Comparative Urban Development

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Introduction and Basic Concepts

This 16-week advanced master level course intends to examine and analyze various urban development strategies and policies in cross-national and international prospective. The course intends to pose and try to answer on questions that occupy the minds of many researchers: Why some cities are more competitive than others? Does geography matter in destinies of cities? How does globalization affect urban development? Does industrial transformation change the course of urban development? The course provide an opportunity to learn more about urban policies in many countries while provoking students to think about differences and similarities of policies. Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the course, it should be attended by students who have already acquired certain knowledge in political science, economics, history and sociology.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

Academic Aims

The academic aims of the course are to deepen students’ knowledge of the main theories and strategies of urban politics, policy and development. Meanwhile, the course intends to equip listeners with theoretical and practical tools to analyze urban development strategies across the globe.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the students will be able to:
- define and summarize the major theories of urban development;
- synthesize a variety tools and approaches for analyzing urban development;
- classify and analyze the major strategies of urban development;
- critically assess urban policies and recommend the optimal strategies for the selected cities.

Teaching Methodology

Since the course consists of theoretical and practical materials, the course will be taught through lectures, discussions and the case studies. The course will employ student-and learning centered approach. Discussions based on student contributions add a vital and dynamic element to the class. As a rule of thumb, everyone should come to class with comments or questions from the core readings.
**Structure of the Course**

The course is organized in three teaching blocks. The first block will give students deeper understanding of the major theories of urban development; explain and classify the main schools of thoughts. Here our main goal is to allow students to gain necessary theoretical tools in order to apply them in later parts of the course. Meanwhile, in this section students will learn how to study comparative urban development and how to identify appropriate research approaches. Next block will trace the formulation and implementation of urban strategies. Here we are particularly interested in interaction between economic, political and social factors determining urban development agendas. At this section we will look at reasons and causes of poverty, social exclusion, urban riots and crimes. Specific attention will be paid on impact of globalization and role of international forces on choices and fates of the cities. The last block will extensively use case studies for application of gained knowledge. The case studies will go over the various cities including those in USA, Europe, Latin America and Africa. Special attention will be given to post-Socialistic cities especially former Soviet one. Here we focus on how development differs from post-industrial nations, and we will evaluate its social, political and economic consequences.

**Course Content and Assigned Readings**

**Part A. Theories and Methods in Urban Development**

1. **Understanding the Role and Functions of the City.**

   *Aim:* To describe and outline various approaches, concepts and definitions on world urban systems; track the history of world urbanization as well as define the role and functions of the cities in society.

   *Content:* Approaches, concepts and definitions in the world urban system; world urbanization trends; city functions and urban challenges.


2. **Major Schools and theories of Urban Development**

   *Aim:* To identify main theories and concepts of urban development; to describe different school of thoughts and theoretical models in urban politics.
Content: Human Ecology School; Growth Machine Theory; Political Economy of Urban Development; Urban Politics;


3. How to Study Comparative Urban Development?

Aim: To introduce students to the research methods in studying cities and urban development.

Content: Philosophy of social science; research design and research methods.


Part B. Problems, Strategies and Policies of Urban Development


Aim: To describe and outline the main strategies and approaches of urban development employed by various cities across the globe.

Content: Social and Market-centered strategies; Driving and Steering urban strategies;

5. Globalization and its Impact on Urban Development

_Aim:_ To explain ideas of globalization and de-industrialization as well as analyze the impact of these phenomenon on urban development.

_Content:_ Globalization and urban impact; World Cities; Global Cities; New York, Chicago, Los Angeles


_Aim:_ To identify and describe problems of cities across the globe. Understand the poverty issues, social exclusion and factors contributing to urban riots and crimes.

_Content:_ Urban poverty and social exclusion in developed and developing societies.


Deadline for Submitting Research Proposal.

7. Midterm. Take Home

_Part C. Cities Across the Globe_

8. Cities in USA and Western Europe.
Aim: To understand and compare urban development across Western Europe and USA.

Content: Global Cities; New York, London, Detroit; Dutch Urban Policy.


9. Urban Development in Asia, Middle East.

Aim: To understand and contrast urban development in Asia and Middle East

Content: Islamic cities; Dubai; Cities of India and south-East Asia.


Readings optional:

10. Cities in Africa and Latin America.

Aim: To get deep understanding on urban development in selected countries of Latin America and Africa

Content: Developing cities; Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa;


11. Urban Development in post-Socialistic countries.

Aim: To get deep knowledge on urban development in post-Socialistic cities of Central and Eastern Europe.

Content: Socialistic Cities; Cities in Transition;

Chapters 2, 3, 4;


Aim: To give general knowledge on history of urban development in Soviet Union.

Content: Cities and Urbanization in Soviet Union; transformation of public space after collapse of the Soviet Union.


13. Urban Development in post-Soviet countries: Case of Moscow and S. Petersburg

Aim: To explain and describe urban development in Moscow and S. Petersburg.

Content: Urban Transition in Moscow and S. Petersburg; informal economy;


*Aim:* To explain and describe urban development in other post-Soviet cities.

*Content:* Urban development in Kiev, Baku, Tashkent, Astana, Alma-Aty


15. Cities of the Future

*Aim:* Conclude and summaries obtained knowledge and give a direction for further research and study.

*Content:* Future of the cities; future researches of urban and city development; challenges of urban scholarship.


**Deadline for submitting final paper.**

**Assessment.**

The grades for the course will consist of the following components:

*Attendance* - 10%.
Attendance refers to the students’ physical presence in class. Students must attend all classes. Failure to do so will result in the deduction of the corresponding points from the ‘attendance’ component of their final grade.

*Participation* – 15%
Participation component may include, but is not limited to, such elements of teaching and assessment as simulation game, case studies, group discussion, book reviews, and individual/group presentations. The 15% of the total course grade is allocated for participation and therefore, students are strongly encouraged to contribute to class discussion. Participation, besides being physically present, means demonstrating adequate preparation, presenting straightforward information (e.g., directly from the case or reading, course material), demonstrating consistent ongoing involvement, developing new approaches that take the class and discussion further. Quality of input
(not quantity!) is the goal. Student should come to each class prepared to initiate topics of conversation and to draw others’ attention to important themes or passages in the text, as well as answer direct questions posed by instructor or your classmates. Failure to participate is the single easiest way of doing poorly in the class, so student should speak up!

Midterm Exam. Take Home. – 25%

Midterm Take Home Exam will comprise two short and three long essay questions. Essays will be graded based on your critical thinking and writing skills, as well as your ability to link several different ideas together in an innovative way. Midterm is a take home exam and students will be given 48 hours to complete their exam.

Proposal for Research Paper – 15%

By the end of the sixth week the students should define the topic of their final paper. Moreover, by that time the students should come out with 1,500 -2,000 words proposal for research paper. The proposal should include the literature review, methodology and initial findings. The goal of the proposal is to direct the students and make their final paper solid and more critical.

Final Paper 35%

An analytic final paper, approximately around 4,000 words in length will be due on the last day of class. Choice of topic is open, contingent upon approval by the instructor. The paper will, ideally, spring from one of the readings. One possibility for the paper would be to examine urban policy of selected city as a touchstone against which to evaluate the conceptual issues and debates raised in the class sessions. For example, the central questions of the topics could be: a) what affect does globalizations have on the formation and implementation of urban development strategy in third world cities? b) How urban elites in post-socialistic cities affect urban development? How can strategies of urban social inclusion of Roma population failed/succeed in Central European countries? Can post-Soviet cities become competitive in international marketplace? Late papers will be penalized one-tenth of a grade for each day they are late, unless an official excuse is provided. Students should keep a copy of all work until the instructor returns those materials with a grade. In addition, all materials should be kept until final grades are processed.

Grades

Grades are based on the requirements below; each must be fulfilled for a passing grade and final grades will be based on standard scoring (i.e.,<50=”F”; 50-55%= “D”; 56%-64%=“C”; 65-79% = “B-”; 80%-86% = “B”; 87%-90%= “B+”; 91%-93%=A-; 94% and over = A ).
Reading List


Stadt Bauwelt Magazine. [www.bauwelt.de](http://www.bauwelt.de). Volume 39, September 2009,

