**CP 8813. URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT:**

**CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

Nestor Garza

Spring 2018

Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 – 2:45

Architecture (West) 259

Nestor Garza

Office Hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:00 PM, and Tuesday 9:30 – 10:30 AM

**Course Description**

The course discusses the facts, theory and prospects of urbanization processes in developing countries. We emphasize the conceptual and empirical relationship between urbanization and economic development on three analytical lines: historic, spatial and economic. The course encourages class participation by the students, and it is strongly oriented to applied research.

We emphasize the search for conceptual explanations to the proposed connections, and subsequently, debate policy options that can alleviate some of the problems. The general approach is divided into Area studies: allows us to highlight current challenges and opportunities of the urbanization process in six regions: Latin America, MENA (Middle East & North Africa), Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and East Asia & Pacific. It is however tempting to analyze these societies as a continuum, including Eastern Europe, and finding conceptual and factual commonalities. The course challenges the student to try both approaches.

**Course Format**

The course includes a combination of lectures and seminar-style discussions. In the first type of sessions, the instructor offers a general conceptual and factual background to the students. In the second type of sessions, the students will present their advances of individual research projects. They will receive feedback from peers and the instructor as to the bibliography used, management of statistic information (if needed), conceptual clarity, and research direction. The research projects will be delivered as final papers for the class.

**Target Audience**

This course has been designed for graduate students in City & Regional Planning and in Public Policy, who have an analytical background, appropriate for a research-oriented course. It can also be useful for Undergraduate students in the Liberal Arts, Design, and Business, who are interested in Development Problems and Urban Studies. The course does not have pre-requisites, but a certain degree of familiarity with geography, history and economics is recommended.

**Student Learning Objectives**

1. Understand some of the historically and economically based explanations of current urban/regional problems in developing countries
2. Create a taxonomy of spatial particularities of developing countries’ cities, and their role in the more general development processes.
3. Debate the policy options to address current urbanization challenges in developing countries
4. Understand spatial, historical and economic particularities of the different developing countries’ regions.

**Grading and Evaluation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Deadline | % |
| 1st Research Project Presentation\* |  | 25 |
| 2nd Research Project Presentation\* |  | 25 |
| (Informed) Participation in Class |  | 20 |
| Research Paper\* |  | 30 |

\* Specific research topics will be defined in agreement with the instructor

**Expectations and responsibilities**

You are responsible for showing up on time and attending all classes. If you have an assigned presentation and you cannot attend, you should contact the instructor beforehand to re-organize the full schedule of presentations. Please contact the instructors if you will need to miss multiple classes or if an emergency or sickness prevent you from attending multiple classes.

If you do not have an assigned presentation. You are still expected to attend and read the assigned material before the class session. Your (informed) participation in class will be noted as part of the grading process.

You can expect me to treat you as working professionals. I will comport myself appropriately and expect you to do so as well. This means engaging in active listening, with the ringer of your phones turned off; and your laptops used mainly for note taking. We are all colleagues in the quest for knowledge and skills, and we want this class to be a collegial experience. Please share notes with your classmates and discuss ideas and material outside of class. Your skills and expertise may be of assistance to your classmates, so please lend them a hand if you can. However, you will still be responsible for your own work. Plagiarism will not be allowed.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will not be accepted unless instructed otherwise. It is your responsibility to contact the instructors before the corresponding due date, if you are unable to comply with any of the delivery dates.

**Accommodations based on ability:** The Georgia Institute of Technology Office of Disability Resources is there to help you find solutions for physiological and psychological challenges to your educational goals. Please let us know how we can work with you: <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/content/welcome-accommodate>

**MCRP Grading scale**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Numeric Grade** | **Letter Grade** |
| A | 90 – 100 |
| B | 80 – 89 |
| C | 70 – 79 |
| D | 60 – 69 |
| F | 0 – 59 |

**Assignments**

**Research Project Presentations:** After the initial introduction to the course topics by the instructor, the students will develop a research project on a selected topic, with a title and reach defined in agreement with the instructor. During the course, the student will do two presentations of his/her progress on the project, including bibliography consulted, data collected and analyzed (if required), and hypothesis construction and demonstration. It is expected that during the time span between the two presentations, the students will show significant progress in their projects.

(**Informed) Participation in Class**: In both, the instructor and student led sessions, the students are expected to have read the corresponding material, to actively engage in the dialogue and make (informed) participations in class.

**Research Paper**:

The final exam of the class, will be an individually written research paper where the student shows his/her command of the read material, critically approaching the selected topic presented during the course. The document will have a maximum of 5,000 words, and include a properly referenced bibliography, predominantly extracted from academic sources.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the Georgia Institute of Technology and will not be tolerated in this class. You will be expected to use proper citations when quoting another’s words or discussing another’s ideas. In addition, it is expected that you remit yourself to indexed sources, with a certain degree of credibility. All your written assignments and will be held to this standard. If uncertain about citation norms, and the search for valid source, please feel free to consult with the instructor or the TA about them. For more information about plagiarism: <http://libguides.gatech.edu/citationtools/aboutplag>, and <http://libguides.gatech.edu/c.php?g=54271&p=350397>

**Class Schedule**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week | Topic | Session Type | Reading |
| 12 | Slums and Money: A Socioeconomic Analysis<http://fod.infobase.com/p_Home.aspx>  | Film | GaTech Films on Demand |
| Demographic Transition in Developing Countries | Lecture  | Arnott (2009)Duranton (2009)Gollin et al. (2016)Malpezzi (2006)Motamed et al. ( 2014)Venables (2009) |
| Development and Urbanization | Lecture |
| 34 | Economic Geography, Old and New Globalization, and Development Challenges | Lecture |
| The Changing Role of Cities in Development  | Lecture |
| Housing, Informality, and Poverty, in Developing Countries’ Cities | Lecture |
| 5 | 1st Research Project Presentation | Urbanization and (de)Industrialization | Seminar - Type | Specific References (including the ones proposed by the instructor, and the ones consulted by the students as part of their individual research projects)  |
| 6 | Urban Primacy  |
| 7 | Informal Urbanization |
| 8 | Entrepreneurialism and Informality  |
| 9 | Popular Housing |
| 10 | Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities |
| 11 | 2nd Research Project Presentation | Urbanization and (de)Industrialization |
| 12 | Urban Primacy  |
| 13 | Informal Urbanization |
| 14 | Entrepreneurialism and Informality  |
| 15 | Popular Housing |
| 16 | Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities |
| Exam week | *Delivery of final research paper* |

**General References**

1. World Bank (2009), *Slums and Money: A Socioeconomic Analysis*. TVE International. Films on Demand – GaTech Library: Films on Demand.
2. Malpezzi, S. (2006), *Cross-country patterns of urban development*. Arnott, R. & D. McMillen (eds), A Companion to Urban Economics. Blackwell Publishing Ltd, Malden MA.
3. Venables, T. (2009), Rethinking economic growth in a globalizing world: an economic geography lens. Spence et al. (ed), *Urbanization & Growth*. Commission on Growth and Development – The World Bank. Washington D.C. pp. 47-66
4. Duranton, G. (2009), Are cities engines of growth and prosperity for developing countries? Spence et al. (ed), *Urbanization & Growth*. Commission on Growth and Development – The World Bank. Washington D.C. pp.67-114
5. Motamed, M.; R. Florax & W. Masters (2014), Agriculture, transportation and the timing of urbanization: global analysis at the grid cell level. *Journal of Economic Growth* 19, 339-368.
6. Gollin, D.; R. Jedwab & D. Vollrath (2016), Urbanization with and without industrialization. *Journal of Economic Growth* 21, 35-70.
7. Arnott, R. (2009), Housing policy in developing countries: the importance of the informal economy. Spence et al. (ed), *Urbanization & Growth*. Commission on Growth and Development – The World Bank. Washington D.C. pp. 167-196

**Specific References (presented as a departure point for every research topic during the definition of research topics week and subsequent presentations)**

**Urbanization and (de)Industrialization:**

We debate the conceptual and observed relation between industrialization and urbanization, highlighting its non-realization in the case of some groups of developing countries. In particular, we transcend the neo-institutionalist and macroeconomic views that predominate in this area, emphasizing a spatial and urban markets related approach.

* Collier, P. & A. Venables (2017), Urbanization in developing economies: the assessment. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy* 33-3, 355–372
* Fox, S. (2012), Urbanization as a global historical process: theory and evidence from sub-Saharan Africa. *Population and Development Review* 38 – 2, 285-310.
* Henderson, J. and H. Gun Wang (2007), Urbanization and city growth: the role of institutions. *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 37, 283-313.
* Lessmann, C. and A. Seidel (2015), Regional inequality, convergence, and its determinants – a view from outer space. *European Economic Review* 92, 110-132.
* Remi J.; L. Christiaensen & M. Gindelsky (2017), Demography, urbanization and development: rural push, urban pull and…urban push? *Journal of Urban Economics* 98, 6-16

**Urban Primacy:**

The regularity that urban primacy increases and then decreases as a function of economic development has not been observed in some developing countries’ regions. We want to push the theoretical boundaries regarding the topic, and specially, we want to connect the phenomenon with the spatial structures and markets in these types of cities.

* Brulhart, M. and F. Sbergami (2009), Agglomeration and growth: cross-country evidence. *Journal of Urban Economics* 65 – 1, 48-63.
* Castells-Quintana, D. (2016), Malthus living in a slum: Urban concentration, infrastructure and economic growth. *Journal of Urban Economics* 92, 31-47.
* Frick, S. & A. Rodríguez-Pose (2016), Average city size and economic growth. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* 9(2), 301–318
* Garza, N. (2016), Primate cities in Latin America: A theoretical framework based upon intra-urban driving forces. *International Journal of Urban Sciences* 20(2), 241-259.
* Au, C. & J. Henderson (2006), Are Chinese Cities Too Small? *The Review of Economic Studies* 73(3), 549–576

**Informal Urban Markets:**

This essay debates the spatial structures found in developing countries, departing from a taxonomy of informal developments and into a conceptual debate to the concept itself. The debate illuminates if spatial inequalities are just the reflection of wider socio-economic inequalities, or have urban structure particularities that re-inforce their initial conditions. What role (positive or negative) does the slum have on economic development?

* Ahmad, S.; M. Joong Choi & J. Ko (2013), Quantitative and qualitative demand for slum and non-slum housing in Delhi: empirical evidences from household data. *Habitat International* 38, 90-99.
* Marx, B; T. Stoker & T. Suri (2013), The economics of slums in the developing world*. Journal of Economic Perspectives* 27(4), 187-210.
* Fox, S. (2014), The Political Economy of Slums: Theory and Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa. *World Development* 54, 191–203,
* Inostroza, L. (2017), Informal urban development in Latin American urban peripheries. Spatial assessment in Bogotá, Lima and Santiago de Chile. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 165, 267-279.
* Monkoonen P. and L. Ronconi (2013), Land use regulations, compliance and land markets in Argentina. *Urban Studies* 50 – 10, 1951-1969.

**Entrepreneurialism and Informality**

An important percentage of the economic activity in developing countries occurs out of the radar of formal national accounts. These economic activities in the urban environment, are one of the main sources of employment and value added, and develop their own institutional systems. Can developing countries’ economies harness the power of their informal economies, to incentivize stronger and sustained accumulation processes?

* Moreno-Monroy, A. (2012), Critical commentary: Informality in space: understanding agglomeration economies during economic development. *Urban Studies* 49(10), 2019-2030.
* Gulyani, S. & D. Talukdar (2010), Inside informality: the links between poverty, microenterprises, and living conditions in Nairobi’s slums. *World Development* 38(12), 1710-1726.
* Rangaswamy, N. & Nair, S. (2010), The mobile phone store ecology in a Mumbai slum community: hybrid networks for enterprise. *Information Technologies & International Development* 6(3), 51-65.
* Berner, E.; G. Gomez and P. Knorringa (2012), ‘Helping a large number of people become a little less poor’: the logic of survival entrepreneurs. *European Journal of Development Research* 24, 382–396
* Temkin, B. (2009), Informal self-employment in developing countries: entrepreneurship or survivalist strategy? Some implications for public policy. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy* 9(1), 135-156

**Popular Housing**

Housing policies in developing countries respond to different economic and social incentives than in developed countries. The right to housing as a shelter is not necessarily equal to its right as an asset; this discussion has implications beyond the scope of developing countries. What are the reasons and effects of such an approach? Can the policy be modified, and housing more population in fast urban growth countries?

* Borsdorf, A.; R. Hidalgo & R. Sánchez (2007), A new model of urban development in Latin America: The gated communities and fenced cities in the metropolitan areas of Santiago de Chile and Valparaíso. *Cities* 24(5), 365-378.
* Keywords: Urban development; urban fragmentation; gated communities; Latin America; ChileEchanove, M. & R. Srivastava (2011), The high-rise and the slum: speculative urban development in Mumbai. Brooks, N.; K. Donaghy & G. Knaap (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, 789-813. Oxford University Press UK.
* Joseph, M. and F. Wang (2010), Population density patterns in Port-au-Prince, Haiti: A model of Latin American city? *Cities* 27, 127-136
* Ram, P. (2016, The provision of affordable housing in India: Are commercial developers interested? *Habitat International* 55, 100-108.
* Smolka, M. & C. Biderman (2011), Housing informality: an economist's perspective on urban planning. Brooks, N.; K. Donaghy & G. Knaap (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, 814-833. Oxford University Press UK.

**Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities**

Globalization processes have had deep effects in developing countries’ cities, both direct changes to economic and financial flows, and indirect, policy responses. The spatial and non-spatial impact of the emerging social order has been scarcely analyzed in developing countries’ cities. We analyze the variety of globalizing patterns found in so many different societies and spatialities, where common trends emerge that give us an idea of present and expected challenges and opportunities.

* Anttiroiko, A. (2015), City branding as a response to global intercity competition. *Growth and Change* 46 – 2, 233–252
* Córdoba, J. & C. Gago (2010), Latin American cities and globalization: change and permanency in the context of development expectations. *Urban Studies* 47(9), 2003-2021.
* Garza, N. (2016), Skyscrapers in Santiago: 300 meters of globalization agenda. *Journal of Property Investment & Finance* 35(5), 439-454.
* Öktem, B. (2011), The role of global city discourses in the development and transformation of the Buyukdere–Maslak axis into the International Business District of Istanbul. *International Planning Studies* 16(1), 27-42
* Parnell, S. & J, Robinson (2012), (Re)theorizing cities from the global south: looking beyond neoliberalism. *Urban Geography* 33(4), 593-617.