Course Description

This course provides an introduction to urban history and theory exploring how we think about cities have evolved over time and how the past continues to inform and shape planning practice in the present. The course will be organized thematically and will broadly follow a chronological order – beginning with the origins and evolution of the urban world and ending with current issues such as gentrification and decolonial movements. However, all topics will be examined using a relational approach; therefore, sessions will emphasize analysis across time and space to illuminate transhistorical continuities. Throughout the course, we will draw on examples from the Global North and the Global South, emphasizing trans-national and trans-geographical perspectives. While using transnational case studies means that there will not be neat and linear narratives to draw from, this approach will push students to think critically about the history of urbanization through a more diverse set of perspectives and experiences.

The course also emphasizes an intersectional approach to think about cities and change. In doing so, students will be asked to reflect and develop analyses that consider various and overlapping aspects of social identity, such as race, class, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, and health. The goal is to reflect on equity issues of urban spatial arrangement and functioning and how social, economic, political, cultural, environmental, and
technological forces that continually reshape cities reinforce social structures, including racial segregation, environmental injustice, health precarity, and housing market differentiation.

Course structure:
This course is structured as a series of lectures and in-class discussions to address key themes from an interdisciplinary perspective for critical engagement with cities and the role of planning in addressing current urban challenges. Participation is expected and required. Students should complete the readings for a given session before coming to class on that day. The course is divided into three parts: Foundations of Urban History and Theory; Space, Identities and Cultures; Politics, Governance, and Contestations.

Learning Objectives:
Through successful completion of the semester the students will be able to:

- Establish connections between aspects of theory and urban studies with current planning practice.
- Recognize and reflect on the historical continuity and recreation of social structures in how cities are shaped and reshaped.
- Engage with individual case studies and connect multiple narratives through synthetic, creative and comparative analyses.
- Formulate questions and communicate debates through different means for in-depth exploration in subsequent courses and research.
- Put theory to work when addressing key urban challenges, issues, and opportunities.

Textbooks:
There is no required text for this class. All readings have been placed on the Compass web site, organized by session and arranged in chronological order.

Compass 2g Course Web Site
Much of the course resources, readings, assignments, and announcements will be available through the course website via Compass 2g. To access Compass go to:
http://Compass2g.illinois.edu
Course Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Formal Graded Assignments</strong></th>
<th><strong>Due Dates</strong></th>
<th><strong>Points</strong></th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Historiographical essay (I)   | Draft Feb 21, 2020 9  
                             | Final Feb. 26, 2020 | 25 |
| Music playlist assignment (T) | Mar. 29, 2020  | 20 |
| Critical events presentation (T) | varies | 10 |
| Podcast (I)                   | Topic and city: Apr. 01, 2020  
                             | Script: Apr. 13, 2020  
                             | Draft: 04/29, 2020  
                             | Final: 05/14, 2020 | 25 |
| Weekly Q & A (I) (10)         | Ongoing       | 10 |
| Class participation           | Ongoing       | 10 |
| **TOTAL**                     |               | **100**    |

Your course grade will be determined by your successful completion of the components below and your active participation in this course. Course grades will be assigned on an absolute scale (A, B, C...) and will be determined by a criterion-based scale. For example, generally an A+ 98 – 100; A 94 – 97; A- 91 – 93; and so on.

Team members will receive the same grade for team assignments.

Grading Criteria

Grading rubrics will vary by assignment & can be viewed in each assignment sheet; the following are general guidelines:

- Original ideas, thoughtfully presented, carefully edited for written work, well-rehearsed for oral assignments, proper attribution of the work of others, will yield most, possibly all, of the points per assignment.
- Work that includes some original ideas and is well edited, but lacks a thorough understanding of the assignment, will receive partial points per assignment.
- Work that indicates poor preparation and poor understanding will receive only a few points per assignment.
- Work that lacks originality, is poorly edited, and shows a lack of care on the part of the student (for both oral and written assignments) will not earn any points.
- Written or oral work that is not properly attributed, lacks academic integrity (e.g., plagiarism), will receive no points & disciplinary action may be taken.
Course Policy

Land Acknowledgement
The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign occupies the lands of the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Piámkashaw, Wea, Miami, Mascoutin, Odawa, Sauk, Mesquaki, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, Ojibwe, and Chickasaw Nations. These lands were the traditional territory of these Native Nations prior to their forced removal; these lands continue to carry the stories of these Nations and their struggles for survival and identity. These Nations remain in relationship with these lands, and as a land-grant institution, the University of Illinois has a particular responsibility to acknowledge these relationships, its role in their dispossession, and its duty to facilitate their restoration.

Academic Integrity
Please be aware of the university guidelines regarding academic integrity, which can be found in the Student Code (http://studentcode.illinois.edu/). The standard for this class is that any work submitted by a student is solely, entirely, that particular student’s own work. Students caught cheating—including the use of undeclared outside sources (including the net) will receive an F for the course. While you may study with other students, the submission of others' ideas as your own is academically dishonest. All forms of academic dishonesty will be considered a serious offense of university policy. Students committing any form of academic dishonesty will be reported to their home department, the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and to the Senate Committee on Student Discipline.

Diversity:
The Department of Urban and Regional Planning (DURP) is committed to creating an environment of inclusion and opportunity that is rooted in the very goals and responsibilities of practicing planners. Conduct that interferes with the rights of another or creates an atmosphere of intimidation or disrespect is inconsistent with the environment of learning and cooperation that the program requires. By enrolling a course in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, students agree to be responsible for maintaining a respectful environment in all DURP activities, including lectures, discussions, labs, projects, and extracurricular programs. We will be governed by the University Student Code. Please see the Student Code Article 1—Student Rights and Responsibilities for further details.

Request for Special Accommodations:
To obtain disability-related adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES, you may visit 1207 S. Oak St., Champaign, call 217.333.4603, email disability@illinois.edu or go to the DRES website at http://disability.illinois.edu/.

Syllabus is subject to revisions
Please also schedule a private meeting with one of the course instructors to discuss your needs and requirements. All accommodations will try to be met once the student makes a request. Please note accommodations are not retroactive to the beginning of the semester but begin the day the student contacts their instructors with a current letter of accommodation from DRES.

**Counselling Center**

The [Counselling Center](#) is committed to providing a range of services intended to help students develop improved coping skills in order to address emotional, interpersonal, and academic concerns. The Counseling Center provides individual, couples, and group counseling. All of these services are paid for through the health services fee. The Counseling Center offers primarily short-term counseling, but they do also provide referrals to the community when students could benefit from longer term services.

**Reading Material**

All readings are in pdfs available on Compass or linked in the syllabus.

**Description of Assignments**

**Class Participation**

- Attend class on a regular basis
- Respond to questions on the readings/assignments
- Ask a well-considered question during class
- Participate in periodic short-written reflections
- Actively participate during class sessions including time with guest speakers

Hopefully students will be able to attend and participate during the synchronous class meetings. Attendance will not be graded, but we will take attendance so we can stay informed about who is engaged with the class. The class is designed so everyone can stay engaged through asynchronous discussions. However, if you are not attending synchronously please work with the TA and myself to identify a time when we can have a supplementary conversation over the semester. The plenary portions of all the sessions will be recorded for Zoom playback; we may set up additional discussion sessions.

There will be several outside class and in-class activities that will test student’s preparedness on the readings and contents of the sessions. If students have done the readings reflectively, she/he is expected to perform well in these activities.
Weekly readings question: Some weeks the instructor will pose a question on Compass to reflect on all the week's readings. Students have limited time (3-4 days) to answer the question. Other times students will be asked to conduct target research outside of class and present it during the following session.

Current events presentation: This assignment intends to help you and your peers connect the class's topic with current urban issues in the world. In pairs, students will present two current comparative events, one from a city in the Global North and one from a city in the Global South related to the class's topic. Students will sign up at the beginning of the semester for one session. The students responsible for the session's current events will prepare: A brief synopsis (3 minutes max.) of three points derived from the readings' principal argument(s). These need not be comprehensive but should be selected to reflect the students' own interests and events chosen. The three points must then be related to contemporary events in planning/urban issues. Class presentations must not be read as a text but presented in a conversational manner and supported with images. Presentations should not exceed 8 minutes in total.

Historiographical essay: Historiographical essay of 5-8 pages of a city of your choice. It has to be a city that you know well and is personally important for you.

Urban Issues Spotify/YouTube list: Students in groups are required to construct an annotated Spotify playlist of 8-10 songs revolving around one of this course topics. The Spotify list assignment is to (1) create the annotated playlist (1-3 sentences of description and justification of selection per track) collaboratively and follow it with a 500 words statement explaining the argument/logic of the music list.

Health, well-being and the city podcast: This assignment will revolve around the topic of health and well-being (broadly speaking) in cities. Each student will choose one particular issue to examine related to health and well-being and will create a 10–15-minutes podcast. The format for the project is an audio podcast presentation, a written introduction to the podcast, plus an annotated bibliography, to be shared with your classmates and instructors. Each podcast series has to include the following components: 1) Conceptual frame 2) Background 3) Case study 4) Reflection and vision. The assignment will be divided in four components: Selection of topic and city, Script, pod-cast peer review, annotated bibliography.

Paper assignments are distributed at least three weeks before the due date and graded on both the quality of content and effectiveness of the writing. In fairness to all students ten points will be deducted for late assignments, with an additional five points deducted for each subsequent
day until is received. Modest extensions on written work are possible. Extension permission, however, will not be granted on or after the due date, only before. If at least 24-hrs prior to deadline, you need to request an extension, you may send me an email request. In fairness to others, we give only modest extensions depending upon circumstances. Extensions are never granted beyond a week past the syllabus’ official deadline and even essays with set extensions will be considered late if handed in past their new agreed-upon date.

**Summary of Sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT 1: Foundations of Urban History &amp; Theory</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1. M Jan 25 Welcome &amp; overview of the class</td>
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<tr>
<td>S2. W Jan 27 Why urban history and theory?</td>
<td>Choose a city (Hist. Essay)</td>
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<tr>
<td>S3. M Feb 01 Defining and approaching the city</td>
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<td>S4. W Feb 03 Emergence of cities/ outside research</td>
<td>Outside research</td>
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<tr>
<td>S5. M Feb 08 Urbanization: Past, Present and Future</td>
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<tr>
<td>S6. W Feb 10 Origins of segregation: Urbanization in the ancient world/outside research</td>
<td>Outside research</td>
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<td>S7. M Feb 15 Colonialism &amp; settler colonialism</td>
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<td>W Feb 17 Break: No instructional day</td>
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<td>S8. M Feb 22 Assignment 1 peer review</td>
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<td>S9. W Feb 24 (De) Industrialization &amp; the city</td>
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<td>S10. M Mar 01 Foundations urban theories</td>
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<tr>
<td>S11. W Mar 03 Emergence of urban planning</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNIT 2: Space, Identities, and Cultures</td>
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<tr>
<td>S12 M Mar 08 Debates on urban modernity</td>
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<tr>
<td>S13 W Mar 10 Postmodern urbanism and critical urban theory</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<tr>
<td>S14 M Mar 15 Race &amp; urban apartheid</td>
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<td>S15 W Mar 17 Gender &amp; the patriarchal city</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<tr>
<td>S16 M Mar 22 Group presentations of playlist</td>
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<td>W Mar 24 BREAK: No instructional day</td>
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<td>S17 M Mar 29 20th (21st) century exclusions</td>
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<td>S18 W Mar 31 Health &amp; well-being in the city</td>
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<td>S19 M Apr 05 Network cities and the knowledge economy</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<td>S20 W Apr 07 Environmental justice &amp; the city</td>
<td>Outside research</td>
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<tr>
<td>S21 M Apr 12 Policing, violence &amp; the city</td>
<td>Outside research</td>
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<tr>
<td>S22 W Apr 14 Final project in-class activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>S23 M Apr 19 Globalization, borders, and migrations</td>
<td>Outside research</td>
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<td>S24 W Apr 21 Urban citizenships &amp; the neoliberal city</td>
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<td>S25 M Apr 26 Decolonial movements and the city</td>
<td>Q &amp; A</td>
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<td>S 26 W Apr 28 Podcast presentations</td>
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<td>S27 M May 03 Podcast presentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>S28 W May 05 Class wrap up</td>
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</tbody>
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_Syllabus is subject to revisions_
**Session Topics and Schedule**

**Unit 1: Foundations of Urban History & Theory**

**Session 1: Welcome and overview of the class. M 1/25**
Themes & Objectives: An overview of the course is followed by a walk-through of the syllabus. Discussion will center on (1) what are our experiences of cities? (2) Why practice urban planning?

Specific question(s) to consider: Why is it critical to think about cities at this moment in time?

**Session 2: Why urban history and theory? W 1/27**
Themes & Objectives: Many discussions about cities today look only forward, without fully considering the past. In this session we will discuss the importance of history for urban presents and futures. The discussion will be focused on the following questions: (1) What is urban history? (2) Why urban history matters?

Specific question(s) to consider: How history influences urban development? What types of experiences and knowledges are considered in the history & theory of cities?

- Video-> [Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 2016. The urgency of intersectionality.](#)

**Recommended Reading:**


*Syllabus is subject to revisions*
Session 3: Defining and approaching the city. M 02/01
Themes & Objectives: Introduction to a host of definitions of the city, as well as different perspectives on and methods for interpreting the urban.

Specific question(s) to consider: What is urban epistemology? What are the different ways in which the city has been defined and approached?


Recommended readings:
- Mumford, Lewis. 1937. What is a city? Architectural Record LXXXII.

Session 4: Emergence of Cities. W 02/03
Themes & Objectives: Overview of theories explaining the emergence of cities. The physical and social characteristics of early cities around the world are explored and compared. Basic elements of the urban form are also examined.

Specific question(s) to consider: What are cities for?

No required readings. Students will be asked to conduct targeted research in groups and share/discuss findings during class.

Recommended readings:
Session 5: Urbanization: Past, Present and Future. M 02/08
Themes & Objectives: Urbanization is examined across different geographical contexts and times, contrasting diverse aspects of this process as well as exploring concepts such as urban form, urban design and urbanism.

Specific question(s) to consider: Is there an optimal city size? Are there limits to urbanization, or should it be?


Recommended readings:

Session 6: Origins of Segregation: Urbanization in the Ancient World. W02/10
Themes & Objectives: Understanding the historical context of urban racial divisions in ancient and medieval practices of city spatial arrangements.

Specific question(s) to consider: When did we first start segregating cities into separate, unequal, and compulsory residential zones? How that practices have travelled around the globe? How those practices are reflected in the planning profession in the present?

No required readings. Students will be asked to conduct targeted research in groups and share/discuss findings during class.

Recommended readings
Session 7: Colonialism & Settler Colonialism. M 02/15
Themes & Objectives: This session explores colonialism as an ongoing process and how a society of settlers enacts various means of power that seek (from direct to more subtle ones) to depopulate the original inhabitants.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What are the various means of coloniality of power? How colonialism manifest in cities today?


Recommended reading:

Break: Non-instructional day. W 02/17

Session 8: Peer review Historiographical essay. M 02/22

Session 9: (De) Industrialization & the city. W 02/24
Themes & Objectives: This session examines how industrialization and industrial decline impacts life in cities and the effects of new technologies on social and economic spheres alongside ideological responses to (de) industrialization and processes.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What are the impacts of industrialization and deindustrialization in contemporary urban life? What are the connections between industrial cities and colonial logics of spatial arrangement and functioning?

Recommended reading:


Session 10: Foundations of Urban Theory. M 03/01

Themes & Objectives: Introduction of the basic underpinnings of urban theory, considering some of the key theorizations are discussed in relation to what has come before and the implications of both the study and practice of planning.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What are the main critiques of Roy? What are the implications for creating more just and inclusive cities?


Session 11: Emergence of Urban Planning. W 03/03

Themes & Objectives: Overview of the issues and movements that gave rise to the professionalization of urban planning in Europe and the United States and how those modes of thinking about the city were transferred and imposed in cities around the world.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What is the purpose of urban planning? What are the consequences of globalizing planning rationalities?


Recommended readings:

UNIT 2: SPACE, IDENTITIES AND CULTURES

Session 12: Debates on Urban Modernity. M 03/08
Themes & Objectives: Modernism is understood both as an approach to urban design and urban planning. The rational-comprehensive model of planning practice is introduced and discussed as the ascendant paradigm of the time and situated within the context of (interventionist) social reform on one hand and capitalist politics on the other.

Specific question(s) to be considered: Modernism for whom?

- LeCorbusier. 1929. “A Contemporary City”. In The City Reader, Richard LeGates & Frederic Stout (eds.).

Recommended reading

Session 13: Postmodern Urbanism and Critical Urban Theory. W 03/10
Themes & Objectives: Here we introduce postmodernism as a reaction to the instrumental rationality of modernism and consider the implications of this perspective on planning practice and for understanding urban areas.

Specific Question(s) to consider: What does it mean to say that a way of thinking about cities or urban planning is postmodern? What is critical urban theory?

Recommended reading:


Session 14: Race & Urban Apartheid. M 03/15

Themes & Objectives: This session examines issues of power and place through the prism of race in urban and rural landscapes. The discussion will highlight the ways that zoning, world’s fairs, and racial violence reinforced the centrality of race and social control in planning from the field’s inception.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What is planning’s role in addressing or exacerbating racial segregation in contemporary cities?


Recommended reading:


Session 15: Gender & the patriarchal city. W 03/17

Themes & Objectives: This session focuses on how ideas about gender recreate the patriarchal city as well as historical responses that challenge those urban orders.

Specific question(s) to be considered: How the patriarchal order intersects with the capitalist city? How specific forms of urban mobility and infrastructure reinforce gender inequalities? What are the alternatives from a feminist approach?

• Flanagan, M. 2018. Introduction: “Our Cities Are Patriarchy Written in Stone, Brick, Glass, and Concrete”. In Constructing the Patriarchal City: Gender and the Built Environments of London, Dublin, Toronto, and Chicago, 1870s into the 1940s. Temple University Press. (pp.1-10)

Recommended reading:

Session 16: 20th (21st) century exclusions. M 03/22
Themes & objectives: This session explores the factors that have contributed to the concentration of poverty observed in many central cities. The role of racial and ethnic discrimination, economic restructuring, gentrification and suburbanization are considered as well as policy responses at national and local levels.

Specific question(s) to be considered: How state-sponsored displacement, exclusion, and segregation have exacerbated racial inequalities in cities across the world?


Recommended reading:

Break: No instructional day. W 3/24

Session 17: Spotify list presentations. M 3/29

Session 18: Health, Well Being & City. W 03/31
Themes & Objectives: This class examines the intersections of health and urban life as well and its consequence in city development and design.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What systems of harm can be identified in how we plan cities? How can we think the city as a system of care?


Recommended reading:

Session 19: Network cities and the Knowledge Economy. M 04/05
Themes & objectives: An examination of the function of cities in the knowledge economy. How knowledge, technology and innovation are shaping the economic system in the global world?

Specific question(s) to consider: What is the virtual and material impact of technology in our cities?


Recommended reading:

UNIT 3: POLITICS, GOVERNANCE, AND CONTESTATIONS

Session 20: Environmental Justice & the City. W 04/07
Themes & objectives: An examination of the historical roots of the environmental justice movement and the intersections of environmental injustice, climate change and inequality.

Specific question(s) to be considered: How environmental injustices intersect with other forms of discrimination such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, etc.? What are the fundamental concepts of Environmental Justice?

Recommended readings:


Session 21: Policing, violence & the City. M 04/12

Themes & objectives: This session discusses policing & crime as factors shaping physical and social environments of cities focusing on how poverty, segregation, violence and incarceration are interconnected.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What are the effects of crime control on contemporary city life? How strategies to reduce crime shape how community members experience city life?


- [Video → Alexander: Mass Incarceration](#)

Recommended Reading:

- [Forensic Architecture, Goldsmiths, University of London](#).


Session 22: Final project in-class activity. W 04/14
Session 23: Globalization, Borders, and Migrations. M 04/19
Themes & objectives: Contemporary movements of populations and migratory fields are considered along with their historical roots as key elements of globalization. The symbolic and actual effects on borders are examined.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What are the broader social, political and economic context of migration in contemporary times? What are the consequences of migration in cities? How population movements are produced and produce cities of the Global South?


Recommended Reading:

Session 24: Urban Citizenships & the Neoliberal City. W 4/21
Themes & objectives: This session will examine citizenship as a contested domain between liberal ideals promoted by the neoliberal state and citizens actions to assert their claims of rights in cities.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What is the right to the city and how it materializes in different contexts? What dimensions/types of citizenship and rights should be considered when planning cities?


Recommended readings:
Session 25: Decolonial movements and the city. M 04/26

Themes & objectives: Having recognized planning’s role in settler colonialism, this session will examine the question of how urban planning theories and practices might be decolonized and the movements that have advanced anti-colonial urbanisms.

Specific question(s) to be considered: What would a decolonial city be like? What is the role of planning as a reparative practice?


Recommended reading:

- Mignolo, Walter. 2015. “Yes we can”. In *Can Non-Europeans Think?*, Hamid Dabashi (Ed), Zed Books Ltd.

Session 26: Podcast Presentations. W 04/28
Session 27: Podcast Presentations. M 05/03
Session 29: Final class. M 05/05