

# HS 151 Cities



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Cities are spaces of contradictions and contestations, of possibilities and impossibilities, of inequalities and struggles, of flows, movements and fixities, of utopic dreams and unfulfilled desires. They are everyday spaces through which people, commodities, images, money and power move and are experienced by us. They are spaces where past histories and present experiences come together to shape and/or interrupt futures. This course intends to discuss these different aspects of cities and urban life using examples of cities from the Global South and North.

**Course Material :** The course does not require a textbook, but articles and films. Readings will be made available through email. Students HAVE to read and engage with all the readings in class discussions. The films will be either made available online. Students HAVE to watch these films and discuss them in class.

## Course Evaluation

Mid-Term Exam	: 35 %
Final-Term Exam	: 35 %
Class Discussion	: 15 %
Group Presentation	: 15 %

**Class Discussion:** Students will be assigned one film discussion as a part of a group. You are expected to come to class and discuss the film.

**Group Presentation:** Students will be assigned a group and they have to present a short video essay (photo essay) around a specific theme based on their research. These will be held in the weeks at the end of the semester.

**Attendance:** Attendance is compulsory as per the institute policy.

## Schedule and Course Material

- *The readings and film (unless link is provided) will be uploaded on MS Teams.*

### Introductory Week| Why cities? | Aug2-Aug4

- Watch: Lixin Fan, *Last Train Home* (2009) <https://archive.org/details/xtm-lth>

### Week 1 | Planetary Urbanization | Aug9-Aug11

Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid, "Planetary urbanization," in Matthew Gandy ed., *Urban Constellations*. Berlin: Jovis, 2012, 10-13.

- Jia Zhangke, *Still Life* (2006)

### Week 2 | Political Economy of Cities | Aug16-Aug18

Tadiar, Neferti XM. "City everywhere." *Theory, Culture & Society* 33, no. 7-8 (2016): 57-83.

- Imre Azam, *Ecumenopolis: City Without Limits* (2011)

### Week 3 | Land, Dreams, and Speculations | Aug23-Aug25

Goldman, Michael. "Speculative urbanism and the making of the next world city." *International journal of urban and regional research* 35, no. 3 (2011): 555-581

- Keller Easterling, *World City Trailers* (2014) <https://vimeo.com/112833164>

### Week 4 | Human-Technological Networks and Platforms | Aug30-Sep1

Gandy, Matthew. "Cyborg urbanization: complexity and monstrosity in the contemporary city." *International journal of urban and regional research* 29, no. 1 (2005): 26-49

- Mihandoust, Shahab, *Misleading Innocence* (2014) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ou6zYcci\\_5w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ou6zYcci_5w)  
Deepti Kakkar & Fahad Mustafa, *Powerless in India* (2014) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6b8jmw>

### Week 5 | Politics of Urban Techno-Infrastructures | Sep6-Sep8

Simone, AbdouMaliq. "People as infrastructure: intersecting fragments in Johannesburg." *Public culture* 16, no. 3 (2004): 407-429.

- Kalthoum, Ziad, *The taste of cement* (2018) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXEQwoFpX6s>

### Week 6 | Other Worldly Inhabitations | Sep13-Sep15

Sánchez, Rafael. "Seized by the Spirit: The Mystical Foundation of Squatting among Pentecostals in Caracas (Venezuela) Today." *Public Culture* 20, no. 2 (2008): 267-305

- Mati Diop, *Atlantics* (2019)

### Week 7 | Mid-Term Exams | Sep20-Sep26

Time and schedule to be announced

**Week 8 | Gender and Cities | Sep27-Sep30**

Andrews, Abigail, and Nazanin Shahrokni. 2014. "Patriarchal accommodations: Women's mobility and policies of gender difference from urban Iran to migrant Mexico." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 43.2: 148-175.

- Abbas Kiarostami, *Ten* (2002)

**Week 9 | Intimacies and Desires | Oct4-Oct6**

Delany, Samuel R. *Times square red, times square blue*. 1999. [NY, NYU Press]: xii-xx & 3-19.

- Tsai Ming-Liang, *I don't want to sleep alone* (2006)

**Week 10 | Difference and Indifference | Oct11-Oct13**

Gayer, Laurent. "Drawing the line: Bonds and bounds of civility in a Christian basti of Karachi." *Anthropological Theory* 18, no. 2-3 (2018): 382-408.

- Mathieu Kassovitz (1995) *La Haine / Hate*

**Week 11 | Urban Violence | Oct18-Oct20**

Graham, Stephen. "Cities as battle space: The new military urbanism." *City* 13, no. 4 (2009): 383-402.

- Ana Naomi de Sousa (2013) *Architecture of Violence*

**Week 12 | Right to the City | Oct25-Oct27**

Purcell, Mark. "The right to the city: the struggle for democracy in the urban public realm." *Policy & Politics* 41, no. 3 (2013): 311-327.

- Michele Lancione, *A început ploaia* [It started raining] (2017)

**Week 13 | Urban Collectives | Nov1-Nov2**

Simone, AbdouMaliq. "Living as logistics: Tenuous struggles in the remaking of collective urban life." In *The Routledge Companion to Planning in the Global South*, pp. 264-274. Routledge, 2017.

- Jehane Noujaim, *The Square* (2013)

**Week 14 | Class Presentations | Nov8-Nov10****Week 15 | Class Presentations | Nov15-Nov18**