

# Course Syllabus

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## **Philosophies of the City**

Columbia University GSAPP

Architecture A6779

Spring 2017

Tues 11am-1pm

300S Buell Hall

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Office hours: Tues 3pm-5pm

Buell Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> fl. Buell Hall

## DRAFT SYLLABUS

This seminar reads key theoretical texts from the late nineteenth century to the present that address the city and urbanization as objects of critical, philosophical reflection. An important contribution to such thought was made by a variety of German thinkers concerned with the modern metropolis. The seminar begins there and follows the problem forward, to the present, with a particular focus on the interactions of capital and culture, and to the social relations of urbanization, technological development, decolonization, and financialization, including the role of architecture and urbanism therein. The aim is not a philosophical metalanguage but rather, the elaboration of a critical, theoretical discourse. Special attention will be paid to the constitutive role of buildings, space, and infrastructures within this discourse.

Students are expected to participate in class discussion, present at least one reading to the class, and write a research paper on a subject related to at least one set of readings, the subject matter of which is to be determined in individual meetings during office hours.

All required readings are available on Courseworks, except as follows:

\* Required—available at Bookculture

\*\* On reserve in Avery Library

Students with reading abilities in languages other than English are encouraged to read translated texts in the original language, when possible.

## Readings

Week 1: Introduction: Capital and the Housing Question

1/17

Karl Marx, Capital, Vol.1, trans. Ben Fowkes (New York: Penguin, 1976), Chap. 1, Sect. 3, “The Value-Form, or Exchange-Value,” 138-162; and Sect. 4, “The Fetishism of the Commodity and Its Secret,” 163-187.

Raymond Williams, The Country and the City (New York: Oxford University Press, 1973), Chap. 1, “Country and City,” 1-8; Chap. 2, “A Problem of Perspective,” 9-12; Chap. 23, “The City and the Future,” 272-278; Chap. 24, “The New Metropolis,” 279-288; Chap. 25, “Cities and Countries,” 289-306.

Friedrich Engels, The Housing Question (New York: International Publishers, 1935).

Also available here:

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1872/housing-question/> (Links to an external site.)

And here:

[https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx\\_The\\_Housing\\_Question.pdf](https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/Marx_The_Housing_Question.pdf) (Links to an external site.)

*Recommended*

\*\* Saskia Sassen, The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991).

Neil Smith, Uneven Development: Nature, Capital, and the Production of Space (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1984).

Reinhold Martin, Jacob Moore, and Susanne Schindler, eds., *The Art of Inequality: Architecture, Housing, and Real Estate—A Provisional Report* (New York: Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Columbia University, 2015).

<http://buellcenter.org/research-programs/house-housing/art-inequality-architecture-housing-and-real-estate-%E2%80%94-provisional-re> (Links to an external site.)

Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin. Wohnungsfrage (The Housing Question): exhibition, publication series, academy

[https://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2015/wohnungsfrage/wohnungsfrage\\_start.php](https://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2015/wohnungsfrage/wohnungsfrage_start.php) (Links to an external site.)

Reinhold Martin, Mediators: Aesthetics, Politics, and the City [e-book] (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014)

Week 2: The Philosophy of Money

1/24

Georg Simmel, The Philosophy of Money, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. ed. David Frisby, trans. Tom Bottomore and David Frisby (New York: Routledge, 1990), Chap. 1, “Value and Money,” Sect. I, 59-78; Chap. 6, “The Style of Life,” Sects. I-III, 429-512. (EBOOK)

*Recommended*

Benjamin Lee and Edward LiPuma, “Cultures of Circulation: The Imaginations of Modernity,” Public Culture 14, No. 1 (2002): 191-213.

Reinhold Martin, “Financial Imaginaries: Toward a Philosophy of the City,” Grey Room 42 (Winter 2011): 60-79. (JSTOR)

### Week 3: The “Spirit” of the Metropolis

1/31

Georg Simmel “The Stranger,” and “The Metropolis and Mental Life,” in Kurt H. Wolff ed. and trans., The Sociology of Georg Simmel (New York: Free Press, 1950), 402-424,

\* Max Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism, trans. Peter Baehr and Gordin C. Wells (New York: Penguin, 2002), Part I, Section 2, “The ‘Spirit’ of Capitalism,” 8-28, and Part II, Section 2, “Asceticism and the Capitalist Spirit,” 105-122.

\*\* St. Clair Drake and Horace R. Cayton, Black Metropolis: A Study of Negro Life in a Northern City (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1945). Richard Wright, Introduction, xvii-xxiv (optional); Introduction: “Midwest Metropolis,” 3-29; Chap. 24, “Of Things to Come,” 755-767.

#### *Recommended*

\*\* David Frisby, Cityscapes of Modernity: Critical Explorations (Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2001), “The City Interpreted: Georg Simmel’s Metropolis,” 100-158.

### Week 4: Passages

2/7

Walter Benjamin, “The Paris of the Second Empire in Baudelaire,” in Charles Baudelaire: A Lyric Poet in the Era of High Capitalism (London: Verso, 1973), Chap. 2, “The Flâneur,” 35-66.

Walter Benjamin, The Arcades Project (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press/Harvard University Press, 1999), “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century (Exposé <of 1939>), 14-26; Convolutes A, 31-61; E, 120-150; F, 151-170; K, 388-404; M, 416-455; P, 516-526; Q, 527-536; g, 779-785.

Siegfried Kracauer, “The Mass Ornament,” in The Mass Ornament: Weimar Essays, trans Thomas Y. Levin (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1995), 74-86.

*Recommended*

\*\* David Frisby, Fragments of Modernity: Theories of Modernity in the Work of Simmel, Kracauer and Benjamin(Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986).

\*\* Anthony Vidler, Warped Space (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001), "The Architecture of Estrangement: Simmel, Kracauer, Benjamin," 65-79.

\*\* Anthony Vidler, The Architectural Uncanny, Essays in the Modern Unhomely (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1992), "Posturbanism," 177-188; "Psychometropolis," 189-198

Week 5: Masses and Publics

2/14

Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno, Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments, trans. Edmund Jephcott (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007), Chap. 4, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception," 94-136.

Hannah Arendt, The Human Condition, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998), Chap. 2, "The Public and the Private Realm," 22-78.

Judith Butler, Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015), Chap. 1, "Gender Politics and the Right to Appear," 24-65 (optional).

Week 6: Urban Ideologies

2/21

\* Manfredo Tafuri, Architecture and Utopia: Design and Capitalist Development, trans. Barbara Luigia La Penta (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1975).

Fredric Jameson, "The Brick and the Balloon: Architecture, Idealism and Land Speculation," New Left Review 228 (March-April 1998), 25-46.

Manuel Castells, The Urban Question: A Marxist Approach, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., trans. Alan Sheridan (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1977), Part II, “The Urban Ideology,” 73-112 (optional).

*Recommended*

\*\* Massimo Cacciari, Architecture and Nihilism: On the Philosophy of Modern Architecture (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993), Part 1, “The Dialectics of the Negative and Metropolis,” 3-96.

\*\* Giorgio Ciucci, Francesco Dal Co, Mario Manieri-Elia, and Manfredo Tafuri, The American City: From the Civil War to the New Deal, trans. Barbara Luigia La Penta (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1979).

Reinhold Martin, Utopia’s Ghost: Architecture and Postmodernism, Again (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011), Chap. 5, “Materiality: Mirrors,” 93-122.

\*\* Manfredo Tafuri, The Sphere and the Labyrinth: Avant-Gardes and Architecture from Piranesi to the 1970s, trans. Pelligrino d’Acierno and Robert Connolly (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1990).

Week 7: Space

2/28

Henri Lefebvre, “Right to the City” in Writings on Cities, ed. Eleonore Kofman and Elizabeth Lebas (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1996), 61-181.

David Harvey, Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography (New York: Routledge, 2001), Chap. 13, “The Spatial Fix: Hegel, Von Thünen and Marx,” 284-311.

\*\*Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid, “Planetary Urbanization,” in Brenner, ed. Implosions / Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization (Berlin: Jovis, 2014), 160-163.

Neil Brenner, “Theses on Urbanization,” in Brenner, ed. Implosions / Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization (Berlin: Jovis, 2014), 181-202 (optional).

*Recommended*

Giovanni Arrighi, Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century (New York: Verso, 2007), "The Territorial Logic of Historical Materialism," 211-249.

Henri Lefebvre, The Production of Space, trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith (Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1991), Chap. 6, "From the Contradictions of Space to Differential Space," 352-400.

Week 8: Worlds

3/7

Guy Debord, Society of the Spectacle, trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith (New York: Zone Books, 1994). Selections.

Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996), "Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy," 27-47.

Ananya Roy, "The 21st-Century Metropolis: New Geographies of Theory," Regional Studies 43, no. 6 (July 2009): 819-830. JSTOR

Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," New Left Review I, n. 146 (July-August 1984): 53-92 (optional). Available at <http://newleftreview.org/?view=726> (Links to an external site.)

*Recommended*

"Johannesburg—The Elusive Metropolis," a special issue of *Public Culture* edited by Achille Mbembe and Sarah Nuttal, *Public Culture* 16, no. 3 (Fall 2004).

Michael Watts, "Baudelaire over Berea, Simmel over Sandton?," *Public Culture* 17, no. 1 (Winter 2005), 181, 184. Watts is replying to the essays collected in "Johannesburg—The Elusive Metropolis," a special issue of *Public Culture* edited by Achille Mbembe and Sarah Nuttal, *Public Culture* 16, no. 3 (Fall 2004).

Sarah Nuttal and Achille Mbembe, "A Blasé Attitude: A Response to Michael Watts," *Public Culture* 17, no. 1 (Winter 2005), 195.

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

Spring Break

3/14

Week 9: Violence

3/21

Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth (New York: Grove Press, 1963), Chap. 1, "Concerning Violence," 35-106.

Achille Mbembe, On the Postcolony (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), "The Aesthetics of Vulgarly," 102-141.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2002), "Of Garbage, Modernity, and the Citizen's Gaze," 65-79.

Arjun Appadurai, "Spectral Housing and Urban Cleansing: Notes on Millennial Mumbai," Public Culture 12, No. 3, 627-651 (optional).

Week 10: Heterotologies

3/28

Michel Foucault, "Different Spaces," trans. Robert Hurley, in James D. Faubion, ed., Michel Foucault: Aesthetics, Method, and Epistemology (New York: New Press, 1998), 175-185.

Giorgio Agamben, Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life, trans. Daniel Heller-Roazen (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1998), Part 3, “The Camp as Biopolitical Paradigm of the Modern,” 119-188.

David Harvey, Spaces of Hope (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000), Part 3, “The Utopian Moment,” 132-196 (optional).

*Recommended*

Reinhold Martin, Utopia’s Ghost: Architecture and Postmodernism, Again (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011), Chap. 1, “Territory: From the Inside, Out,” 1-26.

Week 11: Apparatuses and the Commons

4/4

Michel Foucault, in conversation with Alain Grosrichard, Gerard Wajeman, Jacques-Alain Miller, Guy Le Gaufey, Dominique Celas, Gerard Miller, Catherine Millot, Jocelyne Livi, and Judith Miller, “The Confessions of the Flesh,” in Foucault, Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, ed. Colin Gordon (London: Harvester Press, 1980), 194-228.

\* Michel Foucault, Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France 1977-1978, trans. Graham Burchell (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004), Chap. 1, 11 January 1978, 1-28; Chap. 2, 18 January 1978, 29-54; Chap. 13, 5 April 1978, 333-362.

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Commonwealth (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009), “De corpore 2: Metropolis,” 249-260, and Part 5 (optional), “Beyond Capital?,” 261-321.

*Recommended*

Gilles Deleuze, “What Is a Dispositif?” in Timothy J. Armstrong, ed. and trans., Michel Foucault, Philosopher (New York: Routledge, 1992), 159-168.

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Empire (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000).

David Harvey, Michael Hardt, and Antonio Negri, "Commonwealth: An Exchange," *Artforum* 43, no. 3 (November 2009), 210-215, 256, 258, 269, 262.

<http://search.proquest.com/docview/214344086/fulltext/13BD1F5F9B343D088/1?accountid=10226> (Links to an external site.)

Reinhold Martin, "Public and Common(s)," *Places / Design Observer* (24 January 2013) <http://places.designobserver.com/feature/public-and-commons/37647/> (Links to an external site.)

Week 12: Visibility and Enclosure

4/11

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, eds., *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1988), 271-313.

Gilles Deleuze and Michel Foucault, "Intellectuals and Power," in *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews by Michel Foucault*, ed. Donald F. Bouchard (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977), 205-217.

Wendy Brown, *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty* (New York: Zone Books, 2010), Chap. 3, "States and Subjects," 73-105.

*Recommended*

Jacques Rancière, *The Politics of Aesthetics*, trans. Gabriel Rockhill (New York: Continuum, 2004), "The Distribution of the Sensible," 7-45.

Jacques Rancière, *The Philosopher and His Poor*, trans. Andrew Parker (Durham: Duke University Press, 2004).

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "Megacity," *Grey Room* 01 (Fall 2000), 8-23.

Week 13: Neoliberalism

4/18

Michel Foucault, The Birth of Biopolitics : Lectures at the Collège de France 1978-1979, trans. Graham Burchell (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), Chap. 1, 10 January 1979, 1-28; Chap. 6, 14 February 1979 (optional), 129-158; Chap. 9., 14 March 1979, 215-238; Chap. 10, 21 March 1979, 239-266; Chap. 11, 28 March 1979, 267-290.

David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), Introduction, 1-4; Chap. 1, "Freedom's Just Another Word...", 5-38. Chap. 4, "Uneven Geographical Developments," 87-119.

Wendy Brown, Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution (New York: Zone Books, 2015), Chap. 1, "Undoing Democracy: Neoliberalism's Remaking of State and Subject," 17-45 (optional).

*Recommended*

Giovanni Arrighi, Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century (London: Verso, 2007).

**Final papers due**

5/6 (by 5pm, PDF by Courseworks Dropbox)