

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

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

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### **a Two Book Reviews (2\*20% = 40% of course grade)**

Each book review should be limited to four double-spaced pages (approximately 1000 words). They will be due in class on February 13 and March 20. The books reviewed should be classic works in the fields of planning, architecture, urban studies or geography, such as those included in the course readings. If you choose to review a book outside of our required readings, then you must obtain the permission of the course instructor. In the review, you are expected to present the contribution of the book mostly in your own words, using essential quotations only sparingly, while formulating your own assessment of it. In grading these reviews, the instructor will consider especially three factors: first, the quality (adequacy, efficiency, lucidity) of your comprehension of the book; second, the nature (critical insight, persuasiveness, contextual awareness) of your perspective on the book; and, third, the overall quality of writing (style, clarity, precision).

### **b Term Paper (40% of course grade)**

The term paper should address a question related to the course topics and readings in eight double-spaced pages (around 2000 words). You are expected to propose your own question, which must be submitted along with a 200-word abstract of the proposed paper to the instructor on or before February 27 for approval. The term paper will be due in class on the last day of the course, April 3. Criteria for assessing the term paper will include: first, the focus and significance of the question addressed; second, the force of the argument made in the paper and the extent to which it is based on appropriate evidence; and, third, the over quality of writing and mastery of hegemonic scholarly standards. As stated in the syllabus, students are free to propose an alternative to the term paper, such as a short video, a website, a work of art, etc. Those who choose this option must submit a one-page proposal of their project with an adequate justification to the instructor on or before February 13 for feedback on topic, scope, content and method.

### **c Seminar Participation (15% + 5% = 20% of course grade)**

Each student will be assigned to one of six smalls groups responsible for one of the six course topic during weeks 3 and 12 of the semester (excluding the Reading Week), i.e., 'Urbanism', 'Modernity', 'Postmodernity', 'The Urban Revolution', 'Urbicide' and 'The Right to the City'. The group will be responsible for serving as designated discussants for their assigned topic, by proposing useful questions and issues to be discussed, responding to other questions and comments from the instructor and fellow students, and actively involving the whole class in the seminar. This group exercise will consist of 75% of the grade for seminar participation; 25% of it will be assigned to your active involvement in seminar discussions throughout the semester.