

**Divided Cities: A Global Sociology of Urban Inequality**  
**Instructor: Chris Herring, Department of Sociology**

Email:

Office Hours:

Seminar Meetings

Office Location:

**Overview**

This course is concerned with the planetary intensification of urban inequality. Drawing on social scientific studies spanning the globe, this course will examine how market processes, politics, and community institutions drive and challenge spatial polarization and marginalization.

After a historical overview of the emergence of the European, US, and Colonial metropolis under capitalism, students will grapple with various processes generating urban divisions such as gentrification and displacement, ethnic segregation and ghettoization, urban informality, environmental degradation, and housing provision. As we move across the course materials, we will collectively build a comparative sociology of urban inequality – discerning how class, caste, ethnicity, nationality and other fault lines of differences are carved into social and urban space in varying economic, political, and cultural contexts.

The course is organized into two parts. The first two meetings will examine the urban transformations under early 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century capitalism of the US metropolis, European Capital, and Colonial City. Drawing on a series of classic sociological texts, this section will also introduce students to distinct and competing theoretical approaches to studying the city. Our third meeting considers urban restructuring during the 1970s and '80s, examining how globalization, de-industrialization, de-colonialization, and neoliberalization reshaped the production and experience of urban space. Once firmly situated both temporally and spatially in the chronology of uneven capitalist development, the second part of the course, which comprises more than half of our meetings, turns to making sense of the contemporary divisions of urban society and their consequences.

**Design & Grading**

As a capstone seminar of the sociology department, the course is not only more focused than a traditional lecture course, both topically and methodologically, it is also explicitly designed to cultivate a wider set of critical thinking skills including (a) reading analytically and critically, (b) generating novel questions, (c) relating and adjudicating between ideas and thinkers, (d) writing and discussing ideas clearly and constructively. We will workshop these skills through our weekly meetings, presentations, reading responses, and a final paper that you will develop throughout the course. After the seminar, you should walk away with a grasp of the empirical realities, key concepts, and theoretical and policy debates of contemporary urban inequality and to competently participate in graduate-level academic, policy, community-based, and professional research and practice addressing poverty.

### *Seminar Attendance and Participation (20%)*

Seminars meet once a week and we will continuously be building comparisons and contrasts across the works covered. Therefore, attendance is absolutely crucial. You are allowed one unexcused, no-questions asked absences. *For each additional unexcused absence, your attendance/participation grade will decrease by a full letter grade.* You must email me as far in advance as possible if you expect to miss a class and have a valid reason for doing so or a doctor's note. To get full credit for the course, you must contribute actively to section discussions.

### *Weekly Writing Responses (25%)*

Each week you will receive a short assignment (250-500 words) **due by Wednesday 11:59pm** on Canvas. The purpose of these assignments is to guide your reading and prepare for our weekly discussion. We will engage collectively with these responses during our seminar and they will serve as key resources for your final paper. I will provide feedback on alternating weeks. You are allowed one skip week and one late submission (but still must be submitted before class) without penalty.

### *Seminar Presentation (15%)*

Each student will be required to present once to the seminar. Students will present in groups each week but will be responsible for their own 5 minutes of PowerPoint presentation within the larger group presentation that they must coordinate. Students will choose an issue associated with the week's text (eg informal settlements, public housing, urban security) and provide a brief summary of the latest available data, policy approaches, and/or struggles being waged by community organizations, think-tanks, companies, politicians, or other actors on the issues in a particular city (or network of cities). The presenter should use the week's text and other course readings as a lens to decipher these developments – deploying the conceptual tools to analyze, interpret, and form a position on the issue. The presentation should also reflect on how their case study either confirms or challenges the book's findings and theories.

### *Final Research Paper (40%)*

Drawing from the global perspective covered in the course, students will be required to write a 12-page research paper on a contemporary urban issue. Students will be responsible for investigating a place-specific topic that may be local in LA or national within the US, or a metropolis in another country using secondary research. You will then be required to utilize the concepts and cases from the course to bring a new lens and analysis to the issue of urban inequality in the city of the student's choosing.

**Required Texts:** All course materials will be available as downloadable PDFs on Canvas

### **Prelude: Urban Divisions and the Right to the City**

- Marcuse, Peter. 1993. [“What’s So New About Divided Cities?”](#) *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 17, no. 3 (September): 355-365.
- Harvey, David. 2007. [“The Right to the City.”](#) *New Left Review*. 53: 23-40.

## **PART I. The Rise of Capitalism and Urban Transformation**

### **Week 1. Making the American City: Chicago and Philadelphia**

- Park, Robert and Ernest Burgess. 1925. Selections from [\*The City: Suggestions for the Investigation of Human Behavior in the Urban Environment\*](#). Burgess, "The Growth of the City" (47-58). McKenzie, "The Ecological Approach to the Study of the Human Community" (73-79).
- Zorbaugh, Harvey. 1929. Selections from [\*The Gold Coast and the Slum\*](#). P 46-49; 63-68; 127-158.
- DuBois, W.E.B. 1899. [\*The Philadelphia Negro\*](#). Ch. 2 "The Negro Problem" (5-9). Ch. 9 "The Occupation of Negroes" (97-129). Ch.15 "The Causes of Crime and Poverty" (283-286) Ch. 16. "The Environment of the Negro" (287-299)

#### To Go Further

- Dubois, W.E.B. 2007 (1899). *The Philadelphia Negro: A Social Study*. New York: Oxford University Press. Chpts 1-2, 4, 7, 10-12, 14 selection (283-286), 15, 18.

### **Week 2. Making the European and Colonial City: Metro-Marxism**

- Harvey, David. 2003. Pp. 93-152 in *Paris, Capital of Modernity*. London: Routledge.
- Abu-Lughod, Janet. 1965. [\*"Tale of Two Cities: The Origins of Modern Cairo."\*](#) *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 7(4): 429-57.
- Castells, Manuel. 1983. The industrial city and the working class: The Glasgow Rent Strike of 1915. In *The City and the Grassroots – A Cross- Cultural Theory of Urban Social Movements*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 27-37.

#### To Go Further

- Engels, Friedrich. 1872. [\*The Housing Question\*](#).
- Engels, Friedrich. 1845. "To the Working Class of England" (42-44), "The Industrial Proletariat" (55-57) "The Great Towns" (57-93) [\*The Condition of the Working Class in England\*](#). New York: Penguin.
- McGee, T. G. 1967. "The Emergence of the Colonial City." Pp. 53-75 in *The Southeast Asian City: A Social Geography of the Primate Cities of Southeast Asia*. New York: Praeger.

### **Week 3. Economic Restructuring: Globalization and Deindustrialization**

- Sassen, Saskia. 2012. *Cities in a World Economy*. Ch1 "Place and Production in the Global Economy," Ch2 "The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization" (1-44) Ch6 "The New Inequalities Within Cities." New York, Sage.

- Harvey, David. 1985. ["The Urbanization of Capital."](#) Ch1 in *The Urban Experience*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press: 17-58.

## **PART II. Contemporary Topics in Urban Inequality**

### **Week 4. Hyperghettoization and Antighettoization in Chicago and Paris**

- Wacquant, Loïc. 2008. *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Part II: Black Belt, Red Belt: Chapters 5, 6, & 7 (P135 -226). Malden, MA: Polity Press.

### **Week 5: Urban Informality: A World of Slums**

- Castells, Manuel. 1983. *The City and The Grassroots*. "Introduction" and selections from "The Slum and the State." (xv-xvix, 175-210.)
- Davis, Mike. 2006. [Planet of slums](#). New York: Verso. Ch 1 "The Urban Climacteric," Ch 2 "The Prevalence of Slums," Selections from Ch 3 "Treasons of State" (51-60). Ch 4 "Illusions of Self-Help." (1-49, 70-94)

#### *To Go Further*

- Angotti, Tom. 2006. ["Apocalyptic anti-urbanism: Mike Davis and His Planets of Slums."](#) *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.
- Roy, Ananya. 2011. ["Slumdog Cities: Rethinking Subaltern Urbansim."](#) *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 35 (2): 223-238.

### **Week 6: Gentrification and Displacement: Harlem, Delhi, and Beyond.**

#### *Theories of Gentrification*

- Lees, Loretta, Tom Slater, and Elvin Wyly. 2013. *Gentrification*. Routledge. Selections from Ch 2 "Producing Gentrification" and "Consumption Explanations" (43-55, 72-80, 89-124).

#### *Case Studies*

- Freeman, Lance. 2011. [There Goes the Hood: Views of Gentrification from the Ground Up](#). Temple University Press. Ch. 3 "There Goes the Hood" (59-94).
- Ghertner, Asher. 2011. ["Rule By Aesthetics: World Class City Making in Delhi."](#) in *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*. eds. Roy, Ananya, and Aihwa Ong. New York: John Wiley & Sons.

#### *To Go Further*

- Davis, Mike. 2006. [Planet of slums](#). New York: Verso. Ch 5: "Hausman in the Tropics."

### **Week 7: Camps in the City: US, UK, Italy, and Palestine.**

### *Q&A with Chris Herring*

- Herring, Chris. "[The new logics of homeless seclusion: homeless encampments in America's west coast cities.](#)" *City & Community* 13.4 (2014): 285-309.
- Pasquetti, Silvia. 2015. "[Negotiating Control.](#)" *City* 19 (5): 702–13.
- Picker, Giovanni, Margaret Greenfields, and David Smith. 2015. "[Colonial refractions: the 'Gypsy camp' as a spatio-racial political technology.](#)" *City* 19.5 (2015): 741-752.

### *To Go Further*

- Herring, Chris, and Manuel Lutz. 2015. "[The Roots and Implications of the USA's Homeless Tent Cities.](#)" *City* 19 (5): 689–701.
- Various articles in CITY special issue "[City of Refuge](#)" Vol 19 (5).

### **Week 8: Housing Classes in Cape Town and Atlanta**

- Vale, Lawrence J. 2013. *Purging the Poorest: Public Housing and the Design Politics of Twice-Cleared Communities* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch 3 "Redeveloping Techwood and Clark Howell: The Purges of Progress" (90-154).
- Levenson, Zachary. 2017. "[Precarious Welfare States: Urban Struggles over Housing Delivery in Post-Apartheid South Africa.](#)" *International Sociology* 32 (4): 474–492.

### *To Go Further*

- Vale, Lawrence J. 2013. *Purging the Poorest: Public Housing and the Design Politics of Twice-Cleared Communities* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Ch 8 "Public Housing and the Margins of Empathy" (314-343).

### **Week 9: Securitization and Policing: Nairobi, Sao Paolo, Chicago**

#### **Final Paper Abstract and Outline Due.**

- Caldeira, Teresa P. R. 2000. "Fortified Enclaves: Building Up Walls and Creating a New Private Order." Pp. 256-96 in *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Glück, Zoltán. 2017 "[Security urbanism and the counterterror state in Kenya.](#)" *Anthropological Theory* 17.3: 297-321.
- Wacquant, Loïc. 2001. "[Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh.](#)" *Punishment & Society* 3-1: 95-133.

### *To Go Further*

- Graham, Stephen. 2011. *Cities under Siege: The New Military Urbanism*. Verso Books.

### **Week 10: Urban Resistance**

- Weinstein, Liza, and Xuefei Ren. 2009. [“The Changing Right to the City: Urban Renewal and Housing Rights in Globalizing Shanghai and Mumbai.”](#) *City & Community* 8 (4): 407–432.
- Nicholls, Walter J. 2016. “Producing-Resisting National Borders in the United States, France and the Netherlands.” *Political Geography* 51:43–52.
- Holston, James. 2009. “Insurgent Citizenship in an Era of Global Urban Peripheries.” *City & Society* 21(2):245–67.

*To Go Further*

- Harvey, David. 2012. [Rebel Cities: From the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution.](#) (P115-155).
- Florida, Richard. 2017. [“How to Build ‘Urbanism for All.’”](#) CityLab.

Or

**Week 10. Cities in the Anthropocene / Capitalocene**

- Wachsmuth, David, Daniel Aldana, Cohen and Hillary Angelo, “Expand the frontiers of urban sustainability,” *Nature* 25 August 2016, 391-393.
- Angelo, Hillary and David Wachsmuth, “Why does everyone think cities can save the planet,” *Urban Studies*, 57, 11 (2020), 2201-2221.
- Cohen, Daniel Aldana. 2016. “The Rationed City: The Politics of Water, Housing, and Land Use in Drought-Parched São Paulo.” *Public Culture* 28(2):261–89.

*To Go Further*

- Goh, Kian. 2019. “Urban Waterscapes: The Hydro-Politics of Flooding in a Sinking City.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 43(2):250–72.
- Aldana Cohen, Daniel “Confronting the urban climate emergency: critical urban studies in the age of a Green New Deal,” *CITY* 24, 1-2 (2020), 52-64.
- Vale, Lawrence J. “The politics of resilient cities: whose resilience and whose city,” *Building Research and Information* 42, 2 (2014), 191-201.