

PIA2707: Urbanization and Sustainable Development: Trends, Debates and Interventions

Spring Semester 2014
Time: Thursdays 3 to 5:55pm
Location: WWPH 3431

Professor

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Course description

This course examines the processes of urbanization and economic development. The course is divided into three sections. The first is a general overview of global trends of urbanization and development, as well as an introduction to key concepts and the way they are commonly measured. The second section covers principal theoretical perspectives on urbanization and development, with an emphasis on how the rapid growth of cities and their transformations is a socially conflictive process. The last section of the course focuses on key challenges that cities face, ranging from the need for infrastructure and services, to growing income inequality and urban poverty, to shrinking cities, to mega-projects and displacement. We examine the policies and processes that have attempted to address these challenges, such as alternative ways of delivering services, urban anti-poverty programs, community benefits agreements, participatory community planning, and urban social movements, asking whether the urbanization process can be more egalitarian while still generating economic growth. Though the course takes a broad theoretical perspective on these processes, there is a focus on Latin America when looking at examples.

Pre-requisites and class format

There are no formal pre-requisites for this course. Class sessions will consist of a lecture followed by student reaction to the key points of the assigned readings and sometimes in-class exercises.

Course requirements and grade composition

The requirements for the course are described below. A detailed description of each assignment’s expectations and format will be given to students as the assignment approaches.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Share of grade</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
Data & definitions note	30%	January 30 th
Theory notes	25%	February 20 th and 27 th
Policy analysis paper and presentation	45%	April 17 th

- Data and definitions note (20%). This four-page note will be the first of three short papers in which each student will develop a deep understanding of key concepts of development and urbanization (for example, “urban,” “rural,” “economic growth,” “development,” “poverty,” “inequality,” etc.). For this particular assignment, each student will find out official definitions and how these concepts are measured by a statistical agency in their chosen country. Students will also examine the major urbanization and economic trends over the last few decades of a chosen country. The idea is that students will become familiar with available sources of information and the definitions of commonly used indicators, and learn about the challenges facing their country/city of choice. Deadline January 30th.
- Theory notes (12.5% each). During the second part of the course, when students will be reading different theories about the processes of development and urbanization, students will submit two short notes (one page each) in which they represent visually (for example, in a diagram or graph) the relationships proposed by the theories. The objective of this assignment is for students to learn to read theoretical texts and gain understanding of how theories are constructed (for example, the rationale and assumptions behind theories, etc.). Deadline February 20th and 27th.
- Policy analysis paper and individual presentation (35%) This ten-page paper will analyze the main policies that have been implemented to address a key challenge of a chosen city. Students should critically analyze the challenge and not just summarize information about the policy. Students are expected to give a short presentation of this paper in the last week of classes (paper 35% and presentation 10%). Deadline April 17th. Submit a paragraph on topic by February 13th.

Grade scale

You will receive a grade that reflects your performance on all components of the course, using the weights discussed above. The grades *will not* be curved. Your total score for the course will be converted into a percentage (properly rounded). Then, I will use the following grade scale to determine your letter grade:

97% - 100% A+	87% -89% B+	77% - 79% C+	60% - 69% D
93% - 96% A	83% - 86% B	73% - 76% C	below 60% F
90% - 92% A-	80% - 82% B-	70% - 72% C-	

Timetable

<i>Course section and sessions</i>	<i>Main goals</i>
Trends and concepts	
Week 1: Introduction	During these first weeks of the course students will be introduced to the major trends of urbanization and development, as well as key concepts and definitions and how they are commonly measured. Students will also look at key sources of data in their first assignment.
Week 2: Overview of trends	
Week 3: Concepts	
Week 4: Measurement of concepts	
Week 5: Basics of research writing	
Theories	
Week 6: Why are theories important?	In this section we will start discussing why theories are important and how to evaluate them. Students will learn about theories linking urbanization and the development process, particularly focusing on their social implications and the tensions these processes produce.
Week 7: Growth & inequality	
Week 8: Development & underdevelopment	
Week 9: Megalopolis, trade & space	
Week 10: Spring break, no class	
Week 11: The Right to the City	
Challenges and interventions	
Week 12: Urban development, eminent domain & land grabbing	In this third section students will be exposed to debates about the major challenges urban areas face, the social conflicts these challenges cause, and the latest policies and processes attempting to address them.
Week 13: Mega metros & shrinking cities	
Week 14: Urban equity & sustainability	
Weeks 15 and 16: Conclusion & presentations	

Part 1: Trends and concepts

WEEK 1 January 9: Introduction to the course

- General introduction to the course, explanation of assignments, submission dates, class format, and expectations.

WEEK 2 January 16: Urbanization and development, trends and challenges

- Clarke Annez, Patricia and Robert M. Buckley. 2009. *Urbanization and Growth: Setting the Context*.
- Watson, Christopher. *Trends in World Urbanisation* in Wildey and Robinson, 1993. *Proceedings of the First International Conference on Urban Pests*.
- Harvey, David. 1997. "Contested Cities: Social Process and Spatial Form." In N. Jewson and S. McGregor, eds. *Transforming Cities: Contested Governance and New Spatial Divisions*. London, New York: Routledge. Pages 19-27.

WEEK 3 January 23: Concepts in Urbanization and Development (Cities, regions, growth, poverty and inequality)

What are cities?

- Frey, William and Zachary Zimmer. *Defining the City*. 2001. In, Ronan Paddison, *Handbook of Urban Studies*. London: Sage.

What are poverty, inequality, sustainability & growth?

- UNDP, 2010. Human Development Report, United Nations Development Program (UNDP): Overview, pp. 1-9.
- World Bank. World Development Report 2000/01: Attacking Poverty. Chapter 1: Framework, pp. 15-29.
- World Bank. World Development Report 2005: Equity and Development. Overview Chapter, pp. 1-17.
- UNDP, 2013. MDG report, pp. 42-51. Goal 7 Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

Week 4 January 30: Measuring concepts

- Barney Cohen, 2004. Urban Growth in Developing Countries: A Review of Current Trends and a Caution Regarding Existing Forecasts. *World Development*, Vol. 32 Issue, 1.
- Berg, Nate. 2011. Defining Cities in a Metropolitan World. Available at: <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/neighborhoods/2011/09/defining-cities-metropolitan-world/102/>
- Mitlin, Diana. 2005. Understanding Chronic Poverty in Urban Areas. *International Planning Studies*. Vol. 10, No. 1, 3-19.

What are poverty, inequality & growth and how are they related? II

- Coudouel et al. (2002), Poverty Measurement and Analysis, in the PRSP Sourcebook, World Bank, Washington D.C. pp.

WEEK 5 February 6: Basics on research writing

- Booth, Colomb, Williams. 2008. *The Craft of Research*. Chapter 3, Asking questions finding answers, pp. 31-50.
- Forsyth, Ann. 2010. Planning papers and reports: Some tips for Students <http://www.planetizen.com/node/44361>

Part 2: Theories

WEEK 6 February 13: Why theories are important and how can we evaluate them?

- Gerring, John. 2001. *Social Science Methodology. A Critical Framework*. Part 2: Propositions, pp. 89-118.
- Stein, Danielle and Craig Valters. 2012. Understanding theory of change in international development. *JSRP* Paper 1.

WEEK 7 February 20: The process of growth, development & inequality

- Simon Kuznets "Economic Growth and Income Inequality" *American Economic Review* 45(1) March 1955 pp.1-28.
- Felix Paukert "Income Distribution at Different Levels of Development: A Survey of the Evidence" *International Labour Review*, 1973 pp.97-123.
- Montek Ahluwalia "Inequality, Poverty and Development" *Journal of Development Economics* Vol. 3 December 1976 pp.307-342.
- Aswani Saith "Development and Distribution: A Critique of the Cross-Country U-Curve Hypothesis" *Journal of Development Economics* 13:3 December 1983 pp.367-385.
- Rati Ram "Level of Economic Development and Income Inequality: Evidence from the Postwar Developed World" *Southern Economic Journal* 64(2) 1997 pp.576-583.
- Romie Tribble Jr. "A Restatement of the S-Curve Hypothesis" *Review of Development Economics* 3(2) 1999 pp. 207-214.

- John List and Craig Gallet "The Kuznets Curve: What Happens After the Inverted-U?" *Review of Development Economics* 3(2) 1999 pp.200-206.

WEEK 8 February 27: Development and Underdevelopment
Pre-colonial origins of underdevelopment in Latin America

- Engerman, Stanley L. and Kenneth L. Sokoloff. 2002. "Factor Endowments, Inequality, and Paths of Development among New World Economies." *Economía* 3: 41-109

Comparative perspective of Asian Tigers

- Doner, Ritchie and Slater. 2005. Systemic Vulnerability and the Origins of Developmental States: Northeast and Southeast Asia in Comparative perspective. *International Organization*, Vol. 59, pp. 327-361.

WEEK 9 March 6: Megalopolis, Trade and Spatial Patterns of Development

- Krugman, and Livas Elizondo. 1996. Trade Policy and the Third World Metropolis. *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 49, pp. 137-150.
- Myrdal Gunnar. (1971, original published in 1957). Economic Theory and Underdeveloped Regions. Harper & Row: New York. Chapters II, III and IV.
- Henderson, Vernon. 2002. Urbanization in Developing Countries. *World Bank Research Observer*.

WEEK 10 March 13: Spring break, no class

WEEK 11 March 20: Right to the City and social movements (need to re-schedule class)

- Nichols, Walter J. 2008. The Urban question revisited: The importance of cities for social movements. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. Pp. 841-859.
- Marit Mayer. 2001. Urban Social Movements in an era of globalization. In Hamel et al. *Urban Movements in a Globalising World*. Lustinger-Thaler, Routledge, pp. 141-157.
- Film Labor movements and the City

Articles illustrating basics of debate on trade, FDI and labor

- Krugman, Paul. 1997, In Praise of Cheap Labor Bad jobs at bad wages are better than no jobs at all. *The Slate Magazine/dismal science*
<http://web.mit.edu/krugman/www/smokey.html>
- Kider, Thalia and Kate Raworth, "Good jobs" and hidden costs: women workers documenting the price of precarious employment, *Gender and Development* Vol. 12, No. 2, July 2004

Articles illustrating the importance of spatial dimension and main debates about intervention

- Glaeser, Edward. 1999. Help poor people, not poor places. *Wall Street Journal*, August 12.
- Crane Randall and Michael Manville. 2008. People or place? Revisiting the Who versus the Where of Urban Development. *Landlines*, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, July, 2008.
- World Bank, 1998. Geographic Targeting: Its effects in Poverty Reduction.

Part 3: Key issues and Interventions

WEEK 12 March 27: Urban mega projects, eminent domain and land grabbing

Debate or issues

- Azuela Antonio and Carlos Herrera Martin. 2009. Taking Land around the World: International Trends in Expropriation for Urban Infrastructure Projects. In Lall, et al. Urban Land Markets Improving Land Managements for Successful Urbanization. Springer: Netherlands.
- Davis, Diane. 2006. Conflict, Cooperation and Convergence: Globalization and the Politics of Downtown Development in Mexico City. *Research in Political Sociology*. Vol. 15, pp. 143-178.
- Davis Diane and Onesimo Flores Dewey. Forthcoming. How to defeat an Urban Megaproject: Lessons from Mexico's Airport Controversy. *Journal of Urban Affairs*.
- Roy, A. 2005 Urban informality *Journal of the American Planning Association*.

Interventions

- Community Based Agreements

WEEK 13 April 3: Mega-metros and Shrinking Cities

- Robinson, Jennifer. 2006. "World Cities or a World of Ordinary Cities." In *Ordinary Cities: between Modernity and Development*. London, New York: Routledge. Chapter 4, pp. 93-115
- Adler, Ben. 2012. Suburb slickers. *Democracy Journal*.
- Tumbler, Catherine. 2013. The medium apples. *Democracy Journal*.

Interventions

- Redevelopment in old industrial cities and slum upgrading programs

WEEK 14 April 10: Towards a more equitable & sustainable urbanization?

- Harvey, David. 2008. The Right to the City in *New Left Review*, 53:28-40
- Campbell, Scott. 1996. Green Cities, Growing Cities, Just Cities?: Urban Planning and the Contradictions of Sustainable Development, *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 62:3, 296-312
- Fainstein, Susan. 2010. The Just City. Introduction.

Interventions

- UN Habitat 2012. State of the World Cities Report 2012-13. Focus on the framework proposed to make interventions more equitable.
- New Era Colorado
- Souza, Celina. 2001. Participatory budgeting in Brazilian cities. *Environment and Urbanization*, Vol. 13, No. 1. pp. 159-184.

WEEK 15 April 17: Students' presentations

WEEK 16 April 24: Conclusion and students' presentations

Academic Integrity

Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit must be the student's own work. Each student is expected to abide by the University of Pittsburgh Guidelines on Academic Integrity. <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>

Disability Resources and Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both, the instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, Tel. 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Statement on Classroom Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and /or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Schedule of classes and readings

The readings will be available to students through the course's Courseweb website. I reserve the right to change the syllabus.