

Fall 2014
URBAN ANTHROPOLOGY
ANT 3930/Sec 2D52

Mon per 5-7 (11:45-2:45p), Turlington Hall rm. 2333
Dr. Brenda Chalfin, bchalfin@ufl.edu
Office Hrs: Tues 1-3p & by Appt. 451 Grinter Hall
Class email account: sec2d52@gmail.com, pw: urbananthro



Bodys Isek Kingelez model of 'Fantastic City' (Congo)

Course Overview:

TOPICS COVERED: Global Cities; Urban Youth; Security and Insecurity; Cities and Citizenship; Urban Culture and Consumption; Sex and the City; Eco-Cities and Sustainability; Urban Planning, Infrastructure and Exclusion; Urban Everyday Life and Informal, Illicit and Underground Economies; Digital Cities.

THEORIES AND METHODS: Urban Mapping and Network Studies; Practice Theory and the Anthropology of Everyday Life; Urban Phenomenology and Interpretive Ethnography; Urban Communicative and Cultural Landscapes.

CENTRAL QUESTIONS:

- How can anthropologists represent the life worlds of urban dwellers?
- Is ethnography the most effective tool for making sense of urban landscapes and lifestyles?
- Is the anthropology of the city the same as anthropology in the city?
- How can we comprehend the city as at once a place of culture, aesthetics, people and political economy?
- How can the theories and methods of anthropology extend our understanding of urban life – past, present, and future – and raise new questions about the nature of the urban?
- How might anthropology be in conversation with allied fields such as geography, sociology, architecture, planning, education, economics and political studies to gain a comprehensive understanding of urban phenomena? How can anthropology engage with practitioners and activists in the public and private sector around urban issues and concerns?
- Is urbanization a universal and unidirectional process marked by common means and ends world-wide? Or is urbanization driven by diverse forces with diverse outcomes?

These questions will be addressed through the consideration of case studies from around the globe. Students will also receive training in different ways of writing about, researching and representing urban experience. No prior knowledge of urban anthropology is required. It is suggested that students have some experience in cultural anthropology or city-related subject matter. The class is appropriate for students enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Science as well as the College of Design, Construction and Planning.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Gain an understanding of urban form and variation across the globe.
- Become conversant in the methods and applications of urban ethnography.
- Master different theoretical perspectives on the nature of urban experience.
- Identify past and future urban trends.
- Devise multi-media representations of urban experience.
- Understand the value of an interdisciplinary approach to cities and urban life.

URBAN PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENT:

Each student will be asked to select a specific city to compare with the required course material and case studies. Focused on the selected city, course assignments will culminate in a Multi-Media Urban Portfolio (MMUP) drawing on class discussions, lectures, presentations, reading and research. Think of the MMUP as an “intellectual guidebook” to your city or a “multi-media notebook”. The complete MMUP is worth 90% of the grade. It will include a series of short reading notes, citation lists, and multi-media posts (text, audio, map, diagram, video, graphic, artistic, or architectural) based on your selected city and responding to the theories and methods introduced in class (totaling 60%) and a longer research-oriented section due at the end of the semester (totaling 30%). The MMUP is not a “final project” but a semester long effort. Each section has a specified format and due date. The MMUP can be compiled in any number of formats, including digital on-line, large format poster or a physical 3-d portfolio, among other options. The only stipulation is that it is readily accessible to the instructor and other students.

MMUP SHORT ENTRIES (60%):

Short Reading Notes 1 (200 words): due in class 9/8 (5%)

Multi-media Post 1 (City Facts and Figures): due in class 9/8 (5%)

City citations: due in class 9/15 (5%)

Reading Notes 2: write in class 9/22 (5%)

Reading Notes (500 words)/Multi-media Post 3 : due in class 9/29 or 10/6 or 10/13 (10%)

Reading Notes (500 words) /Multi-media Post4: due in class 10/.13 or 10/20 (10%)

Reading Notes (500 words)/Multi-media Post5: due in class 10/27, 11/10 (10%)

Reading Notes/Multimedia Post 6 on digital environment in your city: due 11/2 (10%)

*Reading Notes/Multi-Media Posts must address the course topics and material on the day they are due.

MMUP LONG ENTRY (30 %) Due 12/1: This is a comparative research project centered on your city that develops a topic and set of methods raised in the assigned class readings, lectures, activities and discussions. You will need to choose one from among the topic areas covered in Classes 3-11. You also need to attend to the methods of urban research and representation covered in our classes. You can start and finish your Long Entry assignment at any point in the semester and you can continue to revise it during the semester. It is due December 1. Any revisions must be finalized by Dec. 8 when the entire URBAN PORTFOLIO is presented to the class. It should include the following components:

A 500 word compilation of terms, claims and concepts drawn from the reading and reading notes – 5%

A 2500 word textual investigation of the topic in your chosen city drawing on scholarly (at least 3 scholarly sources) and non-scholarly source material (15%) and a multi-media section illustrating your data, impressions, or arguments (10%).

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY :

The remaining portion of the course grade is devoted to attendance and class participation (10%). Class attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absence will result in grade reduction of 5% per absence. Because this class meets only once a week, missing even one class will interfere with learning goals and ultimate success in the course. Please feel free to communicate with the instructor about any special needs or circumstances.

GRADING RUBRIC:

A	90-100
A-	88-89
B+	86-87
B	80-85
B-	78-79
C+	76-77
C	70-75
C-	68-69
D+	66-67
D	60-65
D-	58-59
E	57 & below

REQUIRED READING AND RESOURCES : Books and Online Materials. Used and pdf/electronic versions are acceptable.

Required Textbooks:

P. Bourgois, In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio, 1996, Cambridge.

S. Newell, The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption and Citizenship in Cote D'Ivoire, 2012, Chicago.

D. Goldstein, Outlawed: Between Security and Rights in a Bolivian City, 2013, Princeton.

Electronic Copies of other required reading will be posted on the class account:

sec2d52@gmail.com (pw: urbananthro) see Google Drive or Google Docs

Required readings may be subject to minor modifications based on the instructors discretion.

Strongly Recommended Text: Pile and Thrift, City A-Z Urban Fragments, 2000, Routledge

Optional Text: Hannerz, Exploring the City, Columbia, 1983.

INFORMATION ON UNIVERSITY POLICY IS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT.

COURSE SCHEDULE:**Class 1 - 8/25 The City and the Anthropological Imagination**

Introduction to Urban Anthropology

In-class discussion: Urban Representations and Imaginations

I. Calvino, selection from Invisible Cities

H. Miner, 1953, The Primitive City of Timbuctoo, Princeton

F. Deboeck, 2004, Kinshasa: Tales of the Invisible City, Ludion, pp. 94-98

M. Castells, 1996, "Megacities," in The Network Society pp. 434-436

Reminder 1: Pick your city and get Dr. Chalfin's email approval by 9/5.

NO CLASS 9/1: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

Reminder 2: Pick your city and get Dr. Chalfin's email approval by 9/5.

Class 2 - 9/8 Urban Typologies, Trajectories and Vocabularies

Read **two** of these short selections and write a 3 sentence summary for each (250 word total):

K. Marx, 1846, "The city, the division of labor and the emergence of capitalism," pp. 22-28 in Third World Urbanization ed. J. Abu-Lughod (MIT)

M. Weber, 1958, "The Nature of the City," pp. 71-87 in The City (Collier).

L. Wirth, 1938, "Urbanism as a way of life" pp. 101-118 in Urban Life ed. by G. Gmelch (Waveland)

L. Mumford, 1986, "What is a city?" pp. 104-107 in The Lewis Mumford Reader (Pantheon)

Try to make sense of:

H. Lefebvre, 2003, "Urban Form," pp. 115-135 in The Urban Revolution (UMinn)

Select 3 words, phrases or concepts to talk about in class .

The reading summary and concept/phrase list comprises the SHORT READING NOTE 1 (5%).

MULTIMEDIA POST 1 (5%). Bring a hard or soft copy map of your city to class. Include a basic fact sheet with population, size, location and include any details that distinguish or characterize your city.

In class discussion of State of the World's Cities:

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3387>

Class 3 - 9/15 Urban, Illicit and Informal: Street Corner Ethnography

Read:

P. Bourgois, 1996, In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio (Cambridge) - selections

J. Goode, "How Urban Ethnography Counters Myths about the Poor, pp. 185-201 in Urban Life ed. by G. Gmelch (Waveland).

Review of C. Stack, 1973, All our Kin.

CITY CITATIONS (5%): Cite and provide a 2 sentence annotation of academic works, (preferably anthropological or other social scientific) on your city. Indicate how you found and selected them .

<http://anthropologyworks.com/index.php/2010/11/24/in-search-of-respect-an-interview-with-philippe-bourgois/>: <http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/current/interviews/052109-1.html>

In-class:

Discussion on "Urban Anthropology" as "Engaged Anthropology". Do you agree with Goode's claims?

Guest Lecture: Dr. Richard Freeman, UF Anthropology Librarian on Library Resources for Urban Anthropology.

Class 4 - 9/22 Urban Phenomenology: Experiencing Subjects , Objects, and Space in the City

Read:

Benjamin, Walter, 1999. *The arcades project*. Belknap.

Georg Simmel, 1903, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" (1903) in The Blackwell City Reader , ed. G. Bridge. Blackwell.

S. Nutall and A. Mbembe, 2008, Johannesburg: The Elusive Metropolis, Duke. Brief excerpt.

In class:

Steven Feld: Waking in Nima <https://soundcloud.com/sensate/steve-feld-15min->

Selections from N. Thrift and S. Pile, 2000, City A-Z Urban Fragments, Routledge.

Webtalk with Martin Krieger on 'Urban Tomographies'

www.upenn.edu/pennpress/podcast/index.html#kreiger

READING NOTES 2: WRITE in-class (5%)

Class 5- 9/29 Cities and Citizenship Past and Present

Read:

J. Holston & A. Appadurai, 1998, Cities and Citizenship, Duke. selections.

H. Lefebvre, 1996, "The Right to the City" in Writings on Cities, ed. E. Kofman, Wiley.

D. Harvey, 2012. "The Creation of the Urban Commons," in Rebel Cities, Verso.

READING NOTES (500 words)/MULTIMEDIA Post 3 : due in class 9/29 or 10/6 or 10/13 (10%)

Look at: "Occupy, Anthropology and the 2011 Global Uprisings." <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/63-occupy-anthropology-and-the-2011-global-uprisings>

In-class discussion: Did Occupy reach your city? Is Urban Anthropology up to the task of responding to and making sense of contemporary urban social movements? What are the implications of anthropological strategies of participant observation for doing so?

Class 6-10/6 Urban Youth: Consumption/Desire, Inclusion /Exclusion, Public /Private Life (aka Sex in the City)

Read:

S. Newell. 2012. The Modernity Bluff: Crime, Consumption and Citizenship in Cote D'Ivoire, Chicago. selections.

L. Rofel, 2007, "Qualities of Desire: Imagining Gay Identities," in Desiring China: Experiments in Neoliberalism, Sexuality and Public Culture. Duke.

J. Binnie. 2000. Cosmopolitanism and the sexed city. City Visions, 166-78.

READING NOTES (500 words)/MULTIMEDIA Post 3 : due in class 9/29 or 10/6 or 10/13 (10%)

In-class discussion: Is urban sexuality 'different'? Why? How can we think about the division, or overlap, of urban private and public space and behaviors?

In class: FILM SCREENINGS

Class 7 - 10/13 Surveillance, Insecurity and Law in the City

Read:

D. Goldstein, 2013, Outlawed: Between Security and Rights in a Bolivian City, Princeton. Selections.
S. Graham, 2010, "War Re-enters the City," in Cities Under Siege: The New Military Urbanism, Verso.
K. Koonings and J. Duijt, 2009. "Introduction" to Megacities and the Politics of Urban Exclusion in the Global South, Zed. Skim.

Reading Notes (500 words) /Multi-media Post4: due in class 10/13 or 10/20 (10%)

In-class Research Exercise: Media Day – Surveillance, Policing and (In)Security in Your City.

In-class Methods Exercise: The City and the Screen. S. Graham, "CCTV," in City AZ Urban Fragments.

Prepare for Daniel Goldstein, Guest Lecture Wednesday, Oct.15, 2014.

Class 8 10/20 Urban Planning, Architecture and Infrastructure

Read:

"Gates" and "Planning" in City A-Z

Jordan, D. P. 1996. Transforming Paris: The Life and Labors of Baron Haussmann. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Excerpt.

Nikhil Anand: "Pressure: The poli-technics of Water Supply in Mumbai" (see website)

<http://www.culanth.org/articles/64-pressure-the-politechnics-of-water-supply-in>

J. Holston, "The Modernist City and the Death of the Street," in Theorizing the City: The New Urban Anthropology Reader, ed. S. Low. Rutgers.

S. Low. (see website):

http://www.antropologi.info/blog/anthropology/2006/ethnographic_research_gated_communities

Reading Notes (500 words) /Multi-media Post4: due in class 10/13 or 10/20 (10%)

In-class: Dr. Chalfin shares her research on infrastructure and urban planning in Ghana.

Class 9 - 10/27 Global Cities: Network, Scale and Global Critique

Read:

M. Castells, 1996, "Megacities," in The Network Society pp. 434-440

S. Sassen, 2005. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept" in Brown Journal of World Affairs. 11/2.

Read selection from A. Huyssen, 2008 Other Cities, Other worlds or another critique of Sassen's model posted by Dr. Chalfin

Reading Notes (500 words)/Multi-media Post5: due in class 10/27, 11/10 (10%)

In-class Mapping Exercise: How global is your city?

Read and Discuss "Networks," "Services," Telematics," "Money" in City A-Z

Class 10 - 11/3: Digital Cities and Digital Anthropology

This is an area of investigation for which a developed literature barely exists. Please provide a description and multi-media representation of the digital environment of your city and supporting data. Also share any anthropological or other scholarly research on the digital dimensions of urban experience, urban infrastructure, urban culture and inequality etc. that you consider relevant. Please provide a link and a short write-up. For some ideas, take a look at
<http://openanthcoop.ning.com/group/urbananthropology/forum/topics/unlocking-the-digital-city>
http://archive.wired.com/wired/archive/3.06/digcity_pr.html

Reading Notes/Multimedia Post 6 on digital environment in your city: due 11/2 (10%)
THIS IS DUE ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, by 10pm.

Class 11 - 11/10 Waste, Sustainability and Eco-Cities.

Read:

<http://sustainablecitiescollective.com/>

P. Kirby, 2009, *Troubled Natures: Waste, Environment, Japan*. Selections.

R. Fredericks, 2011 "Devaluing the dirty work: gendered trash work in participatory Dakar," - in *Economies of Recycling*, ed J. Reno, Zed.

Reading Notes (500 words)/Multi-media Post 5: due in class 10/27, 11/10 (10%)

In class:

Talking Points and Eco-Research Agendas

Screen Jamie Furniss TED Talk.

Discuss "Pigeons" and "Slums" in City A-Z

Class 12 11/17 Individual Meetings to discuss MMUP

Schedule individual meetings with instructor to plan or evaluate Long Entry research project.

No Class Nov 24 African Studies Association Annual Meetings

No Class Dec 1 American Anthropological Association Annual Meetings

Class 13 – 12/8 Multi-media Urban Portfolio Presentations and Discussions

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UNIVERSITY POLICY

The following information is provided in conformance with University Policy:

1. Policy related to class attendance, make-up exams, and other work
Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.
2. Accommodations 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 Professor when requesting accommodation. Upon receipt of documentation, the Professor will grant the accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow these procedures as early as possible in the semester.
3. Online course evaluation process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.
Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>
4. Religious Observances: Students seeking modification of due dates for class participation, assignments, and exams for religious reasons (e.g., holiday observances) should contact the Professor and request this modification.

5. Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge that states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or any TAs assigned to this class. Instances of dishonesty include conducting unauthorized research on the internet and failing to cite sources of information on any work submitted, as well as unauthorized collaborating with students or others to determine the answers on assignments and exams.

6. Counseling and Emergency Services

-the University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>

– Student Health Care Center, 392-1171 – Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601 –

Center for Sexual Assault/Abuse Recovery and Education (CARE), Student Health Care Center,

392-1161 – University Police Department 392-1111 (non-emergency); call 9-1-1 for emergencies

7. Electronic Course Reserves: The electronic course reserve service is offered by the George A. Smathers Libraries. Under the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities have the right to equal access, use and benefit of the course materials that have been placed on reserve in the Libraries.