Instructor: Yagmur Karakaya  
Room: Social Sciences 909  
Office Hours: Tuesdays-Thursdays 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives

What makes a space urban? How can we make sense of urbanism? How are cities different than the countryside, can they be interlinked? We will start our summer-long journey with these questions that have informed scholars of the urban, people who both theorized about and influenced the making of cities. In order to make sense of the urban phenomenon we will historicize it, as social scientists usually do. We will look at the idea of polis, following it in medieval European towns and industrial cities. Reading visions of architects and designers will help us investigate the link between modernism and cities. We will look at the suburban dream and its critiques. Before the midterm we will see how people fit in our historicized model of cities, who will of course be raced, classed and gendered and discuss how our backgrounds influence, and contribute to the urban experience. In the second half, we will do some weaving and connect the world by looking at global cities, unequal urban development, and deconstruct
the notion of development itself, through cases of Turkey and Brazil. Lastly, we will tackle with
gentrification, city as a space of consumption, and nostalgia.

**Required Textbook:**

Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge.

**Course Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers (six of your choosing) due by Mondays and Wednesdays 10PM</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Paper Research</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Paper 1st Draft</td>
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<td>Paper Final</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Points: Participate in Annotated Bibliography of Literature on Twin Cities Undertake</td>
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**Response Papers:**

In two double spaced pages synthesize and criticize authors of the day and post on Moodle by
10PM Mondays or Wednesdays. These are pieces where you are expected to engage with other
theorists in our syllabus, and engage in critical thinking especially towards the last three. Bring
in what you know from life experiences and other courses to comment intellectually on the
literature we read. Does the theorist miss some aspects of the urban, how can other theorists help
fill in the gap?

**Midterm:**

Midterm consists of short answer questions, a short essay and comparison. It is a tool to assess
how we are doing in class, and if we are ready to move ahead or linger some more on previous
subjects.

**Class Participation and Attendance:**

Learning is an interactive experience. I will supplement readings with different visuals, media
and in class writing exercises that you would not want to miss. I will keep attendance to keep the
collective effervescence at optimum level. Each day we will also discuss research challenges and
possible remedies. I am hoping for great brainstorming sessions. I envision the classroom to be a
safe space of mutual respect where we will engage in dialogue. People will bring in their
experiences and life-worlds, hopefully there will be differences in opinions and respect thereof.

**Paper Research and Write-up:**

You are expected to curate your own urban research project with the method of your choosing.
You can do ethnographic observation, qualitative interviews, archival research or engage in
quantitative methodology to investigate a topic you are interested in that has to do with the urban. Twin Cities is the primary option, but not a must. If you are from somewhere else, or interested in somewhere else, you can propose that too. Topics are very flexible as longs as you convince me it is related to cities and social change. You are expected to see me in my office hours approximately on the third week to discuss your topic and possible ways of research. This is supposed to benefit you as you will explore your interests and engage in critical writing. So make it a summer adventure, not a burden. Explore neighborhood cultures, think about gentrification, day dream about biking, think about sports and urbanism while you get some credit for it. Key here is the feasibility of the project, and the match between your research question and method.

**Themes and Reading Schedule**

**Week 1**

*06/13/2017: Sociological Definitions of the City*

Readings

Lewis Mumford: “What is a city?” Pages: 110-115 in *The City Reader*

Louis Wirth: “Urbanism as a way of Life” Pages: 115-124 in *The City Reader*

*06/15/2017: Historical Transformations of Cities: Ancient Cities, Medieval Towns, and Industrial England*

Readings


Henri Pirenne: “City Origins” and “Cities and European Civilization” 45-53 in *The City Reader*

Friedrich Engels: “The Great Towns” 53-63 in *The City Reader*

**Week 2**

*06/20/2017: Modernism and the City*

Readings

Le Corbusier: “a Contemporary City” Pages: 379-388 in *The City Reader*

Frank Lloyd Wright: “Broadacre City: A New Community Plan” Pages: 388-394 in *The City Reader*

*06/22/2017: American Industrial Metropolis and Suburbanization*

Readings


Week 3

06/27/2017: Suburbanization and Its Critiques

Readings

Kenneth T. Jackson: “The drive-in Culture of Contemporary America” Pages: 73-83 in The City Reader


06/29/2017: Urban Life and Race

Readings


Week 4

07/04/2017: No class

07/06/2017: City and Gender

Midterm Review

Readings

Daphne Spain: “What happened to Gender Relations on the way from Chicago to Los Angeles?” Pages: 193-203 in The City Reader

Week 5

07/11/2017: Midterm

07/13/2017: Cities in a Globalized World, Rethinking What Urban Is.

Readings


Neil Brenner and Roger Keil: “From Global Cities to Globalized Urbanization” Pages: 666-677 in The City Reader
Neil Brenner video: [http://www.urbantheorylab.net/videos/](http://www.urbantheorylab.net/videos/) (will watch in class)

**Week 6**

**07/18/2017: Urbanism and New Forms of Inequalities**

Readings

Mike Davis: “Fortress L.A.” Pages: 212-218 in *The City Reader*


**07/20/2017: Right to the City in the Information Age**

Readings


David Harvey: “The Right to the City” Pages: 270-279 in *The City Reader*

**Week 7:**

**Research Paper 1st draft due**

**07/25/2017: Right to the City through Case Studies**

Readings


Reading 2 TBA

**07/27/2017: Consuming Cities and Nostalgia**

Readings


**Week 8**

**08/01/2017: Consuming Cities and Nostalgia Continued**

Readings

New York: Routledge. (Chapters TBA)

08/03/2017: Review and Media Discussion Session