

GEOG 325: New Master-Planned Cities (Power, Ideology and Identity)

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Winter 2015 class meeting times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35 a.m. – 9:55 p.m.

Location: 306 Burnside Hall

Course Description: This course examines the origins, designs, and cultural politics of planned cities, focusing primarily on those currently under construction in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. A variety of themes will be explored including design responses to urban pollution and over-crowding, and the rationale for branding cities as ‘green’ cities, ‘smart’, and ‘creative’. The course examines the various motivations underlying the design and construction of planned cities and how they are shaped by power, religion, political ideologies and economic interests. There will be a focus on evolving concepts used in city design as well as the continuities and cultural revivalism expressed through urban design and architecture. Students interested in urban and cultural geography, cities, architecture and planning in different cultural contexts will enjoy this course.



Goals for this course

This course will:

- Broaden students’ awareness of the variety of planned cities, the rationale for their creation, and their strategic visions.
- Encourage students to develop interdisciplinary research, analytical and critical thinking skills and gain familiarity with visual methods.
- Increase students’ understanding of the range of factors that influence the design of cities including religious and political ideology, power, economic strategies, nation-building, and branding.
- Introduce students to how scholars of geography and urban studies are examining the new cities phenomenon.

Evaluation:

10% participation – In order to keep current on new cities, students will be expected to participate online through Facebook and/or Twitter.

- The class Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/newcitiesasia>
- The class Twitter handle: #newcitiesasia

20 posts (on Facebook or Twitter or both) are required to gain the full 10%. A minimum of 5 of your posts must link to an online article relating to a new city. The rest of the posts can be responses to classmates' posts and comments. You can use your own Facebook and Twitter accounts or use anonymous accounts. If you are using anonymous accounts, please let the T.A. know your online name so your comments can be counted.

*Keep track of all of your posts, including the time and date and submit this to the T.A. on the final day of classes. This will ensure that your comments are not overlooked when it comes time for calculating evaluations. For example:

1. January 15, 2015 at 4:47 p.m., Facebook: [paste full comment and link]
2. February 1, 2015 at 9:21 p.m., Twitter: [paste full comment and link]

25% short paper – (due Week 7) – Students will write a short paper (6-7 double-spaced pages) exploring a topic relating to a new city phenomenon that we have covered in the first half of the course. These papers will be distributed to 4 other students in the class for peer review. 20% of the grade will come from the averaged results of the peer review, and 5% of the grade will come from an assessment of how you evaluated your peers (quality and constructiveness of suggestions, etc). I encourage students to try to publish revised versions of these short papers that integrate your peers' feedback on urban-themed websites or other venue. A more detailed hand-out about this assignment will be distributed.

30% short paper (Week 12) – Same as above, but 8 pages minimum. The paper topic should relate to a topic covered in the second half of the course.

35% take-home exam – Students will write a take-home exam. The final class will be a review for the exam.

*late assignments will be penalized 10% per day

*all written assignments must be submitted using 12 point Times New Roman font, standard margins, double-spaced, with pages numbers

Class schedule and readings (*readings in **bold** are required, the others are supplementary)

1. Tues Jan 6	Introduction to the course The future perfect: New cities, the questions we ask and the stories they tell
2. Thurs Jan 8	Experimental cities Spilhaus, Athelstan. (1968) The experimental city, <i>Science</i> 159 (3816): 710-715.
3. Tues Jan 13	Ancient planned cities: Harappa (Indus Valley Civilization), Teotihuacan (Mexico), mainland Southeast Asian cities, Chinese cities (maps of cosmos), Roman cities, Cahokia (USA) Robinson, O. F. (1994) <i>Ancient Rome: City Planning and Administration</i>. London: Routledge. ‘Planning: The overall view’, 12-27. Michael E. Smith. (2007) <i>Form and Meaning in the Earliest Cities: A New Approach to Ancient Urban Planning</i>. <i>Journal of Planning History</i> 6 (1): 3-47. Anthony Reid, ‘The Structure of Cities in Southeast Asia, 15th—17th Centuries,’ <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 11 (1980), 235-250. <i>Discussion:</i> 1) How does Smith’s argument counter previous scholarship on ancient planned cities? 2) Do you think it is relevant to compare cities in different cultural contexts? Explain why or why not.
4. Thurs Jan 15	Industrial planned cities *guest lecture by Kristen Harol Crawford, Margaret. (1995) <i>Building the Workingman’s Paradise The Design of American Company Towns</i> . London: Verso. Chapter 1, "Textile Landscapes: 1790-1850".
5. Tues Jan 20	Religion and the city: Angkor, Burma, Mayan Civilization, Putrajaya, Masdar, Bristol Moser, Sarah. (2013) ‘New cities in the Muslim world: The cultural politics of planning an ‘Islamic’ city’. In <i>Religion and Place: Landscape, Politics and Piety</i>. (Edited by Peter Hopkins, Lily Kong and Elizabeth Olson).
6. Thurs Jan 22	Religion and the city Moser, Sarah. (2012) ‘Circulating visions of “High Islam”: The adoption of fantasy Middle Eastern architecture in constructing Malaysian national identity’, <i>Urban Studies</i> 49 (13): 2913-2935. Seekins, Donald M. (2009) “Runaway chickens” and Myanmar identity’, <i>City</i> 13 (1): 63-70. Ashmore, Wendy and Jeremy A. Sabloff. (2002) ‘Spatial orders in Maya civic plans’, <i>Latin American Antiquity</i> 13: 201-215.

Chiahara, Daigoro. (1996) 'The Concrete representation of Indian Cosmology' (Chapter 3) in Hindu-Buddhist Architecture in Southeast Asia. (Leiden: BRILL).

Discussion: 1) In what ways is religious ideology integrated into the physical design of the city, its architecture and its symbolic spaces? Examples. 2) Why does the ruling elite use religion in city planning? 3) Can you think of any other examples from other planned cities that integrate religion into the design or layout of the city?

7. Tues Jan 27

Creating capital cities: Washington, DC; Paris; Canberra; Ankara, Turkey; Grozny, Chechnya; Putrajaya, Malaysia; the 'City Beautiful' movement

Vale, Lawrence J. (2008) 'Capital and Capitol: An Introduction' (Chapter 1), In *Architecture, Power and National Identity*. London / New Haven: Yale University Press.

8. Thurs Jan 29

Creating capital cities

Vale, Lawrence. 'Early Designed Capitals: For Union, for Imperialism, for Independence' (p. 56-104)

Vale, Lawrence. 'Designing Power and Identity' (Chapter 10)

Discussion: 1) How are cities used to construct a national identity? Examples of strategies. 2) What can we learn about political regimes by analyzing the cities they build? 3) New capitals draw attention to and away from what? Examples?

9. Tues Feb 3

Colonial cities: Social power, segregation and sweat

Yeoh, Brenda. (1996) Chapter 1, In *Contesting Space: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment in Colonial Singapore*. (New York: Oxford University Press). 1-27.

King, Anthony D. (1976) *Colonial Urban Development: Culture, Social Power and Environment* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul) 2-40, 123-55.

Discussion: 1) How are politics and culture intertwined? 2) How are urban policies a manifestation of colonial values? 3) How did colonial administrators seek to exert control over such matters as cultural identity, race relations, tradition, industrial growth, and so on? 4) How did understandings of modernization influence the design of colonial cities?

10. Thurs Feb 5

Colonial legacies in contemporary new cities

Moser, Sarah. (2015) New Cities: Old wine in new bottles? *Dialogues in Human Geography*. (1-5)

Moser, Sarah. (2015) 'Rejecting and reproducing colonial urbanism in contemporary Malaysian city design' in Hahn, Hazel (Ed.). *The Circulation of Culture Between Europe and Southeast Asia*. (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press)

***Discussion:* 1) What do contemporary new cities have in common with colonial cities? 2) How do we go about figuring out the colonial legacy on**

**contemporary new cities? Discuss various methodologies and approaches. 3)
How do we determine what is a colonial legacy and what is a new innovation?**

11. Tues Feb 10 **High modernist cities: Chandigarh, Brasilia**
Vale, Lawrence J. (2008) 'Designed capitals after World War Two: Chandigarh and Brasilia' (Chapter 4) 121-145.
Scott, James C. 'The high-modernist city: An experiment and a critique' (Chapter 4) in *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed.* (103-146)
Le Corbusier, *The City of To-morrow and Its Planning* (Reprint, Dove, 1987)
12. Thurs Feb 12 **Postcolonial cities: Abuja, Astana, Naypyidaw, Putrajaya**
Vale, Lawrence J. (2008) 'Designed Capitals since 1960' (Chapter 5) 146-193.
Keeton, Rachel. (2011) 'Naypyidaw, Myanmar' *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 122-143.
Keeton, Rachel. (2011) 'Astana, Kazakhstan' *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 144-166.
1) How and why do creators of cities often reference earlier architecture in new capitals? 2) What ideas or values are being conveyed through the design of the cities to different users of the cities? (e.g. about identity, morality, etc)
13. Tues Feb 17 **New cities as national economic strategy:** Iskandar Malaysia, King Abdullah Economic City (Saudi Arabia), Yachay Knowledge City (Ecuador)
Rizzo, Agatino and Glasson, John. (2011) 'Iskandar Malaysia', *Cities* 29 (6): 417-427.
Moser, Sarah; Swain, Marian; and Alkhabbaz, Mohammed. (2015) 'King Abdullah Economic City: Engineering Saudi Arabia's post-oil future', *Cities*.
14. Thurs Feb 19 **Conducting research on new cities**
Moser, Sarah. (forthcoming) Methodology paper, *Geoforum*.
Discussion: 1) what are the challenges of conducting research on new cities? How can we as researchers work around these challenges? 2) What are some methods that can be used to examine new cities? 3) Provide examples of how methodologies are different depending on what questions we are asking.
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- ***First paper due in class – papers will be distributed to peer reviewers*****
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15. Tues Feb 24 **Grass roots new cities:** Magarpatta, India; Touba, Senegal; Christiania, Denmark
Keeton, Rachel. (2011) 'Magarpatta, India' *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 280-302.
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**Ross, Eric. (2006) *Sufi City: Urban Design and Archetypes in Touba.*
Rochester: University of Rochester Press. (introduction)**

16. Thurs Feb 26 **New urban utopias in India and Africa**
- Datta, Ayona. (2015) ‘New urban utopias of India’, Dialogues in Human Geography 5 (1).**
- Watson, Vanessa. (2014) ‘African urban fantasies: Dreams or nightmares?’ Environment and Urbanization 26 (1): 215-231.**
- Discussion:* 1) what are the key criticisms each author has of new master planned cities? 2) Is there a way to save these cities from being ‘nightmares’? What practical changes would you recommend, if any?
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*****Submit peer reviews in class*****

*****Reading week March 2-6 – no classes!*****

17. Tues March 10 **‘Creative’ and high-tech cities**
- Hall, Peter. (2000) ‘Creative cities and economic development’, *Urban Studies* 37 (4): 639-649.**
- Leslie, Deborah. (2005) Creative cities? *Geoforum* 36 (4): 403-405.**
- Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘New Songdo City, South Korea’ *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 306--331.**
- Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates’ *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 190-209.**
- Discussion:* 1) In what ways do ‘creative’ cities differ from regular cities? 2) Do you think environments can encourage people to think more creatively? If so, how? 3) Can totalitarian governments create creative cities? Can creative cities be designed?
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18. Thurs March 12 **Critical research on eco-cities**
- Caprotti, Frederico. (2014) ‘Critical Research on Eco-Cities? A Walk through Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, China.’ *Cities* 36: 10–17.**
- Rapoport, Elizabeth. 2014. “Utopian Visions and Real Estate Dreams: The Eco-City Past, Present and Future.” *Geography Compass* 8 (2): 137–49.**
- Pow, C. P., & Neo, H. (2010). Building ecotopia: critical reflections on eco-city development in China. *Towards a liveable and sustainable urban environment: eco-cities in East Asia. Singapore: World Scientific Publishing*, 91-106.
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19. Tues March 17 **Discourses of sustainability: Qatar, Masdar**
- Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Masdar City, United Arab Emirates’ *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 48-71.**
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Koch, Natalie. (2015) “Building glass refrigerators in the desert”: Discourses of urban sustainability and nation building in Qatar’, *Urban Geography*

20. Thurs March 19 **India’s ecocity?**
Datta, Ayona. (2012) ‘India’s ecocity? Environment, urbanisation, and mobility in the making of Lavasa’, *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 30: 982-996.
21. Tues March 24 **New ‘green’ cities**
Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Zira Island, Azerbaijan’ *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 96-118.
Discussion: 1) How are different ‘green’ ideas manifested in new cities? 2) How do ‘green’ cities parallel broader societal values? 3) Is the concept of a new ‘green city’ an oxymoron?
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22. Thurs March 26 **Two parents, one city:** CamKo (Cambodia + South Korea), Tianjin (Singapore + China), King Abdullah Economic City (Saudi Arabia + Dubai + USA), Honduras + Mentor from Global North
Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘CamKo City, Cambodia’ *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 210-234.
Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Tianjin Eco-City, China’ *Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia*, Amsterdam: SUN, 72-95.
Charter cities in Honduras? *Open Democracy*:
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/arthur-phillips/charter-cities-in-honduras>
Discussion: 1) What is the reason for these new partnerships? Who benefits? 2) How are foreign entities gaining control over new cities in other countries? What problems do you anticipate? What are some of the benefits? 3) Who are these cities designed for? 4) How do CamKo and Tianjin attempt to cater to local tastes, values and cultures?
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23. Tues March 31 **Creating ‘Global’ Cities**
Moser, Sarah. (2012) ‘Constructing identity in two new Southeast Asian capitals: Putrajaya and Dompak’, in *Rethinking Global Cities*. New York: Routledge.
Douglass, Mike and Huang, Liling. (2007) Globalizing the city in Southeast Asia: Utopia on the urban edge – the case of Phu My Hung, Saigon, IJAPS 3 (2): 1-42.
Discussion: 1) What makes a city ‘global’? How do different entities conceptualize the meaning of ‘global’ differently? 2) Can global cities be planned or can they only spontaneously emerge? What conditions can a ruling elite provide to encourage the creation of a ‘global city’, as defined by Saskia Sassen? 3) Does a city require a particular political system in order to become ‘global’?
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24. Thurs April 2	Koch, Natalie. (2013) ‘Why not a world city? Astana, Ankara, and geopolitical scripts in urban networks’, Urban Geography 34 (1): 109-130.
25. Tues April 7	New cities: Themes, patterns, challenges Moser, Sarah. (forthcoming) New cities: Snake oil for a new millennium?
26. Thurs April 9	Review class

Academic integrity: *McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).*(approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

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Language: *In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.”* (approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and evaluation.)

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Other info and links:

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