

PS378 Cities, States & the Division of Labor

Seminar Leader: Boris Vormann

Course Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 14:00-15:30

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course focuses on urbanization patterns to explore changing divisions of labor and state capacities in three distinct historical moments. In the 19th-century context of accelerating industrialization processes, we examine how economic geographies changed with the rise of national states and markets—and how visions of work and urban living were revisited with them. Our discussions about the Fordist period in the mid-20th century will deal with critiques of state technocracy, political hopes for entrepreneurial revolutions, and dystopias of stagflation and suburban uniformity. In the last section on the post-industrial era we will discuss the rise of global city networks at a planetary scale and how they reshape the capacities of public authorities and patterns of state intervention.

Requirements

Reading material (Note the exact ISBN!)

- Class Reader (available at the library)
- Abu-Lughod, Janet. 1999. *New York, Chicago, Los Angeles. America's Global Cities*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (AGC)
 - ISBN: 978-0-691-13645-5
- Sassen, Saskia. 2006. *Territory, Authority, Rights. From Medieval to Global Assemblages. Updated Edition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (TAR)
 - ISBN: 0-8166-3336-3

Class preparation

In preparation for class, read the texts thoughtfully and engage with their core argument. Take notes while reading and try to identify questions in advance: Why do the authors argue as they do? How do they raise and substantiate their claims? How does their line of argumentation relate to earlier readings and discussions in class?

Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected, as regular attendance is essential to the success of this course. There will be an attendance sheet for every session. Each absence beyond two (that is more than two absences from two sessions of 90 minutes without leave of absence from the seminar leader) will lead to the subtraction of 1 point from the overall final grade. Late arrival counts as an absence. If you miss more than 30 percent of the sessions (i.e. 9 absences) you cannot pass the class.

Assignments, Grade Breakdown and Essay Deadlines

Oral

• **Classroom Participation (2*15%)** **30%**

This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussions and working groups. This includes a persistent reflection on current events related to the course's core themes. The classroom is a protected space and you should feel free to voice your arguments and comments. Please do not hesitate to address the seminar leader if you feel that this is not the case.

• **Workshop Organization** **20%**

Each student will organize one 60-minute workshop (in section II of the course) that should cover the following aspects:

- The course explores how changes in state-market relations take spatial form and how the relationship between urbanization and political institutions materializes at specific historical moments. How does the particular theme of your workshop help us explain these relationships?
 - Moreover, the workshop should provide a context in which the key concepts and debates of the respective reading can be critically and interactively discussed in class.
 - Finally, it should provide further cases, examples, and illustrations to think through the respective session's main theme.
- ***Do not hesitate to ask the seminar leader if you have questions in preparing your workshop!***

Written

• **10 Response Papers (each ~500 words; 10*5%)** **50%**

Each student is required to write 10 response papers (1.5-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman) on sessions of their choice (i.e., one response paper for the first section; three responses in each part of section II on urban political economies). Response papers should articulate a short argument about a given reading, seeking to embed an analysis of the primary texts' main tenets in the broader context of earlier class discussions.

- **Response papers need to be submitted in print by the beginning of the respective session.**

Policy on Late Submission of Papers and Academic Integrity

Late submissions will be downgraded by 5 points, and by an additional 2 points per extra day. After four weeks of the deadline the essay cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Schedule

Week Beginning	Tuesday	Thursday	Assignments
I. State-making and the Division of Labor			
1 Jan 27	The Division of Labor in History Please watch this lecture in preparation	***Select Workshop Slot*** Cities and States Braudel, <i>Div. of Space & Time in Europe</i> Tilly, <i>Coercion, Capital, & European States</i>	1 Response Papers
2 Feb 3	Theorizing the State Mann, <i>Autonomous Power of the State</i> Lefebvre, <i>Space and the State</i>	The State in Global Perspective Dicken, <i>Global Shift</i>	
3 Feb 10	Localizations: Economy and Space Coe et al., <i>Economic Geography</i>	Periodizations: Economy and Time Perez, <i>Technological Revolutions</i>	
II. Urban Political Economies			
NATIONAL URBAN SYSTEMS			
4 Feb 17	Rationales Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , An Overview, 1-16 Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Introduction, 1-23	Framing the National Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Chapter 2	3 Response Papers
5 Feb 24	Early Urbanization in the US Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , Part I, 17-58	National Political Economies Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Chapter 3	
6 March 3	The US-American State Bright, <i>The State in the United States During the 19th Century</i>	Consolidation and Urban Reform Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , Part II, 59-163	
7 March 10	New American Empire Panitch and Gindin, <i>The Making of Global Capitalism</i> , Part II	Embedded Liberalism Reich, <i>The Not Quite Golden Age</i>	

FORDISM AND THE CITY

8 March 17	From Depression to Restructuring Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , Part III (7), 165-211	The Fordist City Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , Part III (8/9), 212-268
9 March 24	Fordism to Flexible Accumulation Lipietz, <i>Rebel Sons</i> Harvey, <i>Condition of Postmodernity</i>	Unbundling of Fordist Compromise Reich, <i>The Road to Supercapitalism</i>
10 March 30	Changes in Urban Governance Harvey, <i>From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism</i>	After Bretton Woods Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Chapter 4

**3 Response
Papers**

**Spring Break
(April 6-13)**

POSTINDUSTRIAL URBANISM

11 April 13	The World and the Global City Friedman, <i>World City Hypothesis</i> Sassen, <i>Global City</i>	Global Cities in the US Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , Chs. 10/11, 269-357
12 April 20	Past Futures Abu-Lughod, <i>AGC</i> , Chs. 12/13, 358-426 Brenner, <i>New State Spaces</i> , Introduction	Global Cities of the Global South Simon, <i>Reflections from the Periphery</i> Robinson, <i>A View from Off the Map</i>
13 April 27	Denationalization Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Chapter 5 Watch Brenner on Planetary Urbanization	Global Digital Age Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Chapter 7
14 May 4	American Empire and the Global City Curtis, <i>Global Cities and the End of Globalism</i>	Conclusion Sassen, <i>TAR</i> , Chapters 8 & 9

**3 Response
Papers**