
ANTH670700

URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY

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Thu 9:10 – 12:00
HSS C304

Course Description

Drawing on ethnographic studies and theoretical inquiries, this course seeks to explore the complexity of urban life and the political, economic, and historic forces that shape cities today. It begins by examine how “the city” has been conceptualized – as nodes of circulation and exchange, sites of control, division, and exclusion, as well as locales of social life. We will then look into the organization of neighborhood life and everyday experience of living in the city under globalization. Finally, we will explore how city residents negotiate and contest shared spaces and urban histories.

Course Requirements and Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following:

Participation (15 points)

Students are required to attend all sessions. Tardiness and unexcused absence will result in deduction of points. In addition, all students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to each week’s meeting and be prepared to participate in discussions in substantive fashion.

Reading Summary and Reflections (45 points; 15 points each)

Each student will sign up for THREE weeks’ readings. For each week that you select, you will write a 3-page “summary and reflections” paper and serve as a discussion leader in class.

In the paper, you will summarize the readings (theme, main arguments or findings, and how these arguments/findings are presented), reflect on them, and pose questions that will help to initiate discussions. Please note that a summary is not a word-by-word translation of the English texts. The paper has to be written in Chinese in essay form (full paragraphs, no bullet points) and should be submitted to eLearn by 3 pm on the Wednesday before class. *No late paper will be accepted.

As the discussion leader, you are to articulate and analyze the readings as well as facilitate class discussions. *Do not read from your paper verbatim.

Final Paper (40 points)

For the final paper, you can choose to write a research paper or a review of literature on a topic pertaining to urban anthropology. The paper should contain at least 10 scholastic references. (Wikipedia entries and news articles, among others, are not considered scholastic.) You are encouraged to work the paper around your thesis project if you already have one. However, the final paper needs to be an independent paper and you should not copy materials from your thesis, research plans, or papers written for purposes other than to fulfill course requirements of ANTH 670700.

The length of your final paper is 10,000 words in Chinese. It is due at 23:59 on June 1, 2023. There will be a penalty of 2 points per day for late paper. No paper will be accepted after noon, June 3, 2023. Exceptions will be made only in the case of documented medical or family emergencies.

*Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will not be tolerated. Punishment outlined in 清華大學學生獎懲辦法 will be applied when necessary.

Syllabus Change Policy: This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

Schedule

Week 01 2/16 Introduction

- Jaffe, Rivke and Anouk de Koning (2014) "Introduction," in *Introducing Urban Anthropology*, pp. 1 – 19.
- Wirth, Luis. "Urbanism as a Way of Life," in Gmelch and Zenner (eds.), *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of Cities*, 5th edition, pp. 65 – 82.

Week 02 2/23 The Capitalist City

- Cronon, William. (1991) "Rails and Water," "Pricing the Future," and "The Wealth of Nature," *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*, pp. 55 – 206.

Week 03 3/2 Planning the Modern City

- Graham, Stephen and Simon Marvin. (2001) "Constructing the Modern Networked City," in *Splintering Urbanism*, pp. 39 – 89.
- Scott, James. (1998) "Cities, People, and Language," in *Seeing Like A State*, pp. 53 – 83.
- Holston, James (1999) "The Modernist City and the Death of the Street," in

Theorizing the City, 245 – 276.

Week 04 3/9 Neighborhood

- Bestor, Theodor. (1989) "Miyamoto-Cho, A Portrait," "The Development of a Neighborhood," "Community Services and Neighborhood Events," and "Friends and Neighbors." In *Neighborhood Tokyo*, pp. 12 – 45, 46 – 81, 122 – 161, 193 – 223.

Week 05 3/16 Division, Fear, and Security

- Davis, Mike (1990) "Fortress L.A.," in *City of Quartz*, 221 – 263.
- Ellen, Nan. (1997) "Shelter from the Storm or Form Follows Fear and Vice Versa." In *Architecture of Fear*. 13 – 46.
- Low, Setha. (2001) "The Edge and the Center." *American Anthropologist* 103(1): 45 – 58.
- Rodgers, Dennis (2004) "'Disembedding' the City: Crime, Insecurity and Spatial Organization in Managua, Nicaragua," *Environment and Urbanization* 16(2): 113 – 123.

Week 06 3/23 (Dis)Connection

- Anand, Nikhil (2017) "Settlement," and "Disconnection." In *Hydraulic City: Water and the Infrastructures of Citizenship in Mumbai*, 65 – 94; 193 – 217. (Available at <https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/31718>)
- Graham, Stephen and Simon Marvin. (2001) "Practicing Splintering Urbanism," in *Splintering Urbanism*, pp. 137 – 177.
- Rodgers, Dennis. (2012) "Hausmannization in the Tropics: Object Urbanism and Infrastructure Violence in Nicaragua." *Ethnography* 13(4): 413-438.

Week 07 3/30 Globalization

- Sassen, Saskia. (1999) "Whose City is This? Globalization and the Formation of New Claims." In James Holston (ed.), *Cities and Citizenship*, pp. 177 – 194.
- Mitchell, K. (2004) "Vancouver Goes Global." In *Crossing the Neoliberal Line: Pacific Rim Migration and the Metropolis*, 40 – 86.
- Chattopadhyay, Swati. (2012) "Flows and Bumpy Roads." In *Unlearning the City*, 1 – 38.

Week 08 4/6 No Meeting**Week 09 4/13 Globalization II**

- Quayson, Ato. (2014) "Introduction," "The Spatial Fix," "The Beautiful Ones," "Pumping Irony," and "Conclusion." In *Oxford Street, Accra: City Life and the Itineraries of Transnationalism*, pp. 1 – 33, 64 – 97, 129 – 158, 183 – 212, 239 – 249.

Week 10 4/20 Consuming Urban Space

- Summers, Brandi Thompson (2019) "Washington's Atlas District," "The Changing Face of a Black Space," "Consuming Culture," "The Corner." In *Black in Place*, pp. 61 – 167.

Week 11 4/27 Public Space and Urban Public

- Sand, Jordan (2012) "Hiroba." In *Tokyo Vernacular*, pp. 24 – 53.
- Mitchell, Don (2003) "The End of Public Space?" In *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*, pp. 118 – 160.
- Low, Setha(2000) "Public Space and Culture" and "Public Space and Protest." In *On the Plaza*.

Week 12 5/4 Negotiating Shared Spaces

- Chuang, Ya-Chung. (2013) "Walking Democracy." In *Democracy on Trial*, 143 – 198.
- 莊雅仲, 「厝邊隔壁、巷弄生活與住居倫理」, 《21 世紀的地方社會》, 101 – 129。
- Sorensen, Andre (2009) "Neighborhood Streets as Meaningful Spaces: Claiming Rights to Shared Spaces in Tokyo." *City & Society* 21(2): 207 – 229.
- Bayat, Asef (2012) "Politics in the City-Inside-Out." *City & Society* 24(2): 110 – 128.
- Caldeira, Teresa P. (2012) "Imprinting and Moving around: New Visibilities and Configurations of Public Space in Sao Paulo." *Public Culture* 24(2): 385 – 419.

Week 13 5/11 The Urban Majority

- Simone, AbdouMaliq (2014) "Introduction," "The Urban Majority," and "Devising Relations." In *Jakarta, Drawing the City Near*, 1 – 21, 83 – 150, 151 – 208.

Week 14 5/18 The Vernacular

- Sand, Jordan (2013) "Introduction," "Yanesen," "Deviant Properties," and "Conclusion," in *Tokyo Vernacular*, pp. 1 – 23, 54 – 87, 88 – 109, 142 – 166.

Week 15 5/25 City of Disappearance

- Allen, Joseph (2012) "Mapping the City," "Traffic in the City," "Statues in the City," and "Postface: Theoretical Considerations," in *Taipei: City of Displacements*.

Week 16 6/1 Final Paper Due