GLOBAL URBANISM (SOCL W3324)
Fall 2017
Syllabus (9.4.2017 draft)

Instructor: Saskia Sassen, Department of Sociology and Committee on Global Thought
Class time: Mon/Wed 6:10-7:25 pm
Location: International Affairs Building Room 417 (Altshuler Auditorium)
Email: sjs2@columbia.edu (best way to reach me)
Office: 713 Knox Hall (606 W 122nd St)
Office hours: Wed 2-3.30 pm and by appointment
Teaching Assistants: For all queries and requests, please contact globalurbanism2017@gmail.com.
To reach a specific TA, put the TA name in the subject line of your email.
A final list of TAs and their office hours will be sent out in the first week of class.

Introduction:
Cities are at the forefront of a range of global governance challenges, the application of technological innovations in complex settings, and novel types of economies and politics, both formal and informal. As a result, many of today's major global governance challenges become concrete, urgent and practical in major cities worldwide. Urban leaderships and urban activists have had to deal with some of these major challenges (air quality, flooding, the growth of gang warfare, a proliferation of racisms, human insecurity, new kinds of inequality) long before national governments and inter-state treaties did. In short, cities emerge as a frontier space in a growing range of domains/challenges.

What states offered in the past – mediations between the local and the international, protectionist policies, and more – has become weaker and often irrelevant (for good or for bad!). Firms can now engage localities directly (through cross-border networks, through the World Trade Organization, and more) without going through the national state. And citizens can access formal global jurisdictions (e.g. through the International Criminal Court) and informal ones (e.g. electronic global civil society spaces) directly without having to be represented by national states.

In this changing and globalized landscape, cities and networks of cities become far more important than they were in the immediate post-World War II decades (when national states and the inter-state system gained prominence and developed multiple agreements). The new phase begins in the 1980s. It has brought some very good trends – for instance, the strengthening of global civil society (which finds in cities a critical space for its projects). And it has brought some very problematic and destructive ones – for instance extreme gentrification and the growing, disproportionate power of high finance in more and more sectors of the economy, even as small traditional banks die.

We will focus on urban conditions and global challenges that concern both power and powerlessness. Of particular concern are the environment, the global and local economies, decaying and new types of urban infrastructures, human security (as distinct from the national state security), racisms of all sorts, new types of inequalities, new types of formal and informal political actors and initiatives, and emerging inter-city networks involving a broad range of actors (non-governmental organizations [NGOs], formal urban governments, informal activists, global firms, immigrants). It is in cities that these challenges can be studied empirically and that policy design and implementation can become more feasible than at national levels.

Cities are the sites for new types of formal and informal political actors and initiatives, e.g. the diverse uprisings around the world, from Tahrir Square to Wall Street. They are the sites for emerging inter-city...
networks involving a broad range of actors, from NGOs to transnational corporations (TNCs). As well, formal networks of these city governments have multiplied sharply since the 1990s.

The course draws both on classical texts about cities (Do they still work for us? What do they fail to account for?) and on the diverse new literatures on cities and larger subjects with direct urban implications. We will use a variety of data sets to get at detailed empirical information, and draw on two large ongoing research projects involving major and minor global cities around the world. An excellent site is https://lsecities.net/.

We will also deal with some of the new theoretical questions that arise out of our current urban age, ranging from the urbanizing of more and more processes that are not urban per se (war, drug gangs, extreme financial concentration), to the possibly foundational transformation in the civic features of cities, and in the meaning of urbanity itself.

**Course Assignments:**

1. **Readings:** You are asked to come to class well prepared to discuss the required readings of the session. I will ask you to bring the basic book listed below (*Cities in a World Economy*) to some of the classes and review sessions so we can work through some sections together. We will regularly have review sessions run by TAs to help you with the readings and make sure all is clear.

2. **Mid-term:** There will be an in-class mid-term that will cover the first half of the course. The format: a) two essay questions, and b) you must use the required readings assigned for the first half of the class; you cannot use other readings or materials – it is one way in which we can standardize your answers regarding grading. All the key issues will be discussed at length in the lectures. Each of the two answers should be 3 double-spaced typed pages – not longer and not shorter, for a total of 6 pages. You will have to be quite analytical to ensure you address the key issues for each question in just 3 pages. You are expected to be able to introduce issues from the lectures. **This exam counts for 50% of the grade.**

3. **Final:** The final will be the same format as the mid-term; it will cover the second half of the course’s required readings. By then you will have developed your talents at this type of writing! Do introduce issues discussed in the lectures. **The final exam counts for 50% of the grade.**

4. **Review Sessions:** We will have several review sessions run by TAs. These sessions will help you with the class materials and they will help you develop your own sense of an urban perspective on major global trends – you will be able to “see like a city.” We will have these sessions every 5 or so lectures. It will help you nail your knowledge on this multifaceted subject. Come prepared, bring the book, have your other readings handy. Ask questions about whatever you have not understood, or is unclear.

5. **Office Hours:** If you need to talk with me, please email me. We can then decide whether we do this via email or you come to my office hours. Most, but not all, Wednesdays, I will hold office hours from 2-3.30 pm.

6. **TA Office Hours:** All TAs will hold office hours once a week. You might also consider going as a small group to your TA if you all have the same question/problem. Get to know your TA’s!

7. **Participation:** Quality of participation (not how much you talk but what you say!) in lecture sessions and especially in the review sessions with TAs will be much appreciated. Participation matters: it allow us to get to know you, the particular angles you bring to the discussion, and your type of knowledge (which can vary sharply, depending on your academic background and your major).

**NOTE:** Please read at end of this syllabus the Academic Integrity Columbia College Honor Code, prepared by the students themselves.
**Books and Readings:**

**Required readings:** I am asking students to get the Cities book; it will work as a basic text as it covers most of the key subjects. *Saskia Sassen, Cities in a World Economy - 4th Edition.* (Sage/PineForge Press, 2011); available at Book Culture. (Please make sure to get the 4th edition which is quite different from earlier editions.)

We will read one book, as well as several articles, book chapters and reports; we will work with various websites that have up to date information. We will read some classic texts about cities, both by urbanists and by non-urbanists on pertinent subjects (ranging from global governance questions to technological advances and biological discoveries we can use in the effort to protect the environment).

All other required readings aside from the book (i.e. articles, book extracts, online publications, data sets, visual materials) are AVAILABLE ON COURSEWORKS: www.courseworks.columbia.edu.

**Suggested readings:** You do not have to read all of the suggested readings (though you must read all the required readings). The idea is that you also read at least some of the suggested readings. The subject is so broad that different people will be interested in different aspects. There are additional suggested readings on the Courseworks site. You can read and browse according to your interests.
I. INTRODUCTION
Wednesday, 9/6
Review of the main subjects to be covered in the class.

Introduction of some of the theoretical and methodological issues we confront when one studies cities in the context of globalization, changed relationships between national and local governments, the new military asymmetries that tend to urbanize war (conventional armies against insurgencies), and the new environmental challenges that cities are facing and the (my) notion that every surface in the city should be working with the environment (think algae, bacteria, mushrooms, digital capabilities embedded in asphalt of city streets, and so much more).

II. URBAN GLOBAL SPACE: Global Cities and Global Slums
Monday, 9/11 and Monday, 9/18.

NOTE: In between, on Wed 9/13, we will show a film about this subject. This also means that we will spend 3 sessions on the subject, so you have plenty of time to read the required text!

We will focus on the theoretical and methodological issues we confront when we study the urban condition (always thought of as local) in the context of globalization, changed relationships between national and local governments, the new environmental challenges, and the new military asymmetries that tend to urbanize war.

Cities emerge as a frontier space in a growing range of domains/challenges. The mediations offered by national states and protectionist policies have become weaker. WTO law can engage localities directly without going through the national state. And citizens can access global institutionalized spaces directly without having to be represented by national states in international forums.

- Global cities make visible major trends that might be present in other spaces (medium-sized cities, suburbs, office parks) but less extreme, less visible
- Much of the non-urban increasingly has an urban moment, step, phase.
- Slums --working slums and slums as spaces of pure misery and ill health.
- Slums in global cities are often part of global circuits --sweatshops working for famous designers.
- Slum dwellers: some are craft workers, some are civil servants, many are laborers

Required Reading:
- Sassen - Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  - Read: Ch.1; also read the Prefaces to all four editions (no need to read all the “thank you” paragraphs, just the substantive points I make in each preface –I think they help clarify).
  - To get a sense of the breadth of the subject, if you have time you may want to read Ch. 3: sections “Transnational Urban Systems” (pp. 78-84), “Global Cities and Migrations” (pp.84-86), and “Global Cities and Diasporic Networks” (pp. 86-89). Do also look at the Appendix tables referred to in those sections of Ch. 3.

Suggested Reading (read what interests you):
• Kuo - African Cities Are Starting to Look Eerily Like Chinese Ones (2015)
  In A. Huyssen (Ed.), Other cities, other worlds: urban imaginaries in a globalizing age. Durham:
  Duke University Press.
• Watson, V. (2009). Seeing from the South: Refocusing urban planning on the globe’s central urban
  issues. Urban Studies, 46(11), 2259-2275.
• Brenner & Theodor- Cities and the Geographies of ’Actually Existing Neoliberalism’ (2002).
• Sinkhole reopens in same spot where sleeping Florida man died https://www.theguardian.com/us-
  news/2015/aug/19/sinkhole-reopens-florida-house-collapse
• London's exploding pavements 'put lives at risk' after 80 fires in five years
  https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/aug/19/londons-exploding-pavements-lives-risk-80-
  fires-five-years
• Davis -The Prevalence of Slums (2007)-
  https://www.forbes.com/sites/megacities/2011/03/22/the-global-city-and-the-global-
  slum/#676aba92647
• La Salada - The Largest Informal Market in South America.
  south-america/#1b1b6cfb7d46
• Appadurai - Spectral Housing and Urban Cleansing: Notes on Millennial Mumbai (2000)
• United Nations Human Settlements Programme - Slums: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
  (2008/9)
• Dodman and Satterthwaite - Institutional Capacity, Climate Change Adaptation and the Urban
  Poor (2008)
• Hossain - Rapid Urban Growth and Poverty in Dhaka City (2008)
• The Guardian - Grenfell council 'may have committed corporate manslaughter' – Met police:
  https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jul/27/met-says-grenfell-council-may-have-
  committed-corporate-manslaughter

III. FILM: The Quito Papers: The Urban Condition Today
Wednesday, 9/13
Presented by one of the filmmakers: Dom Bagnato.

“The Quito Papers” has emerged as an alternative to Le Corbusier’s famous “Charter of Athens” as a
model for urbanism. See, for example, The New Yorker story:
http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/top-down-bottom-up-urban-design

REMININDER: Monday, 9/18 we continue with III. GLOBAL URBAN SPACE: THE SPACES OF
MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND DISPLACED PERSONS.

IV. Infrastructure Violence, Urban Insecurity & Geographies of War
Wednesday, 9/20 and Monday, 9/25

Required Reading:
• Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  ○ Read: Ch. 8: Cities as Frontier Spaces for Global Governance, pp. 297-299; When
    Pursuing National Security Is the Making of Urban Insecurity, pp 318-321
- Harvey - Rebel Cities, Chapter 2, "The Urban Roots of Capitalist Crises." (2013)

Suggested Reading:
- Coward - “Against Anthropocentrism: The Destruction of the Built Environment as a Distinct Form of Political Violence” (2006)
- Kaldor - New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era
  - Focus particularly on particular Chs. 5 and 6 (“The Globalized War Economy” and “Towards a Cosmopolitan Approach”). A third edition has been published in 2012 by polity press. We will post the two chapters on Courseworks.

V. VISITING SPEAKER: Mumbai
Wednesday, 9/27

Shahana Chattaraj, Research Fellow, Sheffield University. UK will speak about, “Iron Cage and Makeshift Shed: The ‘Jugaad’ State in Mumbai.”

VI. The Territorial Moment of Global Capital.
Monday, 10/2, Wednesday, 10/4, and Monday, 10/9

Required Reading:
- Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  - Read Chs. 4 and 5. You will already have read some sections for earlier parts of the syllabus.
  - Chapter 4. The New Urban Economy: The Intersection of Global Processes and Place
    - From the Keynesian City to the Global City pp110-111
    - The Multiple Circuits of the Global Economy pp 111-114
    - The Specialized Differences of Cities Matter: There is No Perfect Global City. This section has many easy to read tables---just browse to get a sense of a global urban space.
    - The Global City as a Postindustrial Production Site pp127-129
    - Corporate Headquarters and Cities pp140-141
    - An Emerging Global Labor Market
    - Conclusion: Cities as Postindustrial Production Sites
  - Chapter 5. Issues and Case Studies in the New Urban Economy
    - The Development of Global City Functions: The Case of Miami
    - The Growing Density and Specialization of Functions in Financial Districts: Toronto
The Concentration of Functions and Geographic Scale: Sydney

Competition or Specialized Differences: The Financial Centers of Hong Kong and Shanghai

Making New Global Circuits in Energy and Finance: The Gulf States

An Old Imperial City in Today’s New East–West Geopolitics: Istanbul

Suggested Reading:
- Aalbers and Christophers - "Centering Housing in Political Economy" (2013)
- Bryan and Rafferty - "Political Economy and Housing in the Twenty-First Century: From Mobile Homes to Liquid Housing?" (2013)

VII. REVIEW SESSION with TAs.
Wednesday, 10/11

VIII. REVIEW SESSION with Professor Sassen.
Monday, 10/16

IX. MIDTERM –IN CLASS.
Wednesday, 10/18

The questions will not be easy, but you can do it –you will have worked with these readings in your TA group discussions and in class lectures. Your answers should be based on a thorough understanding of the required readings and class lectures. You are NOT to use other readings— just the ones in the syllabus (this is the only way grading can be somewhat standardized.)

X. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Ecological Footprints & the Limits to Urban Growth
Monday, 10/23 and Wednesday, 10/25

Required Reading:
- Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  - Ch. 8: pp. 297-8; Bridging the Ecologies of Cities and of the Biosphere pp. 299-304. (You may also want to read sections in Ch. 4: Dead Land Dead Water of my Expulsions book (which came out in 2014); we will post the chapter on Courseworks.
- Vast burnt zone China http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2015/08/he-xiaoxin-how-far-can-i-go-and-how-much-can-i-do/

Suggested Reading:
● Boomtown, Floodtown https://www.texastribune.org/boomtown-floodtown/
● McGranahan - “Urban Transitions and the Spatial Displacement of Environmental Burdens” (2012)
● Matthew and Hammill - “Sustainable Development and Climate Change” (2009)
● Diamond - “What’s Your Consumption Factor?” (2008)
● Outram, et al. - “The Copenhagen Wheel: An innovative electric bicycle system that harnesses the power of real-time information and crowd sourcing” (2012)
● Toly - “Transnational Municipal Networks in Climate Politics: From Global Governance to Global Politics” (2008)
● Balachandran and Punit - Why India’s solar sector has turned into a $100 billion investment magnet (2015) http://qz.com/434890/why-indias-solar-sector-has-turned-into-a-100-billion-investment-magnet/
● Midwest -Catastrophic Flooding Is Getting Worse and We're Woefully Unprepared http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/02/flooding-more-frequent-midwest-climate/

XI. REVIEW OF MIDTERM with TAs
Monday, 10/30

XII. MIGRATORY AND MONETARY FLOWS: Refugees, Remitters & Internally Displaced Persons
Wednesday, 11/1

Required Reading:
● Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  ○ Chapter 7: Section: Producing a Global Supply of the New Caretakers: The Feminization of Survival (You will already have read this in earlier section)
● Sassen - “Land Grabs Are Partly To Blame For Skyrocketing Violence In Central America” http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/landgrabs-central-america_us_586bf1a6e4b0eb58648abe1f

Suggested Reading:
● Zolberg - “Managing a World on the Move” (2006)
● Agier - “Between War and City: Towards an Urban Anthropology of Refugee Camps” (2002)
● Biermann and Boas - “Preparing for a Warmer World: Towards a Global Governance System to Protect Climate Refugees” (2010)
● Japan Limited Immigration; Now It’s Short of Workers https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/10/business/japan-immigrants-workers-trump.html?mcubz=1
• Australia doesn't want them. Trump doesn't either. Who are these refugees trapped in bleak island camps? http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-australia-refugees-20170202-story.html

XIII. UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY - No Class
Monday, November 6

XIV. THEORIZING THE CITY: Classical & Contemporary Reflections
Wednesday, November 8

Required Reading:
• Simmel - “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (2002)
• Braude: “Divisions of Space and Time in Europe” (2006)
• Zorbaugh - “The Natural Areas of the City” (1926)
• Dear: “Los Angeles and the Chicago School: Invitation to a Debate” (2002)
• Abbot: “Los Angeles and the Chicago School: A comment on Michael Dear” (2002)
  ◦ Read “Introduction”
• Sampson - “Studying Modern Chicago” (2002)
• Sassen - “Scales and Spaces” (2002)

Suggested Reading:

XV. INEQUALITY - Penalizing the Poor: Neoliberal Enclosure & the Production of Advanced Marginality
Monday, November 13

Required Reading:
• Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  ◦ Chapter 6:
    ■ The New Inequalities within Cities
    ■ Transformations in the Organization of the Labor Process
    ■ The Earnings Distribution in a Service-dominated Economy
    ■ The Restructuring of Urban Consumption
    ■ Conclusion: A Widening Gap
  ◦ Chapter 7: pp. 279-291
    ■ The Other Workers in the Advanced Corporate Economy
    ■ Producing a Global Supply of the New Caretakers: The Feminization of Survival
  ◦ Chapter 8: section: When Finance Hits Urban Space

Suggested Reading:
• Wacquant - “French Working-Class Banlieue and Black American Ghetto: From Conflation to Comparison” (2006)
• Venkatesh and Murphy - “Policing Ourselves: Law and Order in the American Ghetto” (2006)
• Regalado -“Walls Around Rio’s Slums Protect Trees But Don’t Inspire Much Hugging” (2009)
• Davis and Moctezuma - “Policing the Third Border.” (1999)
• Forced Out http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/02/08/forced-out
• White communities in the Bay Area have lower low-income housing goals, study finds http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-pol-ca-disproportionate-white-housing-goals-20170823-story.html

XVI. INTELLIGENT CITIES
Wednesday, 11/15

Required Reading:
• Greenfield - Against the Smart City (2011)
• Sassen - Digitization And Work: Potentials and Challenges in Low Wage Labor Market: https://osf.app.box.com/s/qlnbri95vm79720kpvu3igq8ldhc00

Suggested Reading:
• The rise of the smart city https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-rise-of-the-smart-city-1492395120
• The truth about smart cities: ‘In the end, they will destroy democracy’ https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/dec/17/truth-smart-city-destroy-democracy-urban-thinkers-buzzphrase
• Data is the secret weapon in the battle to save Australia's urban forests https://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2016/may/30/data-is-the-secret-weapon-in-the-battle-to-save-australias-urban-forests

XVII. Territorializing Capital: Cross-Border Circuits, the Political Economy of Place, Gendering.
Monday, 11/20

Required Reading:
• Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  o Chapter 2. Introduction pp.15-16; The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization; Strategic Places pp.32-41; Conclusion: After the Pax Americana pp42-43.
  ■ This is most of Ch2 except the data driven section called: The Global Economy Today; if you are interested in the global economy, you can begin to work your way through it, or check out some of the tables, but you do not have to.
  o Chapter 6. Global Cities and Global Survival Circuits Read pp.273-279
Suggested Reading:
● How to Design a City for Women https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2013/09/how-design-city-women/6739/

XVIII. UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY - NO CLASSES
Wednesday, 11/22

XIX. Transformative Technologies: Digitization & the Possibility of New Urban Politics.
Monday, 11/27

Required Reading:
● Cities in a World Economy (4th Edition)
  ○ Ch. 5: 2 sections: Why Do Financial Centers Still Exist in the Global Digital Era? at p. 216, and: In the Digital Era: More Concentration than Dispersal p.21

Suggested Reading:
● Cartier, Castells, and Qiu - “The Information Have-Less: Inequality, Mobility, and Translocal Networks in Chinese Cities” (2005)
● Mitchell - “Intelligent Cities” (2007)

XX. VISITING SPEAKER: Vanessa Keith
Wednesday, November 29

Architect Vanessa Keith presents her work on how to build cities that enable environmental protection.

XXI. REVIEW SESSION with TAs
Monday, 12/4

This will be a review of themes from the second half of the class to help you prepare for the final.

XXII. FINAL SESSION with Professor Sassen
Wednesday, 12/6
XXIII. FINAL EXAM
Monday, 12/11

The final exam will cover the second half of the course and be in the same format as the midterm.

NOTE: If your program has special deadlines, please find out. Let me know if you are a graduating senior, and if so, congratulations!!

Academic Integrity – Columbia College Honor Code:

The Columbia College Student Council, on behalf of the whole student body, has resolved that maintaining academic integrity is the preserve of all members of our intellectual community—including and especially students. As a consequence, all Columbia College students will make the following pledge:

“We, the undergraduate students of Columbia University, hereby pledge to value the integrity of our ideas and the ideas of others by honestly presenting our work, respecting authorship, and striving not simply for answers but for understanding in the pursuit of our common scholastic goals. In this way, we seek to build an academic community governed by our collective efforts, diligence, and Code of Honor.”

In addition, all Columbia College students are committed to the following honor code:

“I affirm that I will not plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, or give or receive illegitimate help on assignments, papers, or examinations. I will also uphold equity and honesty in the evaluation of my work and the work of others. I do so to sustain a community built around this Code of Honor.”

Students are required to affirm their adherence to the code for each piece of work and graded assignment submitted for this course. Affirmations are to be submitted alongside of each assignment in digital or written format. Should an instructor be concerned that an individual has not adhered to this code and instead committed an academic integrity violation; the student will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and Community Standards (cc-oja@columbia.edu).