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.
TOPICS AND READINGS (W1–W12)

W1 Jan 9
Introduction

W2 Jan 16
Planning and Urban Studies

W3 Jan 23
Urbanism
Oscar Niemeyer, Wir müssen die Welt verändern [We Must Change the World], München: Verlag Antje Kunstmann, 2013.

W4 & 5 Jan 30 & Feb 6
Modernity

W6 & 7 Feb 13 & 27
Postmodernity

W8 & 9 Mar 6 & 13
The Urban Revolution

W10 Mar 20
Urbicide

W11 & 12 Mar 27 & April 3
Right to the City