

**Global Cities, Urban Planning, Critical Theory**

GGR400 | Winter 2018 | Tuesday 10am-1pm | UC65

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Is it possible that the exercise of  
hegemony will leave space untouched?

Henri Lefebvre

The Production of Space

1974

**a DESCRIPTION**

This seminar addresses the relationship between urbanization and political, economics, social, cultural, demographic, technological, ecological, and other global processes. It does so with a special emphasis on the contested legacies and prospects of city planning, urban design, architecture and urban political activism, by drawing on a few historical studies of global cities as well as critical-theoretical perspectives on the 'production of space'. In bringing together historical and theoretical perspectives on some exemplary global cities, this seminar broaches the question: what does 'production of space' have to do with struggles for social justice? In so doing, we will explore--with reference to pioneering thinkers in the fields of planning, architecture and critical theory--such concepts as radical planning, the right to the city and the urban revolution.

**b REQUIREMENTS**

- > Two book reviews: 2\*20% = 40%
- > Term paper, film, website or other project: 40%
- > Seminar participation (3\*12=36 hours): 20%

The two book reviews will deal with central issues raised by course readings. These will generally assume the essay form and be shared with the whole class, according to the guidelines provided in class. With the instructor's permission, the traditional term paper requirement may be substituted by another kind of contribution (short film, website, work of art, etc.) demanding more or less equal labour-time.

**c TOPICS AND READINGS (W1-W12)**

- W1** Jan 9 **Introduction**  
Kanishka Goonewardena, 'The Future of Planning Education', Ontario Planning Journal 32.2, 2017, 9.
- W2** Jan 16 **Planning and Urban Studies**  
Georg Simmel, 'Metropolis and Mental Life' [1903]: [https://www.intzent.hu-berlin.de/en/gsz/zentrum-en/georg-simmel/georg\\_simmel-the\\_metropolis\\_and\\_mental\\_life-1.pdf](https://www.intzent.hu-berlin.de/en/gsz/zentrum-en/georg-simmel/georg_simmel-the_metropolis_and_mental_life-1.pdf)  
Mike Davis, 'Planet of Slums', New Left Review 26, 2004, 5-34.  
John Friedmann, 'The Terrain of Planning Theory' in Planning in the Public Domain, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1987, 19-48.  
Kevin Lynch, 'A Brief Review of Functional Theory' in Good City Form, Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1981, 327-343.
- W3** Jan 23 **Urbanism**  
Oscar Niemeyer, Wir müssen die Welt verändern [We Must Change the World], München: Verlag Antje Kunstmann, 2013.  
Carl Schorske, 'The Ringstrasse, its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism' in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna, New York: Vintage, 1981, 25-115.
- W4&5** Jan 30 & Feb 6 **Modernity**  
Marshall Berman, All That Is Solid Melts Into Air, London: Verso, 1982
- W6&7** Feb 13 & 27 **Postmodernity**  
Mike Davis, City of Quartz, London: Verso, 1990.
- W8&9** Mar 6 & 13 **The Urban Revolution**  
Henri Lefebvre, The Urban Revolution, trans. R. Bononno, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003 [1970].  
Kanishka Goonewardena, 'The Country and the City in the Urban Revolution' in Implosions/Explosions, ed. Neil Brenner, Berlin: Jovis, 2014, 218-231.
- W10** Mar 20 **Urbicide**  
Stephen Graham, 'Lessons in Urbicide', New Left Review 19, 2003, 63-77.  
Eyal Weizman, 'Walking Through Walls', Radical Philosophy 136, 2006, 8-22.  
Philip Misselwitz and Eyal Weizman, 'Military Operations as Urban Planning' in Territories, ed. Anselm Franke, Berlin: Walther König, 2003, 272-285.  
Kanishka Goonewardena and Stefan Kipfer, 'Postcolonial Urbicide: New Imperialism, Global Cities and the Damned of the Earth', New Formations 59, 2007, 23-33.
- W11&12** Mar 27 & April 3 **Right to the City**  
David Harvey, 'The Right to the City', New Left Review 53, 2008, 23-40.  
Peter Marcuse, 'From Critical Urban Theory to the Right to the City', City 13.2&3, 2009, 185-197.  
Justin McGuirk, Radical Cities, London: Verso, 2014.