

URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH-193A Section 01, 4.000 Credits

University of the Pacific

Spring 2012

Professor Ahmed Kanna

akanna@pacific.edu

Class Meets: TR 10:00 – 11:45 am Benerd School of Education 117

Office Hours: TR 12 pm – 12:45 pm, Thurs 3 pm – 5 pm, George Wilson 1st floor, across from Dean Weick's office

In this course, we focus on the intersections between anthropology, urban studies, critical theory, and critical geography. In the near future, the majority of the world's population will live in urban areas. More and more human beings will experience, negotiate, and struggle with urbanized lives. Processes of globalization, neoliberalism, warfare, and mobilizations against these, increasingly occur in urban settings. In this course we look at urban life from various perspectives – ethnographic, historical, geographic, and critical-theoretical – focusing on cases from South and East Asia, South and Central America, Africa, and the Middle East. By focusing on specific case studies, the main purposes of our investigations are to see the city in a global and cross-cultural perspective and to question and contextualize the universalistic image of models of urbanism based on the Western, and especially modern Western, experiences.

I. COURSE OBJECTIVES

After taking this course, students will be able to:

- Understand patterns of diversity and similarity in global urban settings.
- Appreciate the role of culture, as well as that of the intersection of culture with politics and economics, in shaping everyday urban lives.
- Conceptualize a research topic and conduct advanced library research culminating in a final analytical, scholarly essay.
- Connect empirical case studies to urban theory.
- Ability to think and communicate critically and clearly in both written and oral forms.
- Ability to understand, evaluate, and apply qualitative research methods.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required Texts

Farha Ghannam (2002), *Remaking the Modern: Space, Relocation, and the Politics of Identity in a Global Cairo*. Berkeley: U of California Press.

Andreas Huyssen, ed. (2008), *Other Cities, Other Worlds: Urban Imaginaries in a Globalizing Age*. Durham NC: Duke UP

Bruno Latour (1996), *Aramis, or the Love of Technology*. Cambridge: Harvard UP.

Catherine Lutz (2001), *Homefront: A Military City and the American 20th Century*. Boston: Beacon.

Ara Wilson (2004), *Intimate Economies of Bangkok: Tomboys, Tycoons, and Avon Ladies in the Global City*. Berkeley: U of California Press.

When indicated below, a reading will be posted on the course Sakai site. Students should use their Pacific ID and password to log in at <https://pacific.rsmart.com/xsl-portal>. The readings are found at the "Resources" link.

B. Graded Assignments

Reading Quizzes (10 points each)

Keeping up with the assigned readings and attending lectures are both mandatory. There will be several unannounced quizzes. Quizzes will test students on topics covered both in class and in readings. Quizzes cannot be made up, unless the student has missed class owing to a medical emergency. Medical-related absences will only be excused, and make up quizzes permitted, only if the student provides medical documentation.

Midterm Essay (approx. 5 – 7 pp. double-spaced, 100 points)

A take-home analytical essay. Should be thoughtful, provide evidence that the student is reading more deeply than is required merely to pass a reading quiz, and that the student is applying the basic ideas in creative ways. The essays should be typed and employ scholarly citation and

referencing systems. Essay prompts and detailed rubrics will be provided with each essay assignment.

Final Research Paper (approx. 10 – 12 pp. double-spaced, 150 points)

Independent library research paper. Student should choose a theme and a city, discuss it with the professor well ahead of time, and research the paper using appropriate scholarly sources. Please review your experience researching the paper in Intl 81/Persepectives for guidance on what an appropriate scholarly paper is. Please also consult with me about this, if necessary.

Participation in Class-Wide and Small Group Discussions (75 points)

We will frequently break up into small groups to discuss readings, films, or other related issues. Participation is mandatory.

C.Grading Scale (%)

94 – 100 = A	75 – 78 = C+
89 – 93 = A-	70 – 74 = C
86 – 88 = B+	60 – 69 = D
83 – 85 = B	< 60 = F
79 – 82 = B-	

Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

III. RULES

1. No late assignments will be accepted without a valid physician's note, obituary notice, or official notification from the Athletic Department (or other campus office).
2. Use of wireless devices is prohibited during all class meetings and exams, **unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Unauthorized use of wireless devices may result in a grade of F for participation.**

3. All exams must be completed on the day scheduled. Should exceptional circumstances prevent this, it is your responsibility to notify me in advance to make appropriate arrangements.
4. Copies of student work may be retained to assess how the learning objectives of the course are being met.
5. Revisions to this syllabus will be announced in class and will take precedence over this document.

A. Honor Code:

The University Honor Code is a crucial guarantee of academic integrity. It is a violation of the Honor Code to submit all or part of someone else's work or ideas as your own. If you violate the Honor Code, you will receive zero credit for the work. Violations of the Honor Code usually result in failure of the course. All Honor Code violations will also be reported to University administration, which may result in expulsion from the University. This expulsion would then appear on your UOP transcript. A complete statement of the Honor Code may be found in the Student Handbook, *Tiger Lore*, beginning on p. 43.

B. Accommodations for students with disabilities

In compliance with the University policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

Students with Learning Disabilities: If you are registered with the Educational Resource Center and have a learning disability, you may decide to take advantage of accommodations the University can provide. To preserve student confidentiality, please discuss such accommodations with the instructor.

The Policy Manual can be found at <http://web.pacific.edu/Documents/school-education/acrobat/PolicyManualforStudentswithDisabilities.pdf>.

"The University of the Pacific is committed to providing access for qualified students, faculty, staff, and visitors to University programs. This non-discrimination policy applies to all qualified applicants or students who seek to or do participate in employment, in access to facilities, student programs, activities and services." **The Educational Resource Center** offers a variety of services for Pacific students with disabilities. These services

may include, but are not limited to, extended time for completing exams, alternative testing procedures, note takers, and transportation to and from classes. Among the most important of these services, for the purposes of this course, is the assistance the ERC provides on how to write essays. **Students are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with ERC for assistance on writing essays.** Written expression and reading comprehension are the most important skills in this course. Students showing improvement on these skills throughout the semester tend to be the ones who do best.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 : Course Intro

Readings for Thurs 1/12/12

Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, "Introduction," "The Industrial Proletariat"

(This is an e-book, available from the Pacific Library website, and can be accessed free at the link below)

http://www.pacific.edu/PacifiCat-Results.html?request=the+condition+of+the+working+class+in+engl+and&submit.x=0&submit.y=0&submit=Submit&find_code=wrđ

Also read: Mike Davis (2004), "The Urbanization of Empire: Megacities and the Laws of Chaos," *Social Text* 81, Vol. 22, No. 4 (Winter 2004): 9 – 15. [Sakai]

Week 2: Nineteenth Century Urban Ethnography: Friedrich Engels

Tues 1/17/12: Engels, *Condition of the Working Class*, "The Great Towns," "Competition"

In-class film: *Beirut Under the Bridge*

Thurs 1/19/12: Engels, *Condition of the Working Class*, "Results," "Labour Movements," "The Attitude of the Bourgeoisie towards the Proletariat"

Week 3: Thinking/Seeing Cities: Theory and (vs.?) Ethnography in the Study of Cities

Tues 1/24/12: Walter Benjamin, "Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century," [Sakai]

Thurs 1/26/12:

James Scott (1998), "The High Modernist City," from Scott, *Seeing Like a State* [Sakai]

Week 4: "Unevenness" and Diversity in Global Urbanism

Tue 1/31/12: David Harvey, Introduction and "Uneven Geographical Developments," in Harvey (2003), *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* [Sakai]

Thurs 2/2/12: Andreas Huyssen (2008), "Introduction: World Cultures, World Cities," in Huyssen, ed. *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 1 – 23.

In-class film: David Harvey Lecture: "Urban Roots of the Fiscal Crisis"

Weeks 5 – 6: Cultural Identity and Cultural Practice

Tue 2/7/12: Farha Ghannam, *Remaking the Modern* Introduction and Chapter 1

Thurs 2/9/12: Ghannam Ch. 2 - 3

Tue 2/14/12: Ghannam Ch. 4 – 5

Th 2/16/12: Ghannam, Ch. 6, Conclusion

Weeks 7 – 8: Intimate Economies and the Urban

Tue 2/21/12: Ara Wilson, *Intimate Economies of Bangkok*, Introduction + Chapter 1

Th 2/23/12: Wilson, Ch. 2 – 3

Tue 2/28: Wilson, Ch. 4 – 5

Thurs 3/1/12: Wilson, Conclusion

March 5 – 9, 2012: Spring Break

Week 9: Asian Contexts

Tue 3/13:
Gyan Prakash, "Mumbai: The Modern City in Ruins," in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 181 – 204.

Rahul Mehrotra, "Negotiating the Static and Kinetic Cities: The Emergent Urbanism of Mumbai" in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 205 – 218

?? In-class film: *Dhobi Ghat*

Th. 3/15

Yingjin Zhang, "Remapping Beijing: Polyvocality, Globalization, Cinema" in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 219 – 242.

Ackbar Abbas, "Faking Globalization," in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 243 – 264

Week 10: African Inflections

Tue 3/20

AbdouMalig Simone, "The Last Shall Be First: African Urbanities and the Larger Urban World," in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 99 – 120.

Hilton Judin, "Unsettling Johannesburg: The Country in the City" in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 121 – 146.

Th 3/22: Okwui Enwezor, "Mega-Exhibitions: The Antinomies of a Transnational Global Form", in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 147 – 178.

Week 11: American Urbanscapes

Tue 3/27: Beatriz Sarlo, "Cultural Landscapes: Buenos Aires from Integration to Fracture," + Teresa P.R. Caldeira, "From Modernism to Neoliberalism in Sao Paulo: Reconfiguring the City and Its Citizens" in A. Huyssen, ed., *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 27 – 77

Th 3/29: Nestor G. Canclini, "Mexico City, 2010: Improvising Globalization," in A. Huyssen *Other Cities, Other Worlds*, pp. 79 – 95.

?? In-class film: *The Vanishing City*

Weeks 12 – 13: The Military City

Tue 4/3: Catherine Lutz, *Homefront*, Intro + Ch. 1

Th 4/5: Lutz, Ch. 2 – Ch. 3

Tue 4/10: Lutz, Ch. 4 – Ch. 5

Th 4/12: Lutz, Ch. 6, Epilogue

Weeks 14 – 15: Non-Human Agency? Latour, Actor-Network Theory and Contemporary Urban Anthropology

Tue 4/17: Latour, *Aramis*, Prologue, Ch. 1, Ch. 2

Th. 4/19: Latour, Ch. 3 – Ch. 4

Tue 4/23: Latour, Ch. 5 – Ch. 6

Th 4/25: Latour, Ch. 7, Epilogue