

# **The Political Economy of Urban and Regional Development**

**CRD 245**  
**Spring 2007**  
**Hart Hall 1325 (Office)**

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## **Course Description:**

This is a four unit graduate seminar that relies extensively on graduate student engagement in seminar discussion of selected critical readings that have shaped the current boundaries of the theoretical and practical discourse on urbanism and urban development in the social sciences. The objective of the course is to stretch these boundaries and open up new spaces for theory, research, and social action.

Three key multi-scalar processes are central to urban development at the present historical juncture: (1) the ongoing restructuring of the global political economy, usually represented under the sign of “globalization,” (2) the rapidly increasing interconnectivity of localities across borders forged by transnational networks, movements, and institutions, now captured under the rubric of “transnationalism,” and (3) the rapidly changing contours of policy-making by all levels of the state which produce alternative modes of “neo-liberal governmentality.” These three contextual processes have had significant impacts on the character and quality of everyday life at the level of local communities. Local actions, in turn, are constitutive elements in processes of globalization, transnationalism, and urban change. They shape as well as reflect the transnational flows of capital, people and culture and the character of state policies. This seminar focuses on the interplay of the discourses and practices of globalization, transnationalism, and locality contributing to the social construction of “place” in urban studies.

## **Course requirements:**

1. Seminar participation (40%): Active participation in this seminar is required of each seminar participant. The forms of participation are threefold:
  - (a) A team of two or more students each session will take responsibility for leading discussion in the seminar session.
  - (b) All students should be prepared to offer critiques of the selected seminar readings each week.
  - (c) During the second half of the term, each student will present a brief progress report on his or her research paper to the seminar. To facilitate discussion of your research each seminar member will prepare a 1 or 2 page research prospectus or outline to be passed out to seminar participants when your research progress report is given.
2. Research paper (60%): This includes the final paper of approximately 20 pages plus references. The research paper is due at the end of the final week of class.

## **Required readings:**

The joint readings for this seminar include selected chapters from four books available at the UCD Bookstore and additional selected readings assembled in a course reader

available at Nevine's. The goal of the focused selections is to enable you to read in depth the required chapters/articles each week rather than to bury your imaginations in a massive course bibliography. Where possible, the readings have been paired to offer alternative theoretical and/or practical perspectives on the issues raised. In addition to the course reader, the seminar readings are drawn from the following books:

Michael Peter Smith, *Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization*  
John Eade and Christopher Mele, eds., *Understanding the City*  
Williamson, Imbroscio, and Aleprowitz, *Making a Place for Community: Local Democracy in a Global Era*  
H.V. Savitch and Paul Kantor, *Cities in the International Marketplace*

## **Course Outline:**

### **I. Organization of the Seminar**

Week 1: Course Overview and Session Planning

### **II. Transnationalism, Globalization and Urban Space**

Week 2: Emerging Trends in Imagining and Investigating "the City"

Fincher, Jacobs, and Anderson, Ch. 2 "Rescripting Cities with Difference," in *Understanding the City*, pp. 27-48  
Eade/ Mele, Ch. 1, "Understanding the City," pp.3-22.  
Steven Vertovec "Migrant Transnationalism and Modes of Transformation" in *course reader*

Week 3: Locating Globalization, Conceptualizing Transnational Urbanism

M.P. Smith, "Power in Place: Retheorizing the Local and the Global," in *Understanding the City*, Chapter 6, pp. 109-130  
M.P. Smith, "Transnational Urbanism Revisited," in *course reader*  
R. Beauregard, "Theorizing the Global-Local Connection," in *course reader*  
Peter Marcuse, "Depoliticizing Globalization," in *Understanding the City*, pp .131-158

Week 4: "Grassroots Mobilization": From Urban to Transnational Social Movements

S. Fainstein and C. Hirst, "Urban Social Movements." in *course reader*  
M. Mayer, "Urban Movements and Urban Theory in the Late-20th Century City, Ch. 10 in *course reader*  
M.P. Smith, "Transnationalizing the Grassroots," Chapter 7 in *Transnational Urbanism*, pp., 145-164  
Peter Evans, "Fighting Marginalization with transnational networks: Counter-Hegemonic Globalization," in *course reader*  
Paul Lubeck and Bryana Britts, " Muslim Civil Society in Urban Public Spaces: Globalization, Discursive Shifts, and Social Movements, in *Understanding the City*, pp. 305-335

### III. Globalization and Community Power

#### Week 5: The Debate on “Global Cities” and the Iconization of Los Angeles

Friedmann, “Where We Stand: A Decade of World City Research,” *in course reader*

Soja, “Economic Restructuring and the Internationalization of the Los Angeles Region,” *in course reader*

M.P. Smith, *Transnational Urbanism* :“The Global Cities Discourse: A Return to the Master Narrative,” Ch. 3; “Reimagining Los Angeles from the Ground Up,” Chapter 4 , pp. 48-98

M. Gottdiener, Ch. 8 “Urban Analysis and Merchandising: The “LA School” and the Understanding of Metropolitan Development,” in *Understanding the City*, pp. 159-180

Michael Samers, “Immigration and the Global City Hypothesis: Toward an Alternative Research Agenda,” in *course reader*

*Student Research Presentations*

#### Week 6: The “Growth Machine” Discourse and the Politics of Metropolitan Growth

Logan and Molotch, “The City as a Growth Machine,” from Urban Fortunes, *in course reader*

Review Symposium on Urban Fortunes from Urban Geography (articles by S. Marston, R. Lake, S. Clarke, G. Clark, and replies by Logan and Molotch), *in course reader*

Mellisa Gilbert, “Place Politics and the Production of Urban Space: A Feminist Critique of the Growth Machine Thesis,” *in course reader*

Pincetl, “The Politics of Influence: Democracy and the Growth Machine in Orange County, U.S.,” *in course reader*

*Student Research Presentations*

#### Week 7: Urban Regime Theory and Urban Development in Comparative Perspective

Gerry Stoker, “Regime Theory and Urban Politics.” *in course reader*

Mickey Lauria, “Reconstructing Urban Regime Theory,” *in course reader*

Savitch and Kantor, *Cities in the International Marketplace*, Ch. 1 “The Great Transformation and Local Choices,” pp. 2-28; Chapter 2, “Toward a Theory of Urban Development,” pp. 29-54; Ch.3, “Ten Cities, Thirty Years,” pp. 55-100

Imbroscio, “Structure, Agency, and Democratic Theory,” *in course reader*

*Student Research Presentations*

### IV. Rethinking Urban Policy Agendas

#### Week 8: Rethinking Postindustrial Urbanization

Williamson, et al, *Making a Place for Community*, Ch. 2, “Globalization and Free Trade,” pp. 27-51; Ch. 3 “The Challenge of Urban Sprawl,” pp. 71-99;

Williamson, et al, *Making a Place for Community* : Chs. 4, 5, 6, and 7, pp. 103-185: on national, regional, state, and local policy alternatives to uneven development

*Student Research Presentations*

Week 9: Reframing Urban Policy Thinking

Savitch and Kantor, *Cities in the International Marketplace*, Ch.8. “Are Cities Converging?” pp.267-312 ; Ch. 9, “Strategies for the International Marketplace,” pp.313-345

Williamson, et al, *Making a Place for Community*, Chs.8-10, pp.189-248: on employee ownership, CDC’s, community lending, and alternative ownership models

*Student Research Presentations*

Week 10: Alternatives to Corporate Globalization

Williamson, et al, *Making a Place for Community*, Chs. 12, 13 and Conclusion, pp. 265-322: on alternatives to neo-liberal globalization

M.P. Smith, *Transnational Urbanism* “The City as Crossroads,” pp. 184-194 on grassroots transnationalism

Joe Bandy, “Paradoxes of Transnational Civil Societies under neo-liberalism: The Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras,” in *course reader*

Savitch and Kantor, “Conclusion,” pp. 346-359

*Student Research Presentations*

**N.B.: The research papers are due at the end of the last week of class.**