

Suggested Readings:

Stephen Graham, "Constructing Premium Network Spaces: Reflections on Infrastructure Networks and Contemporary Urban Development." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. Volume 24.1 (March 2000)

Week 7 – October 28 - Villages / Compounds

Required Readings:

Mike Davis, "Planet of Slums: Urban Involution and the Informal Proletariat" in *New Left Review* 26 (March/April 2004), 5-34.

Michael Sorkin, The End(s) of Urban Design, *Harvard Design Magazine*, Fall 2006, Winter 2007

Chris Smith, Ngai Pun, "The dormitory labour regime in China as a site for control and resistance", *The International Journal of Human Resource Management* Volume 17:8 (August 2006), 1456-1470.

Suggested Readings:

Duanfang Lu, "Workunit Urbanism" in *Remaking Chinese Urban form: Modernity, Scarcity and Space, 1949-2005* (London, Routledge, 2006), 47-79.

Week 8 – November 4 - Preservation / Appropriation (of Nature)

Jason W. Moore, "Toward a singular Metabolism: Epistemic Rifts and Environment-Making in the Capitalist World-Ecology" in *Grounding Metabolism, New Geographies* 06, June 2014.

Erik Swyngedouw, Maria Kaika and Nikolas Heynen, "Urban Political Ecology: Politicizing the Production of Urban Natures" in Erik Swyngedouw, Maria Kaika, Nikolas Heynen Eds. *In the Nature of Cities: Urban Political Ecology and the Politics of Urban Metabolism*. (Oxford and New York: Taylor and Francis, 2007), 1-20.

Li, Minqi, "China and Climate Change" in *Peak oil, climate change, and the limits to China's economic growth* (Abingdon, Oxon ; New York : Routledge 2014), 153-167.

Suggested Readings:

Erle C. Ellis, "Ecologies of the Anthropocene: Global Upscaling of Social-Ecological Infrastructures" in *Grounding Metabolism, New Geographies* 06, June 2014.

Week 9 – November 11 - Creativity / Mimicry (of Labour)

Required Readings:

Jamie Peck, "Struggling with the Creative Class", *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Volume 29, Issue 4, pages 740–770, December 2005

Maurizio Lazzarato "Immaterial Labor", trans. P. Colilli and E. Emery, in M. Hardt and P. Virno (eds.) *Radical Thought in Italy: A Potential Politics*. (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 1996), 133-147.

Winnie Wong, "After the Copy", *Van Gogh on Demand: China and the Readymade* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014), 1-34.

Suggested Readings:

Bianca Bosker "Residential Revolution: Inside the Twenty-first Century Chinese Dream" in *Original Copies: Architectural Mimicry in Contemporary China* (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2013), 93-117.

Week 10 – November 18 – Appreciation/Depreciation (of Capital in Land)

Jonathan Nitzan and Shimshon Bichler, "Differential Accumulation and dominant Capital" in *Capital As Power a Study of Order and Creorder* (New York: Routledge, 2009), 305-333.

David Harvey, "The Urban roots of Capitalist Crises" in *Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to Urban Revolution*.

You-Tien Hsing "Land and Urban Politics" in *The Great Urban Transformation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 5-29.

Suggested Readings:

Gavin Walker, "Primitive Accumulation and the Formation of Difference: On Marx and Schmitt," in *Rethinking Marxism*, vol. 23, no. 3 (London: Taylor & Francis, 2011), 384-404.

Week 11 – November 25 - Student Symposium on Beijing

Week 12 – December 2 - Student Symposium on Shanghai

General Notes:

Academic Integrity: To create and promote a culture of academic integrity, the behavior of all members of the University of Waterloo is based on honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the graduate officer. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term. Once registered with OPD, please meet with the professor, in confidence, during my office hours to discuss your needs.