

Urban Politics of Latin America

Course Handbook

Neill 212, Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:20-2:50 pm, Fall 2015

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to Urban Politics of Latin America! The study of Latin American cities is brimming with exciting stories of political struggles for land, for justice, and for survival. And now, democratic elections have penetrated metropolitan Latin America, offering marginalized urban communities new avenues for demand-making.

In this research seminar, we will explore how the changing rules of political competition affect urban struggles for land, racial equality, and municipal representation. We will focus on urban violence, mayoral elections, squatter politics, and social movements in cities such as São Paulo, El Alto, Santiago de Chile, Caracas, and Mexico City.

Like many graduate seminars, our course is designed to support you in two principal tasks: 1) read and analyze scholarship, both through participation in and facilitation of seminar discussion; and 2) complete a research project that is separate from the books we read, but embedded in the same literature—scholarship focused on urban Latin America. In such seminars, these two tasks reinforce each other. Insights from our shared readings inform your research, and you bring what you are learning in your research project into our discussion of assigned readings. You and your peers will both help each other extract insights and knowledge from assigned readings, and you will support and critique each other's research

projects. A third major collaborative task is to organize and host our end-of-seminar colloquium, in which you will present your research findings.

Seminar Engagement. As a graduate-style seminar, your engagement of texts through reading and discussion is key to the success of our course. Some of the skills you will further develop include: effective and efficient reading; preparing for seminar discussion when you are *not* a facilitator; and preparing and co-leading our seminar. One of your key responsibilities will be to co-lead two seminar sessions.

Research Project. You will complete a research project related to urban politics in one or two Latin American cities; you need not study the same cities that the syllabus emphasizes. This project is both separate from assigned readings—you will assemble your own reading list for your project—but also integrated with the seminar, as you will regularly check with the group about your progress, receive feedback, and intentionally draw connections between your research project and the common readings all of us are completing and discussing. The formal steps in this project include: 1) topic formulation; 2) an exploratory paper; 3) outline assignment; 4) a rough draft; 5) rehearsal of research presentation; 6) colloquium presentation; and 7) final paper.

Urban Latin America Colloquium. In December our public colloquium will showcase your research findings. Collectively, the class will take charge of all aspects of the event including organization, publicity, refreshments, event format, and technology.

Expectations

You can expect us to be tirelessly enthusiastic. This is especially true given the subject of our seminar, which relates to our own research interests. Paul's scholarship focuses on urban social movements and urban development in large Latin American cities, and Francesca's work has focused urban housing and security policy in Rio de Janeiro.

You can expect us to work hard for you, both this semester and in future semesters when you need advising and reference letters. We will make time for you and we will provide constructive and encouraging feedback.

We expect you to arrive on time and prepared to *engage*. You are entitled to a day or two where you are dead tired and need to be left alone—just let me know. But the norm is for you to arrive a few minutes early, ready to engage.

We will commit class time to identifying your expectations. Here are a few of ours:

- Respect for conflicting and difficult views.
- Respect for personal experiences.
- Reflections on position and openness to dialogue about privilege and power.
- Willingness to learn from each other and teach each other.
- Prioritizing our seminar most of the time, especially the first two weeks.
- Volunteering input on how to improve the course.
- Punctuality and communication. If you will be absent or late, we expect you to email us in advance so we don't wait for you.

This course requires a lot from you, but you also receive a lot from us and your classmates. We

are going to work hard this semester and we hope that the energy and enthusiasm everyone contributes will make this seminar a great success.

Readings

There are four required books, listed below (at the Bookstore and on reserve). Other readings can be found on Moodle.

- Davis, Mike. 2006. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso.
- Caldeira, Teresa. 2000. *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Lazar, Sian. 2008. *El Alto, Rebel City: Self and Citizenship in Andean Bolivia*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Murphy, Edward. 2015. *For a Proper Home: Housing Rights in the Margins of Urban Chile, 1960-2010*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.

The MAX Center

The Macalester Academic Excellence (MAX) Center, located in Kagin Commons, has peer tutors available for assisting students in all stages of their writing. Hours are 9:00 am–4:30 pm Mon-Fri and 7-10 pm Sun-Thur. Becky Graham and Jake Mohan also provide writing assistance to students during the daytime hours, Mon-Fri. You may drop in for help or call x6121 (day) or x6193 (evening) to schedule an appointment.

Students with Special Needs

We are committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Students seeking accommodations based on disabilities should meet with Lisa Landreman, Associate Dean of Students. Call x6220 for an appointment. Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with Paul as soon as you become aware of your needs. More info [here](#).

Students Experiencing Challenge or Crisis

Macalester College is fortunate to have a full complement of professionally trained staff to support students that are experiencing a challenge or crisis in their lives. When a personal challenge or crisis occurs, it often has an academic impact and may require flexibility around course responsibilities. In such situations, also talking to a trusted professor can be helpful. It can be difficult to approach a faculty member about personal issues, but if Paul can be of help, please don't hesitate to come and talk.

ASSIGNMENTS

General Notes on Assignments

Format and Required Citation Style: Submit work in hard copy and use the [APSA style guide](#) for formatting citations and bibliographies.

Language options for written assignments: English, Spanish, or Portuguese

Courses Resources Web Page: Access sample work [here](#).

On-Time Work Policy: Setting and meeting deadlines is an important professional skill. The syllabus provides “default” deadlines for assignments. We expect you to either meet these deadlines or set alternate deadlines in advance. College is an important time to develop a reputation as someone who gets things done and gets things done on time. If you cannot meet a deadline, it is your responsibility to *communicate* with us about when you will complete your work.

Summary of Assignments

(click on links for assignment descriptions)

<u>Due Date</u>	<u>Grade Percentage</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Sept 3-Oct 20	10%	Class Engagement (first 7 weeks)
Oct 27-Dec 10	10%	Class Engagement (last 6 weeks)
varies	15%	Classroom Leadership
no later than 9/17	part of Class Engagement	Single Point Paper #1
9/24	part of Class Engagement	Research Project Topic
no later than 10/8	part of Class Engagement	Single Point Paper #2
10/18	part of Class Engagement	Exploratory Paper Rough Draft
10/21	15%	Exploratory Paper Final Draft
11/8	part of Class Engagement	Outline Assignment
11/24	part of Class Engagement	12-15 Very Rough Pages
12/6	5%	Research Paper Rough Draft
12/8 or 12/9	15%	Colloquium Presentation
12/14	30%	Research Paper Final Draft

SYLLABUS

—Thursday, September 3—

Course Introduction

Introduce Single Point Paper assignment

—Tuesday, September 8—

Urban Latin America: Violence, Enclaves, and Struggles for Land

Lecture

Film Excerpt: "Waste Land" (by Lucy Walker; 2011)

- Navia, José. 2002. "Ciudad Bolívar: Brush Strokes against Death." *Citizens of Fear*, ed. Susana Rotker, 119-124. New Brunswick: Rutgers.
- Duque, José Roberto. 2002. "A Small Mistake." *Citizens of Fear*, ed. Susana Rotker, 125-129. New Brunswick: Rutgers.
- Salcedo, Alberto. 2002. "The Drive-by Victim." *Citizens of Fear*, ed. Susana Rotker, 130-137. New Brunswick: Rutgers.
- "[Map of Projected Population for World's Biggest Cities](#)" (2015).
- "[Mid and South America Urban Population](#)" (map).
- Look at one other map that interests you from [this page](#).
- Angotti, Tom. 2013. "[Urban Latin America: Violence, Enclaves, and Struggles for Land.](#)" *Latin American Perspectives*, Vol. 40., No. 3 (March): 5-20.
- Davis, Mike. 2006. *Planet of Slums*. London: Verso (Chs. 1-2).

—Thursday, September 10—

Planet of Slums

Skills Workshop: Lesson Planning and Facilitating Discussion

- Davis (Chs. 3-5)
- Kunzig, Robert. 2011. "[City Solutions.](#)" *National Geographic* (December).

—Tuesday, September 15—

São Paulo: Mobilization vs. the Machine

Lecture

Film Excerpt: "Black in Latin America, with Henry Louis Gates, Jr." (directed by Ricardo Pollack)

- Graham, Lawrence, and Pedro Jacobi. 2002. "[São Paulo: Tensions Between Clientelism and Participatory Democracy.](#)" *Capital City Politics in Latin America*, pp. 310-323.
- Mead, Rebecca. 2003. "[Letter from Brazil: Dressing for Lula.](#)" *The New Yorker* (March 17): 82-91.
- Schneider, Cathy, and Paul Amar. 2003. "[The Rise of Crime, Disorder, and Authoritarian Policing.](#)" *NACLA: Report on the Americas* 37, 2 (Sept/Oct): 12-16.

—Thursday, September 17—

São Paulo: Urban Segregation, Fortified Enclaves, and Public Space

Introduce Research Paper assignment

Last day to turn in Single Point Paper #1

- Caldeira, Teresa. 2000. *City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo*.

Berkeley: University of California (Chs. 6, 7, 8).

—Sunday, September 20, 4:30-7:00 pm, Carnegie 304—
Dinner and film screening of “Bus 174.”

—Tuesday, September 22—

São Paulo and the Talk of Crime
Third Week Check-In

•Caldeira (read Chs. 1-2, 4 and skim Ch. 3, but read p. 137 carefully).

—Thursday, September 24—

São Paulo: Violence, Civil Rights, and the Body

Research Paper Topic due

- Caldeira (Ch. 9).
- DaMatta, Roberto. 1991. [“Do you know who you’re talking to?!”](#). *Carnivals, Rogues, and Heroes: An Interpretation of the Brazilian Dilemma*, 137-197. Notre Dame; University of Notre Dame Press.
- Huggins, Martha. 2002. [“State Violence in Brazil: The Professional Morality of Torturers”](#) *Citizens of Fear*, ed. Susana Rotker, 141-151. New Brunswick: Rutgers.
- Santos, Cecilia MacDowell. 2004. [“En-Gendering the Police: Women’s Police Stations and Feminism in São Paulo.”](#) *Latin American Research Review* 39, 3 (October): 29-55.

—Tuesday, September 29—

Police and Violence in Urban Brazil
Introduce Exploratory Paper assignment

Skills Workshop: Theoretical Framework and Literature Review

- Romero, Simon, and Taylor Barnes. 2015. [“Despair, and Grim Acceptance, Over Killings by Brazil’s Police.”](#) *New York Times* (May 21).
- Morales, Ed. 2014. [“NYPD Chief Wants to Teach the World’s Police.”](#) *Aljazeera America* (December 9).
- Ahnen, Ronald. 2007. [“The Politics of Police Violence in Democratic Brazil.”](#) *Latin American Politics and Society*, Vol. 49, No. 1 (Spring): 141-164.

—Thursday, October 1—

Planet of Slums: SAPing the Third World

- Johnson, Ian. 2015. [“As Beijing Becomes a Supercity, the Rapid Growth Brings Pains.”](#) *New York Times* (July 19).
- Davis (Chs. 6-7).

—Tuesday, October 6—

El Alto: Bolivian Transformation and the City Ché Watches Over
Lecture

Skills Workshop: Title, Abstracts, and Audience

- Lehoucq, Fabrice. 2014. [“Bolivia: From Neoliberal Democracy to Multiethnic, Plebicitarian](#)

[Politics](#).” *Latin American Politics and Development*, eds. Howard Wiarda and Harvey Kline. Boulder: Westview (Ch. 14: pp. 271-286).

- Lazar, Sian. 2008. *El Alto, Rebel City: Self and Citizenship in Andean Bolivia*. Durham: Duke University Press (Introduction and Ch. 1).
- Ungar, Mark. 2003. “[Contested Battlefields: Policing in Caracas and La Paz](#).” *NACLA: Report on the Americas* 37, 2 (Sept/Oct): 30-36.

—Thursday, October 8—

El Alto: Citizens Despite the State

[Last day to turn in Single Point Paper #2](#)

- Lazar (Chs. 2-5).

—Tuesday, October 13—

El Alto: Trade Unions and Local Democracy

- Lazar (Chs. 6-8).

—Thursday, October 15—

El Alto: Alteña Voices on the March

- Lazar (Conclusion).
- Dosh, Paul, and Nicole Kligerman. 2010. “[Women’s Voices on the Executive Council: Popular Organizations and Resource Battles in Bolivia and Ecuador](#).” *Latin American Perspectives* 37, 4 (July): 214-237.

—Sunday, October 18—

[Exploratory Paper Rough Draft due](#) (via email to your peer review group)

—Tuesday, October 20—

Colloquium Planning (event format, room set-up, refreshments, publicity, technology)
Workshop Exploratory Paper rough drafts in two peer review groups

—Wednesday, October 21—

[Exploratory Paper due](#) (hard copy)

—FALL BREAK—

—Tuesday, October 27—

Militarization of the Urban Periphery
Introduce Outline assignment

- Davis (Ch. 8, Epilogue).
- Zibechi, Raúl. 2008. “[The Militarization of the World’s Urban Peripheries](#).” Nacla.org.

—Thursday, October 29—

Santiago de Chile: Housing Rights on the Margins

Lecture

- Murphy, Edward. 2015. *For a Proper Home: Housing Rights in the Margins of Urban Chile, 1960-2010*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press (Introduction and Chs. 1-2).

—Sunday, November 1, 5-7 pm—

- Dinner at the home of Paul Dosh & Andrea Galdames, 1622 Hague Ave.

—Tuesday, November 3—

Santiago de Chile: Insurgent Ownership

- Murphy (Chs. 3-4).

—Thursday, November 5—

Santiago de Chile: Reactionary Turns

- Murphy (Chs. 5-6).

—Sunday, November 8—

Outline Assignment due via email to whole class

—Tuesday, November 10—

Santiago de Chile: Domesticated Peripheries

- Murphy (Chs. 7-9).

—Thursday, November 12—

Workshop Outline Assignments

—Tuesday, November 17—

Caracas: The Tower of David

Lecture

- Anderson, Jon Lee. 2013. "[Slumlord](#)." *The New Yorker*, Vol. 88, No. 45 (January 28): 40-51.
- Robin, Corey. 2013. "[From the Mixed-Up Files of Mr. Jon Lee Anderson](#)." *Portside* (April 8).

—Thursday, November 19—

Movement in the City

Introduce Colloquium Presentation assignment

Skills Workshop: Visual Communication

- Slater, Tom. 2014. "[There is Nothing Natural About Gentrification](#)." *Portside* (November 24).
- Lavalle, Adrian, and Natália Bueno. 2011. "[Waves of Change Within Civil Society in Latin America: Mexico City and São Paulo](#)." *Politics & Society*, Vol. 39, No. 3: 415-450.

—Tuesday, November 24—

12-15 Very Rough Pages due via email

•No class.

—THANKSGIVING BREAK—

—Tuesday, December 1—

Comparative Analysis of Cities

•Details forthcoming.

—Thursday, December 3—

Colloquium Presentation Rehearsals / Work Session

•By this date you should either a draft of your talk or a partial draft plus a draft set of slides, so that you can practice presenting to 2-3 classmates and get feedback. The remainder of our class time will be a work session to advance your presentation and/or paper, with Paul and Francesca available for consultation.

—Sunday, December 6—

Rough Draft due via email by 3:00 pm (we will forward your draft to two other students, so you will receive comments from a total of three reviewers, including Paul or Francesca)

—Tuesday, December 8—

No class during regular meeting time.

—Tuesday, December 8, 4:45-6:00 pm —

Colloquium Day 1

—Wednesday, December 9, 4:45-6:00 pm—

Colloquium Day 2

—Thursday, December 10—

Written feedback on peer drafts due

**Colloquium Debriefing
Workshopping of Rough Drafts
Individual Course Evaluations
Group “Exit Interview”**

—Monday, December 14—

Final Paper due (hard copy)