

CourseNo: ARCHA4517_001_2013_1
Meeting Location: AVERY HALL 504
Meeting Time: MR 11:00A-01:00P

Instructor Information:

[Jyoti Hosagrahar](#)

Course Description

This seminar explores the fragmented, complex, and paradoxical urbanism of contemporary cities outside the conventional West. Do all cities have to resemble the urbanism of Western Europe and North America to be modern? In an interconnected world of global flows, can we see these cities as modern, albeit, a different modern? 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 global modernity. 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, planned capitals, squatter settlements, the built environments of re-interpreted traditions and cultural tourism, and the de-territorialized landscapes of globalism.

Course Requirements

- Required readings and active participation in discussions
- Two short responses to course readings
- Class presentation on a research topic

Course Evaluation

- Class participation: 30%
- Two reading responses and presentation: 70%

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 electronic course reserves or in Avery library.