

# Planning for Jobs, Housing & Community Services in Third World Cities

(PLN 485; PLN 529; LCS 529; PUB 531)

**Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:45-4:05, AS 121**

**Instructor:** Corianne Scally, Ph.D.

**Office:** AS 227

**Email:** cscally@albany.edu

**Phone:** 591-8561

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 9:00-11:00am; Thursdays 6-7pm; and by appointment

## COURSE OVERVIEW



Residents from rural areas in developing countries have inundated their urban centers in search of economic opportunity, often ending up in the informal sector. This huge population influx has placed severe pressures on already inadequate urban systems and infrastructures. Severe housing shortages have led to the development of massive informal urban settlements, and even officially-designated slums, many of which lack adequate housing and sanitary living

conditions, including basic services such as water, sewer, waste management and electricity. These unplanned developments often occur on environmentally-sensitive or -unsuitable lands, and can result in further environmental degradation.

A variety of international, national, and sub-national actors have issued policies, developed plans, and implemented projects in an attempt to improve national economies and quality of life in Third World cities. Multilateral agencies have encouraged national governments to reorganize and reprioritize in the name of “structural adjustment”, often attaching onerous rules to new capital investment, including privatization and the reduction of existing social safety nets, in addition to the adoption of ‘good government’ policies. Such foreign investment has created new problems of its own, including crippling national debt burden.

There have been successes, however. Various aid programs, nongovernmental organizations, and national and local governments have worked together to upgrade informal settlements, provide

safe housing and basic services, create jobs, and improve the living conditions of hundreds of thousands of urban poor throughout the world.

This course will consider different perspectives on answers to foundational questions driving urban planning for Third World cities, including (1) who provides, (2) who decides, and (3) who benefits from various strategies tried to improve quality-of-life for the urban poor. We will consider issues of housing, land tenure, public infrastructure, employment, and other topics of interest, including gender and development, and environmental sustainability.



## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate the roles of key players in international aid and development planning;
- Interpret popular indicators of “development” and “progress” in third world countries and cities;
- Analyze development plans and projects in terms of their goals, strategies and outcomes;
- Debate different perspectives on how the urban poor are best housed, and by whom;
- Compare a range of options for supplying critical infrastructure and services to urban areas in the third world;
- Critique microenterprise and microfinance as vehicles for poverty alleviation and economic development; and
- Assess the differential impact that development planning and projects may have on vulnerable populations – such as the poor and women – and places – such as environmentally fragile areas.

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

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There are **three books required** for this course. Two are available for purchase at the University Bookstore, and on reserve at the University Library. The third is out-of-print and can be purchased online used in limited quantities. These books will be supplemented by additional readings available via Electronic Reserves. The password is “worldcities” (no quotations).

- 1) **Davis, M.** (2007). *Planet of Slums*. New York, NY: Verso. ISBN: 1844671607 (Note: Amazon Kindle Edition Available for purchase)

- 2) **Durand-Lasserve, A., & Royston, L.** (2002). *Holding Their Ground: Secure Land Tenure for the Urban Poor in Developing Countries*. London: Earthscan. ISBN: 1853838918 (Note: Amazon Kindle Edition Available for rent or purchase)
- 3) **Turner, John F.C.** (1976; 2000). *Housing By People: Towards Autonomy in Building Environments*. London: Marion Boyars. ISBN: 0714525693 (Note: Out Of Print; used copies of both paperback and hardback versions are available through online booksellers such as Amazon)

**Blackboard** is used to post announcements and course materials, and for submitting assignments. Check frequently for updates.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

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### **Country and City Profile Project**

Select a developing country and one city within it to focus your assignments on over the course of the semester. A list of recommended countries & cities can be found on Blackboard. Please contact me to propose other alternatives.

### ***Blog Posts (6 Due) –Approx. 2-3 pgs each***

1. *Country Profile – Indicators (Due February 5th)*: Report national indicators on “growth” and “progress” of this country, including the Human Development Index (<http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>); measures of national debt and revenues (GDP) ([http://www.economist.com/content/global\\_debt\\_clock](http://www.economist.com/content/global_debt_clock)); and advancement toward Millennial Development Goals 1,7 & 8 (<http://www.devinformo.info/mdginfo/>).
2. *Country Profile – Plans (Due February 19th)*: What types of national plans have been developed within recent years to guide development? What are the goals and strategies that they suggest? How do they address Indicators you discussed in Blog #1?
3. *Country Profile – International Development Assistance (Due March 5th)* – Summarize the role of various international organizations in assisting with housing, jobs, and infrastructure planning and development in this country. Specifically, what types of housing practices are promoted? How do they compare and contrast with the perspectives offered by Turner and Davis?
4. *City Profile – Plans & Projects (Due March 26th)*: What types of regional or local plans and development projects have been adopted and/or implemented regarding land tenure, housing, infrastructure & service, and jobs? Who are the major international aid and development partners? How successful do these endeavors appear to be?
5. *City Profile –Project Profile #1 (Due April 9th)*: Describe and analyze one particular city project addressing a topical area covered by this course. What were the goals pursued? What strategies were used to pursue them? Who decided, and who provided which parts of the project? What were the outcomes? How successful do you consider this project? What would you suggest to improve it?
6. *City Profile – Project Profile #2 (Due April 23rd)*: Describe and analyze one particular project addressing a **different** topical area covered by this course than you covered in Blog #5. What were the goals pursued? What strategies were used to pursue them? Who decided,

and who provided which parts of the project? What were the outcomes? How successful do you consider this project? What would you suggest to improve it?

***Final Paper (Due 5/14) – Approx. 25 pgs***

Complete your country and city profile by placing your analysis within the broader social, economic, and political history of both the country and the city. Combine and revise your blog posts into a cohesive paper that analyzes national indicators, development plans and strategies, along with city development plans and projects. What do you think is going well? Where do you recommend changes in the goals or process in order to achieve better outcomes?

***Final Presentation (5/2 or 5/14) – Approx. 10 minutes***

Present your major findings and analysis of your country and city to the class in a concise presentation via PowerPoint, a wiki, or some other medium in consultation with the instructor.

***International Organization Wiki or PowerPoint (4 credit students only) – Approx. 10 minutes***

Select one international aid organization (IMF, World Bank, USAID, Asian Development Bank, UN-HABITAT, etc.) involved in planning & development in third world cities. Develop a wiki or PowerPoint presentation that describes this organization (its history and functions), its development paradigm (what theories, ideologies, and assumptions does this organization employ in its development work?) and its processes (how does this organization actually “do” development?). What are some of the pros and cons to the way the organization approaches and practices development in third world cities? Please include a reference list containing your sources of information.

**General Assignment Guidelines**

All written assignments must be typed in Times New Roman 12pt font, double-spaced, with 1” margins all around. Assignments must be submitted by the date and time due, or they will be docked one full letter grade for each day they are counted as late (e.g. from an A to a B). Timely completion is necessary for follow-up in-class activities around your research.

All material borrowed from another source - which you summarize or quote directly - must be properly referenced both within the text and at the end of the paper in a complete list of references. See the section below on Academic Integrity for the consequences of plagiarism, or failing to acknowledge the sources you use in your research and writing. Please follow a consistent format such as MLA, APA, or the Chicago Style.

The Writing Center is available to help you hone your writing skills to produce a quality paper from conception to completion. Contact them at 518-442-4061 or [writing@albany.edu](mailto:writing@albany.edu) for assistance.

**GRADING POLICY**

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This class is structured as an interactive dialog. Discussion and activities, both in the classroom and online, are designed to unpack complex ideologies and policies, engage in debates, and prepare you for further assignments. Everyone is expected to attend regularly and actively

participate for the benefit of us all. Course readings have been strategically selected to maximize student exposure to critical substantive content. They will play a key role in our discussions, activities and assignments. Students are expected to come to class prepared, and to participate thoughtfully in class discussions and activities.

Requirements	Due Date(s)	Percentage of Final Grade (3-credit)	Percentage of Final Grade (4-credit)
International Organization Wiki (4 credit students only)	1/31	N/A	10%
Blog Posts (6)	Various	60%	55%
Final Paper	5/14	30%	25%
Final Presentation	5/2 or 5/14	10%	10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

The following grading scale is used to translate final grades to letter grades.

Letter Grade	Percent Range	Letter Grade	Percent Range
A	93-100%	C	73-77%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	88-89%	D+	68-69%
B	83-87%	D	63-67%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	78-79%	E	Less than 60%

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

The consequences for violating UAlbany's policies on academic integrity range from rewriting the assignment in question to expulsion from the university. Please familiarize yourself with the details of this policy, which will be enforced in this class: <http://www.albany.edu/eas/104/penalty.htm>. To better understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, take the free Library tutorial **Plagiarism 101**: <http://library.albany.edu/usered/ncplaga/index.html>. If you ever have a question about properly referencing the work of others within your writing and presentations, please ask me \*before\* you submit or present them.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES**

Every effort will be made to accommodate those with special learning needs. Please notify me of any documented needs you may have within the first two weeks of class so we can work together to assure satisfactory arrangements. Assistance is available through Disabled Student Services: <http://www.albany.edu/studentlife/DSS/index.html> (website), (518) 442-5490 (phone), (518) 442-3366 (TTY).

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
<b>Setting the Context</b>			
1/24	The State of Third World Cities	N/A	
1/29	Planning and Development in Third World Cities	(UNHABITAT, 2009), <b>pp.3-19 ONLY</b>	
1/31	International Aid & Development Indicators	(United Nations, 2008; World Bank, 2008)	International Org Presentations (4 credit students)
<b>Housing Perspectives</b>			
2/5	Who Decides, and with What Consequences?	Turner 1-2	Blog #1
2/7	The Social & Economic Value of Housing	Turner 3-4	
2/12	What Housing By People Looks Like	Turner 5-7	
2/14	Who Participates, and How?	Turner 8; (Parfitt, 2004)	
2/19	Slums Today	Davis 1-2	Blog #2
2/21	Critiquing the State & Self-help	Davis 3-4	
2/26	(Un)Natural Catastrophes	Davis 5-6	
2/28	Global Restructuring & Slums	Davis 7-9	
<b>Housing in Practice</b>			
3/5	India	D&R 2-4	Blog #3
3/7	Brazil	D&R 6-8	
3/12	China <i>Invited: Dr. Youqin Huang</i>	(Yeqin, 2013; Zhang, 2011)	
3/14	South Africa	D&R 10-12	
<b>3/15-3/22 Spring Break</b>			
<b>Infrastructure &amp; Services</b>			
3/26	Water & Sanitation	(Akbar, Minnery, van Horen, & Smith, 2007; Berg & Mugisha, 2010; Halla & Majani, 1999; Nzeadibe, 2009)	Blog #4
3/28	Energy	(Kaygusuz, 2012; World Energy Council, 2006) <b>pp.5-27 ONLY</b>	
4/2	Transportation	(Cervero & Golub, 2007) (Tiwari, 2003)	
4/4	Guest Instructor <i>Invited: Dr. Ray Bromley</i>	N/A	
4/9	Communication <i>Invited: Jana Hrdinova, Center for Technology in Government</i>	(Aker & Mbiti, 2010; Odendal, 2011)	Blog #5
<b>Jobs &amp; Finance</b>			

Date	Topic	Readings	Due
4/11	Microfinance & Microenterprise	(Dalglish, 2008; Merrill, 2009)	
4/16	Microfinance & Microenterprise	(Belwal, Tamiru, & Singh, 2012; Roy & Wheeler, 2006)	
4/18	Street Vending & Home-Based Enterprises	(Bromley, 2000; Gough, Tipple, & Napier, 2003)	
<b>Contemporary Issues</b>			
4/23	Gender & Development	(Lee-Smith & Trujillo, 2006; Phadke, 2013)	Blog #6
4/25	Disaster Planning & Recovery <i>Invited: Dr. Loretta Pyles</i>	(Adams et al., 2010, <b>pp. 19-46 ONLY</b> ; El-Masri & Tipple, 2002)	
4/30	Environmental Sustainability	(French & Lalande, 2012)	
5/2	<b>NO CLASS – Work on Paper &amp; Presentation</b>		
5/7	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>		Presentations (6)
5/14	<b>EXAM PERIOD, 10:30-12:30AM</b>		Presentations (10) & Final Paper

**Additional Readings available via ERes:**

- Adams, B., Amyx, P. R., Bevington, J. S., Brink, S., Chang, S. E., Davidson, R. A., . . . Pyatt, S. (2010). Assessing Community-Scale Damage, Disruption, and Early Recovery in Post-Earthquake Haiti: University of Delaware, Disaster Research Center.
- Akbar, H. M. D., Minnery, J. R., van Horen, B., & Smith, P. (2007). Community water supply for the urban poor in developing countries: The case of Dhaka, Bangladesh. *Habitat International*, 31(1), 24-35.
- Aker, J. C., & Mbiti, I. M. (2010). Mobile Phones and Economic Development in Africa. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 24(3), 207-232.
- Belwal, R., Tamiru, M., & Singh, G. (2012). Microfinance and Sustained Economic Improvement: Women Small-Scale Entrepreneurs in Ethiopia. *Journal of International Development*, 24(Supplement), S84-S99.
- Berg, S. V., & Mugisha, S. (2010). Pro-poor water service strategies in developing countries: promoting justice in Uganda's urban project. *Water Policy*, 12(4), 589-601.
- Bromley, R. (2000). Street Vending and Public Policy: A Global Review. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 20(1), 1-28.
- Cervero, R., & Golub, A. (2007). Informal transport: A global perspective. *Transport Policy*, 14(6), 445-457.
- Dalglish, C. (2008). From adject poverty to aspiring middleclass - micro-entrepreneurship in urban Mozambique. *Journal of Asia Entrepreneurship and Sustainability*, 4(3), 55-71.
- El-Masri, S., & Tipple, A. G. (2002). Natural Disaster, Mitigation and Sustainability: The Case of Developing Countries. *International Planning Studies*, 7(2), 157-175.
- French, M. A., & Lalande, C. (2012). Green Cities Require Green Housing: Advancing the Economic and Environmental Sustainability of Housing and Slum Upgrading in Cities in Developing Countries. In R. Simpson & M. Zimmermann (Eds.), *The Economy of Green Cities: A World Compendium on the Green Urban Economy* (pp. 257-284): Springer.

- Gough, K. V., Tipple, A. G., & Napier, M. (2003). Making a Living in African Cities: The Role of Home-based Enterprises in Accra and Pretoria. *International Planning Studies*, 8(4), 253-277.
- Halla, F., & Majani, B. (1999). Innovative Ways for Solid Waste Management in Dar-Es-Salaam: Toward Stakeholder Partnerships. *Habitat International*, 23(3), 351-361.
- Kaygusuz, K. (2012). Energy for sustainable development: A case of developing countries. *Renewal and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 16(2), 1116-1126.
- Lee-Smith, D., & Trujillo, C. H. (2006). Unequal Rights: Women and Property. In J. S. Jaquette & G. Summerfield (Eds.), *Women and Gender Equity in Development Theory and Practice: Institutions, Resources, and Mobilization* (pp. 159-172). Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press.
- Merrill, S. R. (2009). Microfinance for Housing: Assisting the "Bottom Billion" and the "Missing Middle". Washington, D.C.: Urban Institute Center of International Development and Governance.
- Nzeadibe, T. C. (2009). Solid waste reforms and informal recycle in Enugu urban area, Nigeria. *Habitat International*, 33, 93-99.
- Odendal, N. (2011). Splintering Urbanism or Split Agendas: Examining the Spatial Distribution of Technology Access in Relation to ICT Policy in Durban, South Africa. *Urban Studies*, 48(11), 2375-2397.
- Parfitt, T. (2004). The ambiguity of participation: a qualified defence of participatory development. *Third World Quarterly*, 25(3), 537-555.
- Phadke, S. (2013). Traversing the City: Some Gendered Questions of Access in Mumbai. In N. Perera & W.-S. Tang (Eds.), *Transforming Asian Cities: Intellectual Impasse, Asianizing Space, and Emerging Translocalities* (pp. 177-189). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Roy, M.-A., & Wheeler, D. (2006). A survey of micro-enterprise in urban West Africa: drivers shaping the sector. *Development in Practice*, 16(5), 452-464.
- Tiwari, G. (2003). Transport and land-use policies in Delhi. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 81(6), 444-450.
- UNHABITAT. (2009). Planning Sustainable Cities: Global Report on Human Settlements 2009 - Chapter 1, pp. 3-19. London: UNHABITAT.
- United Nations. (2008). Millennium Development Goals 2008 Report. New York: United Nations.
- World Bank. (2008). Aid Architecture: An Overview of the Main Trends in Official Development Assistance Flows. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank Group, Concessional Finance and Global Partnerships Vice Presidency.
- World Energy Council. (2006). Alleviating Urban Energy Poverty in Latin America. London: World Energy Council.
- Yeqin, Z. (2013). Housing and citizenship rights of rural migrants in urban China: The case of Yuanhenong, Shanghai. In N. Perera & W.-S. Tang (Eds.), *Transforming Asian Cities: Intellectual Impasse, Asianizing Space, and Emerging Translocalities* (pp. 94-111). New York, NY: Routledge.
- Zhang, L. (2011). The political economy of informal settlements in post-socialist China: The case of *chengzhongcun(s)*. *Geoforum*, 42(4), 473-483.