

POLS 312 Cities and Globalization

Yue Zhang

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Class Time: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:45 PM (304 2 BH)

Course Description

What is globalization? How does globalization affect the economic and political functions of cities? What roles do global cities play in the national and global urban systems? This course will examine the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of globalization as well as their consequences on different localities. It will also explore the changes of urban political institutions and the dynamic interaction between the local and the global actors. The more specific topics and questions we will address included but are not limited to:

- The restructuring of the global, national, and local economies with a focus on commodity chains and business networks within and across regions and localities.
- The formation and function of global cities.
- The increasing socio-spatial differentiation in cities in a global context
- The simultaneous co-existence of and tension between global cultural convergence and the persistence of national and local cultures with a comparative focus on new trends and practices in consumption.

Requirements and Expectations

Your grade will be based on four components:

Attendance and participation: 10%

Presentation: 20%

Mid-term take-home: 30%

Research paper: 40%

Class attendance is required. If you must miss a class for any reason, please let me know in advance. An excessive number of missed classes will be cause for a failing grade in the class.

Part of your grade will be based on your performance in class discussion. The purposes of the discussion sessions are to help you better understand the theories introduced in lectures, to translate the literatures into your own urban experiences, and to provide you a chance to ask questions. In order to get full points in class participation, you must provide excellent comments regularly and demonstrate engagement with literature. You are also encouraged to bring in relevant reports and studies from magazines, newspapers, and other news media to facilitate class discussion.

Every student is responsible to present on the assigned readings once during the semester. Presentation assignment will be announced at the first meeting of the class (also available on Blackboard). Each presentation should be 5-10 minutes in length. Besides summarizing the reading, every presenter is expected to raise at least 3 questions related to the reading. Some tips for class presentation are attached at the end of the syllabus.

A take-home midterm examination will be given on February 26 in class, and will be due on March 3 at the beginning of class. Late midterms will be returned to students with comments and feedbacks, but will not be given a grade. In other words, students will not get credit for late midterms.

Students are required to write a research paper examining a particular topic on cities and globalization. Paper topics should be developed in consultation with Professor Zhang. You must submit a one-page prospectus in class on March 12 describing your paper topic and sources you will use. Papers should be 7-10 double-spaced pages and are due on April 30 in class. Late papers will be penalized one third of a grade for every 24 hours that they are late.

Grades for exams and papers will be based on both substance and style. Use proper grammar, appropriate language, and proofread and spell-check the final copy of every assignment. Unstapled assignments will not be accepted. Emailed assignments will not be accepted.

Academic Honesty

Cheating will not be tolerated. You must write your own papers and your own exams. Any student caught cheating will receive a failing grade in the class and be referred to the administration for disciplinary actions. Keep in mind that the technology that allows students to retrieve papers from the Internet also allows instructors to find those papers. If you are unclear what constitutes plagiarism please talk to Professor Zhang.

Readings

Required Texts:

Saskia Sassen, *Cities in a World Economy*, 2006, Pine Forge Press.

Mark Abrahamson, *Global Cities*, 2004, Oxford University Press.

Robin Hambleton and Jill Gross (eds.), *Governing Cities in a Global Era*, 2007, Palgrave Macmillan.

Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein (eds.), *The Tourist City*, 1999, Yale University Press.

Books are available at the UIC Bookstore. Additional readings are available on Blackboard.

Course Outline

January 13 Introduction

January 15 Globalization and Global City Formation: A Historical Perspective

Sassen, Chapter 1

Janet Abu-Lughod, "Global City Formation in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles: An Historical Perspective"

PART I Cities in a World Economy

January 20 Sassen, Chapters 2, 3

January 22 Student Presentations and Discussion

January 27 Sassen, Chapters 4, 5

January 29 Student Presentations and Discussion

February 3 Abrahamson, Chapters 1, 2, 4

February 5 Student Presentations and Discussion

February 10 Documentary

PART II Globalization and Social Change

February 12 Sassen, Chapter 6

Abrahamson, Chapter 5

Susan Fainstein, "Inequality in Global City-regions"

February 17 Student Presentations and Discussion

February 19 Sassen, Chapter 7

Abrahamson, Chapter 3

Frank Gaffikin, David Perry, and Ratoola Kundu, "The City and Its Politics: Informal and Contested"

February 24 Student Presentations and Discussion

February 26 Documentary

***** Mid-term Given in Class**

PART III Global Pressures and Urban Governance

March 3 Hambleton and Gross, Chapters 2, 3, 5

*****Mid-term Due at the Beginning of Class**

March 5 Student Presentations and Discussion

March 10 Hambleton and Gross, Chapters 7, 8

March 12 Student Presentations and Discussion

***** Paper Proposal Due at the Beginning of Class**

March 17 Hambleton and Gross, Chapters 9, 10, 11

March 19 Student Presentations and Discussion

***** March 23-27 Spring Break, Class Canceled**

PART IV Culture, Tourism, and Global Events

March 31 Abrahamson, Chapters 6, 7

Xuefei Ren, "Architecture and Nation Building in the Age of Globalization:
Construction of the National Stadium of Beijing for the 2008
Olympics"

Yue Zhang, "Steering Toward Growth: Symbolic Urban Preservation in
Beijing, 1990-2005"

April 2 Student Presentations and Discussion

April 7 Documentary

April 9 Judd and Fainstein, Part I (Fainstein and Gladstone, Judd, Holcomb, Urry), Part II
(Foglesong)

April 14 Student Presentations and Discussion

April 16 Judd and Fainstein, Part III (Sassen and Roost, Ehrlich and Dreier, Hoffman and
Musil, Shachar and Shoval)

April 21 Student Presentations and Discussion

Part V Cities and Globalization: Past, Present, and Future

April 23 Chicago: A Global City?

Fassil Demissie, "Globalization and the Remaking of Chicago"
David Moberg, "Economic Restructuring: Chicago's Precarious Balance"
Larry Bennett, "Chicago's New Politics of Growth"
Costas Spirou, "Urban Beautification, the Millennium Park, and the
Construction of A New Municipal Identity in Chicago"

April 28 Student Presentations and Discussion

April 30 Conclusion

Sassen, Chapter 8

Abrahamson, Chapter 8

***** Research Paper Due at the Beginning of Class**

Appendix

Tips for Class Presentation

1. When reading an article or book chapter, always start from the basic question: What is the puzzle that the author tries to explain? Some book chapters may not have a crystal clear puzzle, but nevertheless try to find the central questions the author deals with in the piece.
2. During the reading process, make notes on anything you find helpful or you do not understand. Some people prefer to make notes on the text, while others make notes in their computers. It does not matter how you do it - what matters is that you write down those points so you can come back to them later when doing the summary.
3. After finishing reading, make a one-page summary of the article/chapter. The basic structure of a summary usually includes the following elements: puzzle, argument, theory, data, and conclusion. The logic is simple: start with an empirical puzzle; then find the author's argument on it; then find out which theories are used to support this argument; then what data are presented to substantiate the theory; and, finally, what conclusions are reached in the end.
4. For some pieces, particularly book chapters, the structure of the chapter may not correspond perfectly to the summary structure I gave above, but still try to find the logic by which the author organizes his/her piece. Every good writer has logic in his/her writings.
5. Finally, think of a few questions that you find stimulating or you do not understand and put them on the table for class discussion. You may easily find them from the reading notes you made earlier.