

## **EXOTIC MODERNS: CITY, SPACE, AND 'OTHER' MODERNITIES**

Professor Jyoti Hosagrahar

Spring 2014

ARCH 4517

Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation

Columbia University

MONDAY, THURSDAY, 11-1PM, AVERY 408, 3 CREDITS

### **COURSE**

### **DESCRIPTION**

This seminar explores the fragmented, complex, and paradoxical urbanism of contemporary cities in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, in the context of globalization and colonialism. What does modernity mean in cities outside the conventional West? In an interconnected world of global flows, how do we understand and engage with questions of difference? We will examine what happens when global modernity engages with particular places, localities, and traditions.

We begin with the premise that modernity, claimed and defined by the West, was fundamentally global and that colonialism and modernity are connected. From these perspectives we will explore the cultural and symbolic dimensions of spatial transformation. The seminar will focus on the ways in which globality and locality reconcile when local settlement practices / spatial cultures encounter universal ones. While recognizing our subjective position within the Western academe, we will critically examine dualities such as 'traditional' and 'modern,' 'West', and 'non-West,' 'Orient' and 'Occident,' as culturally constructed categories that frame professional understandings and interventions in architecture and urbanism.

The course integrates a historical and cultural understanding of the architecture and urbanism of specific places with theoretical considerations of postcolonialism. Explorations of a variety of architectural and urban forms across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, are informed by our discussions of concepts such as modernity, tradition, culture, postcoloniality, globalization, representations, nationalism, and identity. We investigate the plural landscapes of 'non-Western' cities through the study of spatial expressions such as historic quarters, public spaces, colonial urbanism, national identity, planned capitals, squatter settlements, 'non-Western' architects and cultural identity in architecture, cultural tourism, the de-territorialized landscapes of globalism, eco-cities, and urbanism of conflict.

### **COURSE REQUIRE- MENTS**

- Required readings and active participation in discussions
- One short response to course readings
- Class presentation and report on a historic place – a city, site, or building

### **COURSE EVALUATION**

- Class participation: 30%
- One reading responses 20%
- Research presentation: 25%; report 25%

### **COURSE READINGS**

- Jyoti Hosagrahar. "Indigenous Modernities: Negotiating Architecture and Urbanism." London; New York; New Delhi: Routledge, 2005. (Available at the Book Culture Bookstore)
- Additional required readings for the course will be available on reserve in Avery library and as electronic reserves.