

Urban Latin America

LLS 4910/8916- cross listed with SOC 4800/8806-001

Meeting times: Tuesdays-Thursdays: 1:00-2:15 pm

Location: Kayser Hall 234

Professor: Lissette Aliaga Linares, Ph.D.

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Office hours: by appointment only

Course description

Over the past forty years, Latin American cities have boomed. In 1950, 40 percent of the region's population was urban, but by 1990 it was up to 70 percent. Today, about 80 percent of the region's population lives in cities, a higher proportion than the group of most-developed countries. By 2050, it is expected that around nine in ten Latin Americans will live in cities.

Latin America's dramatic shift from mostly rural to highly urbanized has important economic, political and social ramifications. In many ways, the future of Latin America depends on how it will respond to current challenges in urban planning, economic development, and democratization. This course surveys the urbanization process of Latin America, exploring its consequences and challenges. The first half of the course will provide an historical overview of the evolution of Latin American cities. This overview will help us contextualize the contemporary trends that lead to Latin America's fast urbanization since the mid-twentieth century. Then, we will explore the factors that shaped the structure of Latin American cities and gave birth to many of its most-known urban forms (e.g. favelas, squatter settlements, as well as gated communities). Finally, we will discuss current challenges, learn from recent policy initiatives, and problematize how they address the persistent and rising trend in the region's economic and social inequalities.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this class, students should be able to:

1. Interpret basic indicators of urbanization
2. Understand and distinguish Latin American urbanization and its connections to the global economy
3. Have a basic knowledge on contemporary issues related to urban governance and social policy in Latin America
4. Be familiar with Latin American scholarship on urban problems
5. Be able to critically discern the images and portrayals of Latin American cities in the media

Required Texts

For your convenience **all** texts will be available either through blackboard under the course materials tab, on-reserve at Criss Library or available to read online through the E-book library. Books on-reserve at Criss Library will be available for a two-hour checkout. If you prefer reading somewhere else, be sure to make a copy of the assigned chapter in advance.

Course Format, Requirements and Evaluation

The course format will be a combination of lectures, in-class audiovisual materials, student presentations and class discussions. Student participation is expected throughout the class. Students will be reading between 50 to 70 pages each week. Students are expected to complete **all** required readings and write weekly memos **prior** to class meetings. Attendance is mandatory. Multiple absences will affect students' grades. Extenuating circumstances need to be discussed with the instructor, ideally in advance.

The final grade will be based on:

- Attendance and participation 20%
(includes submission of weekly reading memos on blackboard)
Every Monday before 10:00 am, students will submit electronically reading memos (1 single spaced page at maximum) through blackboard. These memos should include: a brief summary of the main points of the readings, your critical comments, and two questions/topics you would like to discuss in class. Some weeks you will be asked to provide additional comments, or answer specific questions based on the readings or a video shown in class. Check the discussion board a week in advance to familiarize with those questions before reading the assigned course material. No late reading memos will be accepted.
- Class Presentations 15%
(includes presentations based on the assigned readings, term papers and film critique)
Students will take turns leading the discussion sections of the class. Put extra effort in drafting your discussion questions based on the assigned reading(s) for that day. Additionally, students are expected to present their term papers/film critiques in class. Be prepared to give a six minute presentation that summarizes the key points of your paper/critique. PowerPoint is optional.
- First-term paper 20% **Due on February 26th**
(Three-page essay): Choose a Latin American city from a suggested list of cities that have not been covered in enough detail in class. Calculate or compile indicators of urbanization and other relevant social characteristics, comparing changes by decade (1950s to the present). Try to explain how the selected city reflects the changes we have discussed in class and how it differentiates itself from other cities in the region. Guidelines and sources of information will be discussed in class and posted on blackboard.

- Film critique 20% **Due on March 31st**
Students will watch one film or documentary related to course content (list of suggested films will be posted on blackboard) and write a film review (500-750 words) relating it to course content. Students may choose the film, but it should be approved by the instructor. Guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.
- Final Essay 25% **Due on May 5th**
Graduate Students: *Book Review.* During the semester, graduate students are expected to read a book on contemporary urban Latin America from the list of suggested books posted on blackboard. Informed by the discussions and the course's reading list, they will write a critical book review. Book reviews will be peer-reviewed in class. Guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.

Undergraduate students: *Final Take-Home Essay.* Students will prepare a final essay (1200-1400 words) answering a summative question. This question will be posted on Blackboard at the end of prep week (April 30th afternoon). Students are expected to demonstrate both breadth and depth of knowledge of material covered throughout the semester. There will be a voluntary peer review process (in-class) for students seeking feedback on their essay on the due date. Guidelines for peer review will be posted on Blackboard. Students are encouraged to resubmit a revised version of their essay no later than May 7th at midnight.

Only for the First-term paper, film critique or final essay:

- A late assignment penalty of a 10% grade reduction will be assessed for every day beyond a given deadline, with exceptions granted only for documented medical and family emergencies.
- You can resubmit your assignments to improve your grade. The revised assignments should be turned in 48 hours after you received the instructors' feedback.

Final grades will be based upon a standard grading scale: A+= 97-100, A=94-96%, A-=90-93%, B+=87-89%, B=84-86%, B-=80-83%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=59% and below. For students taking the course on a credit/non-credit basis, a grade of C- (70% or better) is passing for undergraduate credit.

Extra credit: Students may earn up to an additional 3 points on their final average by submitting a critical review of a news article based on a Latin American city. Select a news article from recognized media sources only: Reuters, UPI, Time, BBC, Aljazeera, etc. Write a review (500-750 words) relating the topic to the course content. Bring a printed copy of your review to class and be prepared to present it to your classmates. Extra credit assignments can be turned in any time during the semester but will not be received after the last day of class (April 30th).

University Policies

Academic Integrity: The maintenance of academic honesty and integrity is a vital concern of the University community at UNO. Any student found responsible for violating the policy on Academic Integrity is subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Please read carefully what those actions are and could entail at <http://www.unomaha.edu/graduate-studies/academic-integrity.php>

Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are provided for students who are registered with Disability Services and make their requests sufficiently in advance. For more information, contact Disability Services (MBCS 111, Phone: 554-2872, TTY: 554-3799) or go to the website: www.unomaha.edu/disability

Class Schedule

PART I: Foundations

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

Tuesday 13th: What does Urban Latin America look like and why should we care?

Thursday 15th: What is urbanization? How are cities defined? What does it mean to be urban?

Assigned readings:

Lampard, Eric. E. 1965. "Historical aspects of urbanization". In: Philip M. Hauser and Leo F. Schrone (eds) *The Study of Urbanization*. John Wiley and Sons Inc: New York. Pp. 519-550.

Wirth, Louis. 1938. "Urbanism as a way of life". *The American Journal of Sociology*. Vol. 44 (1):1-24.

No required memo this first week **but do post on blackboard no later than 10:00 am on Thursday 15th your initial response to the questions that will guide the lecture.**

Week 2: The Urban Toolkit to Understand Latin America Cities

January 20th: Urbanization, development and underdevelopment

Assigned readings:

Portes, Alejandro and John Walton. 1944. "The Economy and Ecology of Urban Poverty". In: *Urban Latin America: The Political Condition from Above and Below*. University of Texas Press: Austin. Pp. 7-69.

January 22nd: In-class exercise, basic indicators of urbanization

Week 3: From Pre-Colombian Cities to Colonial Cities

January 27th: Functions and roles of Pre-Colombian cities (before 1492)

In-class documentary: The Lost Pyramids of Caral

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KMmEVaFPW0>

January 29th: Urbanization and Colonialism (from 1500s to early 1800s)

Assigned Readings

- One of the following case studies from Gilbert, Joseph and Mark D. Szuchman.1995. *I Saw a City Invincible* (Available through E-Book Library): Chapter 2 (Mexico City), Chapter 3 (Lima), Chapter 4 (Buenos Aires), Chapter 5 (Salvador de Bahia).

Week 4: Urban Changes of the nineteenth and early twentieth century

February 3rd: The Republican city and the Emergence of the Industrial city

February 5th: Urban centers in Neocolonialism in Latin America (1840-1930)

Assigned Readings

One of the following case studies from Gilbert, Joseph and Mark D. Szuchman.1995. *I Saw a City Invincible* (Available through E-Book Library): Chapter 6 (Bogotá), Chapter 7 (Lima), Chapter 8 (Buenos Aires), Chapter 9 (Sao Paulo), Chapter 11 (Mexico).

Week 5: The Industrial City

February 10th: The Industrialization by Substitution of Imports period (1940 to 1980)

February 12th: Characteristics of the ISI city

Assigned readings:

Roberts, Bryan. 1995. "Urbanization and Industrialization". In: *The Making of the Citizens: Cities of Peasants Revisited*. Taylor and Francis Ltd.: London, UK. Pp. 55-86.

Week 6: Towards the Free Market City

February 17th: Cities and Megacities during the structural adjustment in Latin America (1980 –1995)

Assigned Readings:

One of the following country case studies from Portes, Alejandro, José Itzigsohn and Carlos Dore Cabral. 1994. *The Urban Caribbean Transition to the New Global Economy* (This book is on reserve at Criss Library): Chapter 3 (Costa Rica), Chapter 4 (Haiti), Chapter 5 (Guatemala), Chapter 6 (Dominican Republic)

OR

One of the following city case studies from Gilbert, Alan (Ed.) *The Mega-City in Latin America*: Chapter 6 (Buenos Aires), Chapter 7 (Lima), Chapter 8 (Mexico City), Chapter 9 (Rio de Janeiro), Chapter 10 (Sao Paulo), Chapter 11 (Bogotá). Book available online:

<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/uu23me/uu23me00.htm#Contents>

February 19th: The Free Market city (1990s to the present)

Assigned Readings:

Roberts, Bryan and Alejandro Portes. 2005. "The Free-Market City: Latin American Urbanization in the Years of the Neoliberal Experiment." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 40 (1): 43-82.

Week 7: Regional Comparisons between Cities

February 24th: **First paper due**. Presentations on city profiles.

February 26th: Latin American (Mega)cities in the new global economy

Assigned Readings:

Roberts, Bryan R. 2005. "Globalization and Latin American Cities". *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, Volume 29.1 March 2005 110–123.

Sassen, Saskia. 2005. "The Global City: Introducing a Concept". *Brown Journal of World Affairs* Vol 11(2):27-43.

Friedman, John. 1986. "The World City Hypothesis". *Development and Change*. Vol. 17: 69-83.

PART II: Inside the Contemporary Latin American City

Week 8: The Socio-spatial Structure of Latin American Cities

March 3rd: The layout of Latin American cities

March 5th: Socioeconomic and Racial Residential Segregation

Assigned readings:

Francisco Sabatini. 2006. "The Social Spatial Segregation in the Cities of Latin America". Working Paper, No. 3418, Inter-American Development Bank, 2006.

Telles, Edward E. 1995. "Race, Class, and Space in Brazilian Cities." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 19(3): 395-406.

Week 9: Urban Marginality

March 10th: The Birth of Informal Settlements

Assigned readings:

Mangin, William. 1967. "Latin American Squatter Settlements: A Problem and a Solution". *Latin American Research Review*, Vol. 2, No. 3, (Summer, 1967), pp. 65-98.

OR

Portes, Alejandro. 1972. "Rationality in the Slum: An Essay on Interpretive Sociology". *Comparative Studies on Society and History*, Vol. 14, 1972(3), pp. 268-286.

In class documentary: VES (Villa El Salvador)

<http://www.cultureunplugged.com/documentary/watch-online/play/11228/VES--Villa-el-Salvador->

March 12th: Consolidated Settlements, Subsidized Home Ownership and the New Housing Policy Agenda

Assigned readings:

Select one city case study from Ward, Peter, Edith Jimenez and Mercedes Di Virgilio. 2015. *Housing Policy in Latin American cities: A New Generation of Strategies and Approaches for 2016 UN Habitat III* (book is on reserve at Criss Library): Chapter 4 (Mexico city and Monterrey), Chapter 5 (Santo Domingo), Chapter 6 (Guatemala city), Chapter 7 (Bogotá), Chapter 8 (Lima), Chapter 9 (Santiago de Chile), Chapter 10 (Montevideo), Chapter 11 (Buenos Aires).

Week 10: Fortified Enclaves and Contested Public Spaces

March 17th: Gated Communities and Gentrification

Assigned readings

Caldeira, Teresa P. R. 1996. "Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation". *Public Culture*, 1996, 8: 303-328.

March 19th: Tensions in the Use of Land and Shared Public Spaces

Assigned readings

Rosenthal, Anton. 2000 "Spectacle, Fear and Protest: A Guide to History of Urban Public Space in Latin America". *Social Science History*. Vol. 24(1): pp.33-73

Week 11: No classes-Spring Break

PART III: A Closer Look to the Urban Challenges

Week 12: Crime and Social Cohesion

March 31st: **Film critique due. Presentations in class**

April 2nd: Evolution of Urban Violence and Social Disorganization in Latin American cities

Assigned readings

Roberts, Bryan R. 2011. "The Consolidation of the Latin American City and the Undermining of Social Cohesion". *City & Community*, 10(4):414-423, December 2011.

Concha-Eastman, Alberto. 2002. "Urban Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean: Dimensions, Explanations, Actions". In: *Citizens of Fear: Urban Violence in Latin America*. Rotker, Susana (editor). Rutgers University Press. Pp. 37-54.

Week 13: In the Search for Economic Opportunity

April 7th: Labor Market Trends and Economic Informality

Assigned readings

Portes, Alejandro and Kelly Hoffman. 2003. Latin American Class Structures: Their Composition and Change in the Neoliberal Era. *Latin American Research Review* Vol. 38 (1): 41-82.

OR

Tokman, Victor. 2007. The informal economy, insecurity and social cohesion. *International Labour Review*. Vol. 146 (1-2): 81-107.

April 9th: On the Move, International and Internal Migration within Latin American Cities

Assigned readings

Roberts, Bryan. 2010. "Moving On and Moving Back: Rethinking Inequality and Migration in the Latin American City". *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Volume 42, Issue 03, August 2010, pp 587-614.

Consult trends by reading the Migration policy Institute report at

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/other-side-fence-changing-dynamics-migration-americas>

Week 14: Poverty and Inequality

April 14th: The New Poverty and the Hopes of Social Mobility

Assigned readings

González de la Rocha, Mercedes. 2001. "From the Resources of Poverty to the Poverty of Resources? The Erosion of a Survival Model". *Latin American Perspectives*. Vol. 28 (4): 72-100.

OR

Torche, Florencia. 2014. "Intergenerational Mobility and Inequality: The Latin American Case". *Annual Review of Sociology*. Vol. 40: 619-642.

April 16th: The Ghettoization of Latin America?

Assigned readings

Wacquant, Loïc. 1997. "Three Pernicious Premises in the Study of the American Ghetto." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 21 (2): 341-353.

and

Auyero, Javier. 1997. "Wacquant in the Argentine Slums: Comment on Loïc Wacquant's 'Three pernicious premises in the study of the American Ghetto.'" *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 21(3): 508-511.

OR

Eckstein, Susan. 1990. "Urbanization Revisited: Inner-City Slum of Hope and Squatter Settlement of Despair". *World Development*, Vol. 18, No. 2, pp. 165-181.

Week 15: Decentralization and Citizen Participation

April 21st: Decentralization and Political Participation

Assigned readings

Campbell, Tim. 2003. "The Backdrop to Revolution and the Seeds of Reform". In: *The Quiet Revolution: Decentralization and the Rise of Political Participation in Latin American Cities*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2003. Pp: 13-30.

April 23rd: The Case of Participatory budgeting

Assigned readings

Rodgers, Dennis. 2011. "Separate but Equal Democratization? Participation, Politics, and Urban Segregation in Latin America". Working paper 16. United Nations University/World Institute for Development Economics Research. Pp.1-15.

Souza, Celina. 2001. "Participatory budgeting in Brazilian cities: Limits and Possibilities in Building Democratic Institutions". *Environment and Urbanization* Vol. 13 (1): 159-184.

Week 16: Effective Urban planning (Prep week)

April 28th: Legacies of urban planning

Assigned readings

Hardoy, Jorge E. 1992. "Theory and Practices of Urban Planning in Europe, 1850-1930: Its Transfer to Latin America". In: Morse, Richard M. and Jorge E. Hardoy (eds.). *Rethinking the Latin American City*. Pp. 20-49

April 30th: Current Innovations

Assigned readings

One city case study from Mc Guirk, Justin. 2014. *Radical Cities: Across Latin America in Search for a New Architecture* (book on reserve at Criss Library): Chapter 1 (Buenos Aires and Salvador de Jujuy), Chapter 2 (Lima and Santiago), Chapter 2 (Rio de Janeiro), Chapter 4 (Caracas), Chapter 6 (Bogota), Chapter 7 (Medellín), Chapter 8 (Tijuana).

Week 17: Finals week

May 5th: **Final Essay due.** *Bring a printed copy of your essay and book review for peer-review*

May 7th: Last chance to submit your revised paper