Theories of City Form

Fall 2017

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Location
200S Fayerweather

Time
Friday 11 am - 1 pm

**"The city is not the manifestation of some iron law
but rather part of changing human culture and aspiration."**
-Kevin Lynch

Theories of City Form is a survey course that examines the myriad forces and factors which directly govern or indirectly influence the size, shape and nature of cities. The class will cover explicit theories regarding the form of cities as well as explore many interdisciplinary, critical approaches to understanding urban outcomes that can loosely be categorized under the broad umbrella of "Urban Studies." Grades are based on attendance and participation (40%), a mid-semester project (30%) and a final paper (30%).

Overview

9/8 Week 1
Introduction to Theories of City Form

Part 1 - Normative Models of City Form

9/15 Week 2
The City as Supernatural
The City as Machine

9/22 Week 3
The City as Organism
The City as Ecology

9/29 Week 4
Meta-Models: The Everyday, Dimensions, Patterns, Agreements, Structure & syntax

10/6 Week 5
Segue: Models in Conflict/Models in Context:
Early Capitalist Cities & Reformed Utopias

Part 2 - Modernity / Modernism / Modernization & The City

10/13 Week 6
Vienna, The City and The Modern Subject
Paris & Barcelona: City as Technique, Rational Planning & Contested Expertise
Chicago, The Parcelized City & Urban Sociology

10/20 Week 7
The Colonial City, Modernity and the Civilizing Project
CIAM, Articulating a Universal Functionalist City
Assignment Due @ 11:59 pm

10/27 Week 8
Complicating Colonialism, Developing Alternative Modernities in Non-Western
Sites
Segue: Cracks in Modernism, CIAM v. Team X, Robert Moses v. Jane Jacobs, and
the Era of Urban Crisis

Part 3 - Postmodern urbanisms, Complications to the Modernist Ideal

11/3 Week 9
Los Angeles, Heterotopia

11/10 Week 10
Exclusionary & Conflict Urbanism
Paper Abstract Due @ 11:59 pm

11/17 Week 11
Global Cities & Transnational Urbanism

11/24 Thanksgiving Break

Part 4 – Contemporary Conditions in Urban Form

12/1 Week 12
Posturbanism vs The Resurgent City

12/8   Week 13
No Class
Paper Due @ 11:59 pm

Week 1: 9/8
Introduction to the Theory of City Form
What do we mean when we talk about city form? Why do cities look the way they do? What explains differences in the way different cities look? Is a general theory of city form even possible? How could a critical understanding of the factors which drive urban form influence practitioners in the allied urban professions? This introductory class will include a discussion of the precedents of this class, as well as the backgrounds and expectations of students in the class.

> **Readings**
> - Lynch, Kevin. "Is a General Normative Theory Possible?" Ch. 5 in Good City Form. MIT Press, 1990, pp. 99–108.
> - Krugman, Paul. "Why Can't We Get Cities Right?" *The New York Times*. Sept. 4, 2017.
> - Chakrabarti, Vishaan. "A Country of Countries: of Highways, Houses and Hedges." in A Country of Cities: A Manifesto for Urban America. Meropolis Books, 2013, pp. 19–43.
> - Chakrabarti, Vishaan. "America's Urban Future." *The New York Times*. April 16, 2014.

Week 2: 9/15
The City as Supernatural
Despite the classic materialist argument that the first cities arose after the first Agrarian Revolution with the advent of surplus goods, the archaeological record shows the importance of cosmic considerations in ancient city planning. Key issues included siting, numerology, return (pilgrimage), celestial alignment, centering / axis mundi, reinforcing form through ritual, coordinating the physical and the metaphysical, and determining social structure through space and religion.

> **Readings**
> - Beinart, Julian. "Image Construction in Premodern Cities." In Imaging the City: Continuing Struggles and New Directions. Edited by Lawrence J. Vale and Jr., Sam Bass Warner. Center for Urban Policy Research, 2001, pp. 3–32.
> - Rykwert, Joseph. "The Parallels." Chapter 5 in The Idea of a Town: The Anthropology of Urban Form in Rome, Italy and the Ancient World. MIT Press, 1988, pp. 163–87.
> - Graeber, David, excerpt on Sumarian temple economies from Ch.2 "The Myth of Barter" and summary of the relation of the market, the state, war and religion from Ch. 9 "The Axial Age" in Debt: The First 5,000 Years. Melville House Publishing, 2011. pp. 38-40, 248–249.

The City as Machine
The materialist counterpart to the supernatural city is the mechanical one, where the city must be created quickly with no specific intended outcome and where the forces driving growth are unstated or unknown. Such cities are guided by a few simple rules to govern continuous urban growth. A priority is placed on convenience, speed, flexibility, legibility, equality and speculation. Examples include Egyptian work camps, Greek colonial trading cities, Roman imperial towns, French Bastide towns, Spanish Law of the Indies, American Grid of Expediency, the Jeffersonian Grid and the 1811 Commissioner's grid.

These models are never able to completely explain urban form. When cases are clearly examined there is much bleeding between the models with overlapping chains of causation that can seem recursive and difficult to untangle.

Readings
- Polanyi, Karl, "Ch. 4, Societies and Economic Systems" in The Great Transformation: The Political & Economic Origins of our Times. Beacon Press, 2001. pp. 45–58.
- Sennett, Richard. "The Neutral City." Chapter 2 in The Conscience of the Eye: The Design and Social Life of Cities. W. W. Norton & Company, 1992, pp. 41–68.
- Collins, George R. "Linear Planning throughout the World." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 18, No. 3 (Oct., 1959): pp.74-93.

Week 3: 9/22
The City as Organism
The third model city drew heavily from the formal development of biology during the 18th and 19th centuries. The city as organism is considered to be a singular as self regulating whole. Formulations spoke of homeostatic dynamics in urban systems, excessive growth was considered analogous to cancer and other urban maladies were attributed . Basic units of growth are defined around specific activities, likened to metabolic processes. This school of thought is embodied by Ebenezer Howard's Garden Cities, the theorizations of Patrick Geddes and the planning of early American Suburbs. Like the supernatural model the City as Organism appeals to a form of universalizing cosmic "goodness" that can be achieved through proper planning methodologies.

Readings
- Geddes, Patrick. "Geddes' Final Dundee Lecture." Appendix II in Cities in Evolution: An Introduction to the Town Planning Movement and to the Study of Civics. Edited by The Outlook Tower Association and The Association for Planning and Regional Reconstruction. University of Michigan Library, 1915, pp. 214–30.
- Howard, Ebenezer. "The Town Country Magnet," "TThe Revenue of Garden City, and how it is obtained—The Agricultural Estate" and "The Revenue of Garden City—Town Estate." Chapters 2-4 in Garden Cities of To-Morrow. MIT Press, 1970, 50-69.

The City as Ecology
The City as Ecology can be seen as the materialist counterpart to the City as Organism. These models conceive of cities and urban regions as the ecological product of conflicting and competing forces. Unlike the previous three models, the City as Ecology is less concerned with how cities should be than with explaining how and why they are the way they are. In the ecological model complex, overlapping social and economic interactions play out over space to drive urban form in much the same way that competition, resource availability and the non-coordinated interactions of individual actors govern outcomes in traditional ecological models. Beginning with the birth of urban sociology (including the Chicago School of Urban Sociology which will be discussed in a later class,) the ecological model also provides the theoretical underpinnings of Urban Economics, which theorizes that city form can be understood through economic calculations played out over regions. In its most basic formulation it is the distance between markets and the site of natural resources relative to the price and availability of labor that determines firm location choice, which in turn drives the development of cities.

Readings

- Wirth, Louis. "Urbanism as a Way of Life." The American Journal of Sociology 44, no. 1 (1938): 1–24.
- Richardson, H. W. "Antecedents." Chapter 2 in The New Urban Economics: and Alternatives. Routledge Kegan & Paul, 1980, pp. 7–30.
- Krugman, Paul. "Geography Lost and Found." Chapter 2 in Development, Geography, and Economic Theory. MIT Press, 1997, pp. 31–59.

Week 4: 9/29
Meta-Models: The Everyday, Dimensions, Patterns, Agreements, Structure & Syntax
Throughout the second half of the 20th century, many urban theorists became less concerned with the derivation of totalizing theories of urban form and began to outline meta-theories which examined specific mechanics in the production of the built environment more abstractly. Examples include Henri Lefevre's notion of the "Production of Space" and the "Right to the City," Kevin Lynch's "Image of the City" and concept of dimensions, Christopher Alexander's (somewhat infamous in some circles) notion of the Pattern Language, John Habracken's "Structures" and scales of operation, and Bill Hiller's space syntax studies.

Readings
- Lefevre, Henri, excerpts from "Social Space," in The Production of Space, Blackwell 1995 (first printing 1974), pp. 92-111.
- Alexander, C., S. Ishikawa, and M. Silverstein. A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction. Oxford University Press, 1977, pp. ix–xl.
- Habraken, N. John. "The Control of Complexity." Places 4, no. 2 (1987): 3–15.
- Hillier, William. "Studying cities to learn about minds: some possible implications of space syntax for spatial cognition." Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design 39 (2012): 12-32.
- Lynch, Kevin. "Dimensions of Performance." Chapter 6 in Good City Form. MIT Press, 1984, pp. 111–20.

Week 5: 10/6
Segue: Models in Conflict / Models in Context: Early Capitalist Cities & Reformist Utopias
It should be clear by now that it is difficult to apply singular models to historical cases. Which prompts the question, of what use are such theoretical models? As a means of segue in to the second part of the course which will deal more explicitly with history and case studies, this class will examine the nature of English cities and towns during the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, using a theoretical understanding of the shifting dynamics of urban and rural development to form a clearer picture of historical events. Traditional English settlement patterns characterized by communal ownership of productive land and shared responsibility for rural poverty were challenged by the labor demands of the new factory system in Manchester and London and the emergence of a new, politically empowered capital class. The feudal mode of ownership that produced landed estates in London was also disrupted in this process. Despite some tellings of this history, it was not a gradual evolution but rather a violent political struggle. Responding to the plight of downcast workers who can no longer count on traditional communitarian social safety-nets, new Utopian Socialist urban proposals emerge to counter the rising urban strife such as Robert Owen's industrial cooperatives and Charles Fourier and Victor Considerant's Phalanstère across the channel in France.

Readings

- Polanyi, Karl, "Speenhamland, 1795" in The Great Transformation: The Political & Economic Origins of our Times. Beacon Press, 2001. pp. 81–89.
- Engels, Friedrich. "The Great Towns." Chapter 3 in The Condition of the Working Class in England. Translated and edited by W. H. Henderson and W. O. Chaloner. Stanford University Press, 1958, pp. 30–87.
- Williams, Raymond. "Enclosures, Commons, and Communities." Chapter 10 in The Country and the City. Oxford University Press, 1975, pp. 96–107.

Week 6: 10/13
Vienna, The City and The Modern Subject
Modernity, Modernism, and Modernization are semantically distinct concepts: the first broadly meaning the condition/epistemology by which we understand "the present in its unique historical presentness" as distinct from the past; the second being an ideological orientation in favor of modern things and ideals be they positive like rationality and functionalism or negative like consumerism and nihilism; and the last being a reformist process by which something is brought up to date, that is, to change its form or positioning such that it is in line with the present condition or at least to give it the outward appearance that it is. The precise impact that the advent of these temporal/historical concepts (which start to appear as early 1500 by some accounts) had on urban form can be difficult to unpack given the ubiquity of the notion of "the modern" in contemporary life. To begin, examples from Vienna will illustrate the modernist remaking of the city—most notably the conversion of its medieval fortifications in to a space of leisure and consumption called the Ringstrasse—and its driving factors: both the "modern, urban subject's" new relationship to the built environment and the desire of the state to project modernity through built form.

Readings
- Olsen, Donald. "The Vienna of Franz Joseph" in The City as a Work of Art. Yale University Press, 1986, pp. 58–81.
- Wilson, Elizabeth."Architecture and Consciousness in Central Europe" in The Sphinx in the City: Urban Life, the Control of Disorder, and Women. University of California Press, 84–99.

Film
- Metropolis (1927), directed by Fritz Lang.
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1kxfiY_1DA

Paris & Barcelona: City as Technique, Rational Planning & Contested Expertise
Modernism, as it relates to urban form, gives rise to the notion of professional planners. This new form of expertise is concerned not only with the rationality of the plan itself but also with the development of effective techniques for implementing such plans. Two of the clearest examples of modernist planning early in the Modern Era can be seen in the works of Baron Haussmann in Paris and Ildefons Cerdà in Barcelona. While both their plans are commonly taught in the architectural academy, what is less discussed is the mechanisms they devised for carrying them out, levying assessments on private property, leveraging future increases in tax revenue through bound issuance and skillfully aligning diverse and divergent political interests, all techniques which remain mainstays of contemporary planning.

Readings
- Harvey, David. "Materializations: Paris 1848–1870." Part 2 in Paris, Capital of Modernity. Routledge, 2005, pp. 88–100.
- Aibar, Eduardo, and Wiebe E. Bijker. "Constructing a City: The Cerdà Plan for the Extension of Barcelona." Science Technology Human Values 22, no. 1 (1997): 3–30.

Chicago, The Parcelized City & Urban Sociology
Founded in 1833, Chicago is perhaps the purest example of a modern city form in that it developed without the historical baggage of extant political, economic and architectural traditions which other cities had to contend with. Chicago's modernist commodification of space through parcelization and public land auctions gave rise to the first skyscrapers. The newly-formed discipline of modern urban sociology in the Chicago School starts to investigate the macro-spatial patterns caused by the waves of immigrants who would come to populate Chicago with modern, urban subjects, as

well as the racial dynamics which would come to complicate simple modernist understandings of cities.

Readings
- Hoyt, Homer. "The Land Boom of the First Skyscrapers and the First World's Fair, 1878–98." Chapter IV in One Hundred Years of Land Planning in Chicago: the Relationship of the growth of Chicago to the rise of Its land Values, 1830–1933. Unviersity of Chicago Press, 2000, pp. 128–140.
- Drake, St. Clair and Horace Cayton, "Introduction: Midwest Metropolis" in Black Metropolis: A Study of Negro Life in a Northern City. Harcourt, Brace & world, 1945, pp. 3–29.

Week 7: 10/20
The Colonial City, Modernity and the Civilizing Project

The history of modernism and urban form is intimately intertwined with the history of colonialism. Modernist notions of "best practice" and rationality align perfectly with both the colonial drive to "improve the colonized" as well as the efficiencies demanded by carrying out an Imperial administration. The ideas put forward by vanguard modernism and its allies in the nascent social sciences were, at first, not widely accepted in the Western centers of power, while colonial administrators were much more willing to experiment with these new ideas given that they had little-to-no accountability to their colonized subjects. Thus, colonial cities became the sandbox for modernist explorations. Examples are taken from French colonial exploits in North Africa.

Readings
- Wright, Gwendolyn, "Colonial Opportunities." Chapter 2 in The Politics of Design in French Colonial Urbanism, The University of Chicago Press, 1991, pp. 53-84.
- Çelik, Zeynep. "An Outline of Urban Structure", in Urban Forms and Colonial Confrontations. University of California Press, 1997, pp. 58–86.
- Avermaete, Tom, "Nomadic Experts and Travelling Perspectives: Colonial Modernity and the Epistemological Shift in Modern Architecture Culture" in Colonial Modern: Aesthetic of the Past, Rebellions of the Future. eds. Tom Avermaete, Serhat Karakayali and Marion von Osten, Black Dog Publishing, 2010, pp. 131–149.

CIAM, Articulating a Universal Functionalist City

Throughout the first half of the 20th century, an international (though mainly European) consortium of modernist architects and urbanists known as the Congrès International d'Architecture Moderne or CIAM, worked to articulate single vision for the modern, functionalist city. The final document they produced, known as the Charter of Athens, had a huge impact on the planning of cities around the world, though the history of its drafting is more complicated than some accounts suggest. Brasilia, the Brazilian Capital city, illustrates CIAM's theories in practice.

Readings
- Gold, John R. "Creating the Charter of Athens: CIAM and the functionalist city, 1933–43." The Town Planning Review 69, no. 3 (1998): 225-247.
- Hoston, James. "Blueprint Utopia," Chapter 2 in The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia. University of Chicago Press, 1989, pp. 31–58.

Assignment Due @ 11:59 pm

Week 8: 10/27
Complicating Colonialism, Developing Alternative Modernities in Non-Western Sites
The history of Modernism is often presented as the development of ideas in the West and their export to the wider world, which is precisely why it fits so neatly with the colonial narrative. But this picture, in its eurocentric orientation, entirely misses the viewpoint of the colonized subjects and in doing so perpetuates colonial power structures. The concept of "Alternative Modernities" suggests that modernism is always experienced contractually, embedded within specific cultures and histories, making the Western perspective only one among many. This heterogeneous approach expands the breadth of modernist theory, allowing for the development of relevant theories in and for non-western sites, but it also complicates the universality of modernist discourse in ways that will be further explored in subsequent classes. These ideas will be illustrated by the 19th century modernizing projects in Cairo, which predate British and French colonial presence in Egypt as well as through a further look at the specificity in the application of CIAM's principals in Brasilia.

Readings
- Abu-Lughod, Janet. "The Origins of Modern Cairo" Ch. 7 in Cairo: 1001 Years of the City Victorious. Princeton University Press, 1971, 98–117
- Hoston, James. Excerpts from "Premises and Paradoxes" and "The Brazilanization of Brasilia" Chapters 1 and 8 in The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia. University of Chicago Press, 1989, pp. 3–5, 14–23, 289–299, 308–314.

Segue: Cracks in Modernism, CIAM v. Team X, Robert Moses v. Jane Jacobs, and the Era of Urban Crisis
By the 1960s disagreements within modernist architecture and planning proved too great to sustain a single coherent movement and CIAM disbanded. It's most vocal critic and apparent heir was a splinter organization known as Team 10. The group, which notably included Alison and Peter Smithson, Aldo van Eyck and Jacob B. Bakema, advocated a return to humanism and condemned the rigid dogma of modernism up to that point. This schism was more than academic; it reflected a broader crisis in modernist urban practice. The violence with which modernist urbanists enacted their plans was being met with popular resistance, a struggle which can be seen in the classic pairing of Robert Moses and Jane Jacobs. The human dimension of the Moses /Jacobs debate is masterfully captured in Marshall Berman's seminal All that is Solid Melts in to Air. The urban unrest which marked this era caused some critics to proclaim the "death of Modernism" after the destruction of the Pruitt Igoe housing project, which was seen as an acknowledgment by policy makers of the failure of modernist principals. However, the reality was more complicated, stemming from issues of race, class and systematic exclusion which academic modernism largely ignored, to be discussed in a later class.

Readings
- Smithson, Allison, "Team 10 Primer 1953–62." Ekistics 15 no. 91 Modern Cities: A Jungle of Buildings (June 1963): 349-360.
- Berman, Marshall, "In the Forest of Symbols: Some Notes on Modernism in New York" Chapter 5 in All that is Solid Melts in to Air. Simon and Schuster, 1982, pp. 287-329.
- Castells, Manuel, "Dimensions and Processes of the US Urban Crisis in the 1970s." Chapter 17 in The Urban Question: A Marxist Approach. MIT Press, 1977, pp. 402–420
- Campanella, Thomas, "Jane Jacobs and the Death and Life of American Planning." Places (April 2011): placesjournal.org/article/jane-jacobs-and-the-death-and-life-of-american-planning/

Film
- The Pruitt Igoe Myth (2011), directed by Chad Freidrichs
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKgZM8y3hso

Week 9: 11/3
Los Angeles, Heterotopia
Coined by Foucault, the notion of a Heterotopia, broadly defined, refers to spaces that have multiple layers of meaning above and beyond a purely superficial understanding. In the early 1980's theorists in Los Angeles began to put forward new models of urbanism that explained their hometown in ways the older, modernist Chicago School of Urban Sociology couldn't. The resulting Los Angeles School of Geography was postmodern in its structuring: cities were understood to be heterotopic rather than having a singular linear notion of social mobility relative to urban growth. Notions of multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism complicate the universalist ideas of the modern subject. Infrastructural inventions with modernist roots can lead to unintended, divergent outcomes when overlaid with other issues such as race and class, like what rapper Ice Cube calls "bourgie traffic" on Interstate 405 versus "gangster traffic" on Interstate 110. Heterotopic phenomena can be sinister, like the privatization and militarization of public spaces described in Mike Davis's seminal City of Quartz, or the endemic sprawl and resulting exurban enclaves often attributed to cities like Los Angeles, while others are more empowering, like the urban experimentation found in contemporary barrios and other equivalent "ethnic suburbs" or "ethnoburbs."

Readings
- Dear, Michael and Nicholas Dahmann, "Urban Politics and the Los Angeles School of Urbanism," Urban Affairs Review 44, no. 2 (2008): 266–279.
- Davis, Mike, "Fortress L.A." Chapter 4 in City of Quartz. Vintage Books, 1992, pp. 223–260.
- Davis, Mike, "The Latino Metropolis" and "Tropicalizing Cold Urban Space" Chapters 5 and 6 in Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the U.S. City, Verso, 2000, pp. 49–67.
- Crawford, Margaret, "The World in a Shopping Mall," and Soja, Edward J. "Inside Exopolis: Scenes from Orange County," in Variations on a Theme Park ed. Michael Sorkin. Nonday Press, 1992, pp. 3–30, 94–122.

Film
- Reyner Banham Loves Los Angeles (1972), directed by Julian Cooper for BBC.
  https://vimeo.com/22488225
- Crash (2005), directed by Paul Haggis
  www.netflix.com/title/70023961
  ($2.99 on other sites.)
- Ice Cube Celebrates the Eames (2012) directed by Dave Meyers for Pacific Standard Time
  https://vimeo.com/42052949

Week 10: 11/10
Exclusionary & Conflict Urbanism
As eluded to in many of last weeks readings, the notion of "Heterotopia" is hardly egalitarian. Readings that cover spaces of exclusion will address the issues of urban marginality and

informality, "White-Flight," ghettos & hyperghettos. The concept of Splintering Urbanism will address the role of contemporary capitalist logic of privatization in developing these spatial patterns. We will see similar phenomena emerging out of more explicit conflicts such as Johannesburg in the aftermath of Apartheid and the history of Israeli West Bank Settlements, embedded in Israeli politics, racial and religious anxiety, as well the familiar suburban impulses about security and consumption. Finally, the San Diego/Tijuana border will illustrate a hybrid of these conditions, where conflict both explicit and implicit plays out across the border region, defining complex networks of interdependencies.

Readings
- Wacquant, Loïc, "The Rise of Advanced Marginality: Specifications and Implication," Chapter 8 in Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality. Polity Press, 2008, pp. 229–256.
- Graham, Stephen and Simon Marvin, Excerpts from "Social Landscapes of Splintering Urbanism," Chapter 6 in Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities, and the Urban Condition. Routledge, 2001, 217–242, 253–266, 92–93, 301–303.
- Davis, Mike, "Planet of Slums: Urban Involution and the Informal Proletariat," New Left Review 26, (Mar/Apr 2004): 5–34.
- Segal, Rafi and Eyal Weizman, "The Mountain: Principles of Building in Heights," Chapter 5 in A Civilian Occupation, The Politics of Israeli Architecture. Verso, 2002, pp. 80-93.
- Simone, AbdouMaliq,"People as Infrastructure: Intersecting Fragments in Johannesburg." Public Culture 16, no. 3 (2004): 407–429.
- Davis, Mike, "The Devil's Rancho" Chapters 8 in Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the U.S. City, Verso, 2000, pp. 77–82.

Film
- The Informal as Praxis (2012) A lecture by Teddy Cruz.
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F0WP2v_PPoM

Paper Abstract Due @ 11:59 pm

Week 11: 11/17
Global Cities & Transnational Urbanism
Last week's discussion of Splintering Urbanism and the US/Mexican border foreshadow this week's discussion of the role of global capitalism in determining post-modern urban outcomes. We will discuss foundational topics relating urban form to globalization, from Manuel Castell's notion of the "Space of Flows" to Saskia Sassens seminal work on global cities. While thinking about these theme's we'll attempt to connect current notions of globalization to the older, colonial world economic system through an exploration of cities in so-called "developing economies." Finally, we'll return to Mike Davis's analysis of Los Angeles to understand the transnational implications of L.A.'s ethnic suburbs.

Readings
- Castells, Manuel, "The Space of Flows," Chapter 6 in The Information Age: Economy, Society and Culture, Volume I: The Rise of the Network Society. Blackwell, 1996, 2000, 2010, pp. 407-459.
- Sassen, Saskia, "Locating Cities on Global Circuits," Environment and Urbanization 14, no.1 (2002): pp. 13-30.

- Robinson, Jennifer, "Global and World Cities: A View from Off the Map," International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 26, no. 3, (2002): 531–550.
- Olds, Kris and Henry Yeung, "Pathways to Global City Formation: A View from the Developmental City-State of Singapore," Review of International Politicial Economy 11, no. 3, pp. 490–515.

Debate 2: The Abstract City
- (Re)cyclic City & Cubic City

Thanksgiving Break: 11/24

Week 12: 12/1
Posturbanism vs The Resurgent City
As a means of closing, a brief look at emerging and changing forms of urbanism across the political spectrum. From posturban spectacles in Las Vegas & Dubai and posturban "dystopias" like Detroit (abandonment and bankruptcy), Lagos (mega-city development), and Stockton (the foreclosure crisis and the vulnerability of spatial financialization) to neoliberal phenomena like Creative Class urbanism, "White-return", Bloombergian technocracy and the exportation of municipal policy, Corporate urbanism, BID's and public private partnerships. Top down urban policy such as countering sprawl through regional planning, New Urbanism, Transit Oriented Development are contrasted with the grassroots reclamation of political public space by the Occupy Movement and Arab Spring as well as complete reimaginations of urban development, from controlled shrinking and agrarianism in Detroit to new communitarianism, community land trusts (CLTs), community based real estate investment trusts (REITs) and crowd funded development schemes.

Debate 1: Visions of the Future: Open vs. Closed Systems
- Cosmopolis & "Flux-City" to Home

Debate 3: Detroit: Urban Sandbox?
- The New Garden City: Detroit in Future & Welcome to Detroit: Conduit City

Week 13: 12/8
No Class

Week 14: 12/15
No Class
Paper Due @ 11:59 pm