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DEPARTMENT OF

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 401- Honours Seminar in Human Geography
Urbanization and Urban Inequality in the Global South

Course Instructor	Josie Wittmer	**Email**: TBD
Office	TBD	
Contact Time	2x 1.5hr seminars/week	
Format	Seminar discussions, readings, case studies, and multimedia.	
Class Assessment (potential)	Class participation and reflections; seminar presentations; project proposal; final term project/paper.	

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this course, we will use an urban political ecology lens to explore and understand processes of urbanization and the continual social, political, economic, and ecological production of urban forms and experiences in the Global South. Weekly course themes will draw upon feminist and decolonial approaches to investigate multi-scalar processes of city-making and manifestations of inequality in urban spaces. Specifically, we will examine the ways that interlocking systems of power (gender, race, capitalism, colonialism, neoliberalism) connect with everyday lives and experiences of work, housing, infrastructure, public space, citizenship, safety, and contestation/resistance. Through the course, we will engage with broader issues of knowledge production and think critically about global flows of theory and ideas about cities in the Global South, centering theories, ideas, and practices emerging from the South and from the urban margins. The course will consist of weekly themes with seminar discussions and activities that we will undertake individually and collectively. Weekly resources will include a mix of academic articles, multimedia, and case studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Describe and engage key theoretical approaches in urban political ecology (feminist, decolonial, political economic).
2. Analyze urbanization and urban change as multi-scalar, dynamic, and contested processes producing uneven social and spatial outcomes.
3. Engage critical thinking skills to explain how intersecting structures and systems of power (e.g., patriarchy, racism, capitalism, colonialism) shape access to urban spaces, resources, and rights for different people and groups in cities.
4. Research and communicate complex geographical ideas and concepts in written and verbal forms.

COURSE TOPICS

Urban metabolism; urban governance/neoliberal urbanism; infrastructures of water, waste, sanitation, housing, and work; urban identities, social difference, and citizenship; urban health; urban imaginaries, revitalization, and displacement; mega-events and mega-projects; rights to the city; inclusive urbanism; contesting urban inequality.

SAMPLE COURSE READINGS (selected list, subject to change)

Datta, A. (2019). Postcolonial urban futures: Imagining and governing India's smart urban age. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 37(3), 393–410.

Desai, R., McFarlane, C., & Graham, S. (2015). The Politics of open defecation: Informality, body, and infrastructure in Mumbai. *Antipode*, 47(1), 98–120.

Doshi, S. (2017). Embodied urban political ecology: Five propositions. Area 49(1): 125-128.

Parizeau, K. (2015a). Re-representing the city: waste and public space in Buenos Aires, Argentina in the late 2000s. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, 47(2), 284–299.

Lawhon, M., Ernstson, H., & Silver, J. (2014). Provincializing urban political ecology: Towards a situated UPE through African urbanism. *Antipode*, 46(2), 497–516.

Prouse, C. (2019). Of mosquitoes and mega events: Urban political ecologies of the more-than-human city. In S Darnell & R Millington (Eds.) *Sport, Development and Environmental Sustainability.* Routledge.

Roy, A. (2013). Slum-free cities of the Asian century: Postcolonial government and the project of inclusive growth. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography*, 35(1), 136–150.

Sultana, F. (2020). Embodied intersectionalities of urban citizenship: water, infrastructure, and gender in the Global South. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers, 110*(5): 1407-1424.

Valle, M. (2018). The discursive detachment of race from gentrification in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 41(7): 1235-1254.