

HITO 180: Housing in the Developing World

Time: Tu 1-3:50pm

Nancy H. Kwak

Office hours: Wed 2-4 by appointment

BRIEF INTRO:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to some of the major housing problems developing world cities face in the twentieth century. We will examine the relationship between current-day housing problems with historical programs, plans, and political/social/economic contexts. We will compare national experiences, and think about what principles of policymaking we might extract. Our point of view will change from week to week: sometimes we will look at these problems from the perspective of government officials, planners, and architects; other weeks, we will think about what it is like to actually live in these cities as upper-, middle-, and working-class residents. We will constantly keep in mind the questions of who profits and who loses when housing changes.

BOOKS:

1. Josef Gugler, *World Cities beyond the West* (Cambridge UP, 2004). ISBN 0521536855
2. Architecture for Humanity, *Design like you give a damn* (Metropolis Books, 2006). ISBN 1933045256
3. Thomas Campanella, *Concrete Dragon* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2008). ISBN 1568986270.
4. United Nations, *Sustainable Human Settlements Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* (UN Publications, 2005). ISBN 9211215439.

REQUIREMENTS:

The reading load is VERY HEAVY. There is no way around that; please look at the syllabus and carefully consider before choosing this course. You will need to be prepared to discuss readings during class. Every class session will be devoted to very close discussion of the reading.

As compensation, there are NO EXAMS. Instead, you will write two essays.

Your essays will be argument papers in response to a week's topic of your choosing. The essay should be between 1,400-1,600 words (roughly 6-7 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt., Garamond or Times New Roman only, footnotes only.)

You are expected to lead at least one discussion and to actively participate in each class. When you lead class, you should begin with a 15-20 minute lecture and powerpoint presentation on relevant supplementary *historical* material based on at least two related secondary sources (one chapter of a book counts, as does a scholarly article.) After presenting, you must distribute discussion questions based upon that week's readings. I would suggest you make at least ten questions that are analytical in character rather than demanding simple regurgitation.

GRADES:

50% - Participation (4 per class + 10 presentation)

20% - Essay 1

30% - Essay 2

No midterm or final exam.

SCHEDULE:

3/31 Week 1: Housing crises today – intro. Defining the developing world

- * Friederich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class* (London: Electric Book Co., 1892, 2001) excerpt from *City Reader*.
- * Charles Abrams, "People and Slums," in *The Future of Housing* (1946). **online**
- * Pietro Garau, Elliott D. Sclar, and Gabriella Y. Carolini, UN Millenium Project, Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers *A Home in the City* (London: Earthscan, 2006) ch. 1. See website: (<http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Slumdweller-complete.pdf>)

4/7 Week 2: Race and housing inequality

Owen Crankshaw and Susan Parnell, "Johannesburg: race, inequality, and urbanization" pp. 348-370. [WCBW]

Ambe J. Njoh, *Planning in Contemporary Africa* (Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2003) chs. 4-6. **online**

PAPER TOPIC: To what extent are race inequalities in housing opportunity due to colonial legacies? How might such inequalities be addressed?

4/14 Week 3: Development and development aid in the 1950s, 60s

Gilbert Rist, *The History of Development: From Western Origins to Global Faith* pp. 123-170. **online**

Charles Abrams, *Man's Struggle for Shelter in an Urbanizing World* pp. 213-260. **online**

PAPER TOPIC: What is the relationship between IMF/World Bank actions and development in poorer neighborhoods? How can

individual states more directly control the process of economic growth or stagnation?

4/21 Week 4: Urban renewal

Thomas Campanella, *Concrete Dragon* - all

FILM CLIP in class: "The Sankyeidong Olympics" (27 mins)

PAPER TOPIC: What does urban renewal renew? How can renewal be improved as a development technique?

4/28 Week 5: Population growth and sprawl

PAPER 1 DUE

Sujata Patel, "Bombay/Mumbai: globalization, inequalities, and politics" pp. 328-347. [WCBW]

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, available at: <http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

Janet L. Abu-Lughod, "Cairo: too many people, not enough land, too few resources," pp. 119-150. [WCBW]

Peter M. Ward, "Mexico City in an era of globalization and demographic downturn," pp. 151-188. [WCBW]

FILM CLIP: "World in the Balance"

PAPER TOPIC: What is the relationship between population growth and urban planning?

5/5 Week 6: Self-help housing

Richard Harris, "A Double Irony: The Originality and Influence of John F. C. Turner," *Habitat International* 27 (2003): 245-69. **online**

Janice Perlman, "Marginality: From Myth to Reality in the *Favelas* of Rio de Janeiro, 1969-2002," in Ananya Roy and Nezar AlSayyad, *Urban informality: Transnational perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America, and South Asia* (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2003) 105-146. **online**

Peter M. Ward, "Informality of housing production at the urban-rural interface: the 'Not so Strange Case' of the Texas colonias," in Roy and AlSayyad, 243-270. **online**

FILM CLIP in class: "City of God" documentary

PAPER TOPIC: What are the origins of self-help? When does it work?

5/12 Week 7: Homeownership as solution and problem

UN Human Settlements Programme, *Financing Urban Shelter: Global Report on Human Settlements, 2005* (London: Earthscan, 2005) pp. 55-97. **online**

Chua Beng-huat, *Political Legitimacy and Housing: Stakeholding in Singapore* ch. 7 **online**

PAPER TOPIC: What urban problems does homeownership solve? What new problems are created?

5/19 Week 8: Gendered spaces

Fadela Amara, *Breaking the Silence: French women's voices from the ghetto* chs. 1-2, 4-5. **online**

Farha Ghannam, *Remaking the modern: space, relocation, and the politics of identity in a global Cairo* chs. 2, 4. **online**

FILM CLIP in class: "My mother built this house"

PAPER TOPIC: How can architecture shape gender (and vice versa)? Is it meaningful to distinguish between women's experiences in the developed and developing world?

5/26 Week 9: Greening housing

UN, *Sustainable Human Settlements Development in Latin America and the Caribbean* - all

FILM CLIP in class: "E². Design. Season three." (Director Tad Fetting)

PAPER TOPIC: How can we reconcile development with sustainability? What innovative architectural ideas are being tested, and with what level of efficacy (in your opinion)?

6/2 Week 10: Surviving globalization

PAPER 2 DUE

Douglas Webster, "Bangkok: evolution and adaptation under stress," pp. 82-118. [WCBW]

Architecture for Humanity, *Design like you give a damn* - all

FILM CLIP in class: "Playing between elephants"

PAPER TOPIC: What are some of the key issues facing disaster relief agencies in the 21st century? What happened after the tsunami, and what lessons can we draw?