



KAUTILYA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

GITAM (Deemed to be University)

Rudraram, Patancheru Mandal

Hyderabad, Telangana 502329

Course Code: PPOL7091	Course Title: The City	
Trimester: 4	Course Type: Elective	Credits: 3
Home Program(s): MPP	Batch/Academic Year: 2023-2025	
Course Lead: Dr. Anjali Karol Mohan	Assigned TA/RA: Mr. Aryaman Chatterjee	

Course Description

The 21st century city evokes both excitement and anxiety. Bridging the two emotions is an emerging imperative, one that lays the context for this course - The City: Comprehending Approaches to Urban Planning and Management. The course is an intersectional exploratory one that aims to introduce students to the need for comprehending and theorizing the contemporary city. The course starts with an exploration of what a city is and exposes the students to the myriad understandings of the city and the urbanization processes shaping it.

Notably, the comprehension, planning and management of the 21st Century city, located largely in the global South is through techno-managerial rational approaches and attendant theories that are premised upon and emanate from the ‘early urbanizers’ in the global North. Together – the unprecedented urbanization and the ‘borrowed’ planning and management tools - has rendered the contemporary city a messy site replete with environmental, economic and social crises, calling out for, at the minimum, a fresh comprehension, praxis and by extension theorization. The elective stems from this requirement: bridging the knowledge gap between the current dominant planning and management approaches (and attendant theorization) and the ‘stubborn realities’ of the contemporary city. Additionally, the course discusses both the persistent historical challenges of basic service and infrastructure deficit, escalating inequality, poor governance and management issues amongst others and the contemporary challenges of rapid, unfettered urbanization and escalating climate crises.

The course entails a critical overview of the dominant global North urban theories, while encouraging students to methodologically engage with the pluralistic perspectives emerging from the 21st century city. Aligning with the arguments that theory flows from everyday life (Liggett

and Perry, 1995: 2, Parker, 2004), the course is designed around multiple hands-on individual and group assignments designed to engage with the histories, lived experiences and attendant knowledge emerging in and through the contemporary city. Co-production and critical enquiry constitute the two cornerstones of the course.

Divided into four modules, the course engages/ exposes students to: one, popular city imaginations and multiple lenses of understanding a city, with a focus on the contemporary city; an understanding of urbanization processes deriving from and, premised upon a suite of social, cultural and economic factors; two, an exposure to the debates on the gap between dominant urban policy and praxis and the actual ‘everyday city’; an in-depth comprehension of, and the emerging imperative of foregrounding the dominant modes of urbanization in the contemporary city (as distinct from those experienced by the Northern cities); and four evolving an appropriate and relevant ‘shared vocabulary’ that facilitates the framing of the contemporary city as well as fresh and grounded perspectives of planning and managing these cities.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the specifics and peculiarities of contemporary urbanization processes characterizing the Southern City and the attendant socio-spatial signifiers typical of the global South.
2. Appraise the changing context of development with a particular focus on Globalization, Localisation, Governance and Technology.
3. Understand the emerging responses: Good Governance and Decentralisation.
4. Recognise the Challenges and Potentials of Decentralised urban planning and governance.
5. Engage with multiple country experiences (Case Studies) around Decentralised Urban planning and Governance.

Course Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Recognise the difference in the urbanization processes characterizing the Southern City and the attendant socio-spatial signifiers typical of the global South
2. Understand the changing context of Development: Globalization, localisation, Governance and Technology;
3. Understand the emerging policy responses: Good Governance and Decentralisation
4. Recognise the Challenges and Potentials of Decentralised urban planning and governance
5. Appraise case studies from the global South to leverage the potentials and appraise trade-offs eminent in decentralized urban planning and governance

Textbooks and Course Materials

- Film: <http://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/380650/what-is-a-city/>
- Bridge, G., & Watson, S. (2000). Chapter 1: City imaginaries. *A Companion to the City*,

pgs.7-17

- Hollis, L. (2013). *Cities are Good for You: The Genius of the Metropolis*. Chapter 1: What is a City
- Parker, S. (2015). *Urban theory and the urban experience: Encountering the city*. Routledge (1-4) (ii) Soja, E. W. Chapter 3: Putting Cities First: Remapping the Origins of Urbanism. *A Companion to the City*, pgs. 26-34
- Soja, E. W. *Putting Cities First: Remapping the Origins of Urbanism. A Companion to the City*, 26-34
- Scott, J. C. (1998). *Seeing like a state. How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, Yale, Chapter 2: Cities, People and Language pgs.53-83
- Scott, J. C. (1998). *Seeing like a state. How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*, Yale, Chapter 4: The High Modernist City: An Experiment and a Critique pgs.103-146
- *A Planned City Comes of Age: Rethinking Ciudad Guyana Today*, Clara Irazabal
- Datta, A (2015). *New urban utopias of postcolonial India. 'Entrepreneurial urbanization' in Dholera smart city, Gujarat.* *Dialogues in Human Geography*, 5(1), 3-22
- Yigitcanlar, Tan, Hoon Han, Md Kamruzzaman, Giuseppe Ioppolo, and Jamile Sabatini-Marques. "The making of smart cities: Are Songdo, Masdar, Amsterdam, San Francisco and Brisbane the best we could build?." *Land use policy* 88 (2019): 104187.
- Watson V (2009a) 'The planned city sweeps the poor away...': Urban planning and 21st century urbanization. *Progress in Planning* 72(3): 151–193
- Roy, A. (2009). Why India cannot plan its cities: Informality, insurgence and the idiom of urbanization. *Planning theory*, 8(1), 76-87.
- Sverdlik, A., Mitlin, D., & Dodman, D. (2019). *Realizing the Multiple Benefits of Climate Resilience and Inclusive Development in Informal Settlements*. C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, New York OR Satterthwaite, D., Archer, D., Colenbrander, S., Dodman, D., Hardoy, J., Mitlin, D., & Patel, S. (2020). *Building resilience to climate change in informal settlements*. *One Earth*, 2(2), 143-156.
- Van Hulst, M. 2012. *Storytelling, a model of and a model for planning*. *Planning Theory* 11, no 3: 299-318 OR Söderström, O., Paasche, T., & Klauser, F. (2014). *Smart cities as corporate storytelling*. *City*, 18(3), 307-320.
- Söderström, O., Paasche, T., & Klauser, F. (2014). *Smart cities as corporate storytelling*. *City*, 18(3), 307-320.
- Bhan, G. (2019). *Notes on a Southern urban practice*. *Environment and Urbanization*, 31(2), 639-654
- Delgado, G. (2021). *Situated Modernities: Socio-Spatial Co-Production in Namibia*. In *Theorizing Urban Development From the Global South* (pp. 197-219). Palgrave Macmillan Cham
- *National Urban Transport Policy 2014 and State Policy for Transit-Oriented Development*, Bangalore
- Sen, A., Kaur, R., & Zabiliūtė, E. (2020). *(En)countering sexual violence in the Indian city*. *Gender, Place & Culture*, 27(1), 1-12.
- Pellissery, S., Gómez Aristizábal, J. (2021). *A Grammar for Transformative Urbanism*. In:

Mohan, A.K., Pellissery, S., Gómez Aristizábal, J. (eds) Theorising Urban Development From the Global South. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-82475-4_11

Course Schedule

Unit I	Sessions: 4	What is a City?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Session 1: Introduction and discussion on the course outline and anticipated outcomes ● Session 2: City Imaginaries ● Session 3: Understanding Cities ● Session 4: Urbanization, Urban Theory and Cities 		
Unit II	Sessions: 9	Genesis of Modern Planning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Session 5: Genesis of Modern Planning ● Session 6: Genesis of Modern Planning ● Session 7: Planning the 20th Century City: Failures and Flaws ● Session 8: Mapping the horizontal eco-system of planning and identify the interlinkages and Introducing the Mid-Term Group Assignment. ● Session 9: Planning the 20th Century City: Failures and Flaws ● Session 10: Planning the 20th Century City: Failures and Flaws ● Session 11: Master Planning in India ● Session 12: Master Planning in India ● Session 13: Student Presentations 		
Unit III	Sessions: 6	21st Century City and Emerging Imperatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Session 14: Planning and its Manifestations ● Session 15: Planning and its Manifestations ● Session 16: Persisting Historical Challenges and Contemporary Emergencies ● Session 17: Field Visit: Introducing the End Term Assignment ● Session 18: Field Visit ● Session 19: Planning as a Case to Storytelling 		
Unit IV	Sessions: 6	Planning the Contemporary City: Innovation in Theory and Practice

- Session 20: The Emerging Imperatives of Innovative Practice and Theory
- Session 21: The Emerging Imperatives of Innovative Practice and Theory
- Session 22: Linking Planning and Policy
- Session 23: Connecting the Urban Planning and Management Ecosystem
- Session 24: Connecting the Urban Planning and Management Ecosystem