

Instructor: Dr. Abdoulaye Kane
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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 11:00AM-1:00PM

ANT4930/8103 & AFS4935/006C “URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY”

Tuesday period 2-3 (8:30 AM to 10:25 AM), Room: MAT 0016

Thursday Period 3 (9:35 AM to 10:25 AM), Room: MAT 0016

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Urban anthropology is a relatively new area of investigation that transformed deeply the scope of the anthropological object and its perspective. Starting right after the Second World War, anthropologists moved progressively away from the study of “primitive” and small societies in remotely located areas, to more complex farming societies in rural and traditional context, and finally to the study of urban cultures and their impact on city dwellers. This course is interested in addressing the different challenges faced by anthropologists in their attempt to move their theoretical frameworks and their old tested methodologies designed for small scale societies to the investigation of city life and urban cultural, stylistic, architectural forms. It highlights the contribution of anthropology in the understanding of social and cultural processes taking places in suburban areas with their score of counter-cultures of modernity defined very often in pathological terms.

Both urbanism and urbanization as transformative social processes are analyzed in various places and diverse historical and cultural contexts. This course intends to familiarize students to the history, concepts, and methods of urban anthropology replaced in the wider anthropological perspective. Through the reading material and films and documentaries, the course will address the following themes:

- Urbanism and Urbanization
- Rural/Urban Dichotomies
- Migration and Adaptation
- Space, Place and Identity
- Typology of Cities
- Social exclusion and Suburban Problems

READING AND COURSE MATERIAL

1. Phillips, Barbara E. (2010). *City Lights: Urban-Suburban Life in the Global Society*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Third Edition.
2. Low, Setha M. (1999). *Theorizing the City: the New Urban Anthropology Reader*. New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London: Rutgers University Press.

The books are available at the UF bookstore and Orange and Blue (on 13th Ave) for purchase. Additional reading material will be sent by instructor to students.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to attend all class meetings and to be in class on time. Disruption of class because of late arrivals will not be tolerated. Students are required to complete the relevant reading before each class, participate in class discussion and complete all written assignments and tests at the scheduled time.

GRADING

The final grade will be determined by the total scored for:

- Attendance and participation (up to 10 points). We will circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. Signing for others is considered Academic dishonesty.
- Class quizzes (up to 20 points)
- Research Paper (up to 20 points)
- Mid-term test (up to 20 points)
- Final test (up to 30 points).

The final grade is obtained by totaling your points and assigning the grade as follows:

90-100: A	88-89: B+	80-87: B	78-79: C+
70-77: C	65-69: D	Below 65: fail	

- Quizzes: There will be 5 unannounced one-question quizzes during the semester. These will not be difficult, but will be intended to test whether you have done the readings and prepared for class. You can score up to 4 points for each answer.
- Research Paper: Each student is required to write one research paper (of about 2000 words, typed for undergraduate students and 4000 words for graduate students) on a topic of their choice covered in class. You are required to include in your research paper at least four references that could be a combination of books, articles, and book chapters. The research paper is due December 6.
- Both mid-term and final tests are based on course reading, films, documentaries, class discussion, and lectures. They will be a combination of short answer, multiple choice and fill-in the blank questions. They will not be cumulative.

Please note: we cannot accept late papers, nor can make-up exam be given, except in documented emergencies and when the professor have been contacted in advance or as soon afterwards as possible.

Academic Honesty:

Unless it is specifically connected to assigned collaborative work, all work should be individual. Evidence of collusion (working with someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use of someone else's published or unpublished words or design without acknowledgment) will lead to the Department's and the University's procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty. All students are expected to honor their commitment to the university's Honor Code (available online at: www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The

Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. ***Please make any requests by the second week of class.***

UF Counseling Services

Resources are available on-campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS

Week 1: Urban Anthropology within Anthropology

Tue, Aug 23/ Thu, Aug 25:

- Overview of syllabus
- **Lecture:** The place of Urban Anthropology in the wider discipline.

Week 2: How do we define a city?

Tue, Aug 30/Thu, Sep 1

- Film: from Babylon to Bombay, the City through Time
- WALTER P. Zenner W. P. (1994). Nominalism and Essentialism in Urban Anthropology.” *City & Society*, Volume 7, Issue 1 (June 1994) Pages: 53-66

Week 3: Cities, Urbanization and Urbanism

Tue, Sep 6/Thu, Sep 8

- City Lights, Part II, chapters 4
- City Lights, Part II, chapter 5
- SUSAN EMLEY Keefe S. E. (1994). “Urbanism Reconsidered: A Southern Appalachian Perspective.” *City & Society*, Volume 7, Issue 1 (June 1994) Pages: 20-34

Week 4: The Urban/Rural Dichotomy

Tue, Sep 13/Thu, Sep 15

- City Lights, Part II, chapter 6 & 7
- City Lights, Part II, chapter 8
- Gmelch G. And Gmelch S. B. (2009). “Notes from the Field: Rural-Urban Difference and Student Fieldwork.” *City & Society*, Vol. 21, Issue 2, pp. 293–306.
- Film: City Life

Week 5: Migration and Adaptation

Tue, Sep 20/Thu, Sep 22

- City Lights, Part III, chapter 9
- City Lights, Part III, chapter 10
- Film: Moving North to Chicago

Week 6: Space, Place, and Identity

Tue, Sep 27/Thu, Sep 29

- City Lights, Part VI, chapter 16
- City Lights, Part VI, chapter 17
- Shannon M. Jackson (2003). Being and Belonging: Space and Identity in Cape Town. *Anthropology and Humanism* 28(1):61-84
- Falzon M-A. (2004). "Paragons of Lifestyle: gated communities and the politics of space in Bombay." *City & Society*, Vol. 16, Issue 2, pp. 145–167
- Film: Recycling city space

Week 7: Typology of Cities

Tue, Oct 4/Thu, Oct 6

- Theorizing the City, Introduction, chap. 1 & 2.
- Film: Understanding cities

Week 8: Contested City

Tue, Oct 11/Thu, Oct 13

- Theorizing the City, Part 2, chap.4 & 5.
- Pardue D. (2010). "Making Territorial Claims: Brazilian Hip Hop and the Socio-Geographical Dynamics of *Periferia*." *City & Society*, Vol. 22, Issue 1, pp. 48–71.

Week 9: The Global City

Tue, Oct 18/Thu, Oct 20

- Theorizing the City, Part 3, chap. 6 & 7

Week 10: The Modernist City

Tue, Oct 25:

- **Midterm test**

Thu, Oct 27

- Theorizing the City, Part 4, chap. 8

Week 11:

Tue, Nov 1/Thu, Nov 3:

- Theorizing the City, Part 4, chap. 9
- Quayson A. (2010). "Signs of the Times: Discourse Ecologies and Street Life on Oxford St., Accra." *City & Society*, Vol. 22, Issue 1, pp. 72–96.
- Film: New giant cities: Mexico, Bangkok, Cairo

Week 12: The Postmodern City

Tue, Nov 8/Thu, Nov 10

- Theorizing the City, Part 4, chap. 10 & 11
- Theorizing the City, Part 4, chap. 12
- Film: The city and the environment

Week 14: African cities and Transnational connections

Tue, Nov 15/Thu, Nov 17

- Pellow, D. (2003). "New Spaces in Accra: transnational houses." *City & Society* 2003, XV(I): 59-86
- Scheld S. (2007). "Youth Cosmopolitanism: Clothing, the City and Globalization in Dakar, Senegal." *City & Society*, Vol. 19, Issue 2, pp. 232–253
- Film: Taxi to Timbuktu

Week 15

Tue, Nov 22/Thu, Nov 24

- Bach J. (2010). "They Come in Peasants and Leave Citizens": Urban Villages and the Making of Shenzhen, China. *CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY*, Vol. 25, Issue 3, pp. 421–458
- Film: The developing city

Week 16: Informalities in Southern Cities.

Tue, Nov 29/Thu, Dec 1

- Lewinson, A. S. "Reading Modernity in Urban Space: Politics, Geography and the Informal Sector of Downtown Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania" *City and Society*.
- Film: Coloban express.

Week 17

Tue, Dec 6

- Final test
- Final paper due date