Cities of The Global South
Honours/ Masters 2015
Department of Environmental & Geographical Science: University of Cape Town

Course aims and objectives:

By the end of the course students should be in a position to critically survey aspects of the contemporary urban geography and planning literatures on cities of the south. They should have sufficient command of the detail of the theoretical and applied material to be able to outline divergent epistemological positions, provide a periodised account of changing ideas, set out the contributions of individual leading scholars and provide critiques of what they have read.

The skills that will be developed in this course include the absorption of complex arguments, the integration of theory and evidence and the ability to communicate abstract ideas and their applications, both verbally and in written form.

On the basis of a command of the literature students should be able to read the urban landscape of a number of different cities of the south, including those of South Africa, and be in a position to reflect on the implications of how cities are variously conceived.

Students will be asked to lead specific tutorials and a mark will be allocated to this task based on your leadership and on the text you hand in on the subject. A draft of this text is due to me 24 hours BEFORE the tutorial that you lead and a revised version of this text should be circulated to the class on vula within 48 hours of the tutorial. The idea is that you formulate key arguments from the readings and provide an overview of the issues discussed in class. This ‘paper’ should be no longer than 3000 words but could be shorter and include diagrams/graphics, web links to authors etc. that might enrich the group understanding of the issue of the topic.

The year mark will be based on an essay assignment (due noon on 15th June 2015), class participation and your hand in on the seminar that you will lead. Students are expected to find their own material for the assignments and essay, but may share online materials with the class via the course vula site. Some readings are on vula.

The exam includes questions are drawn from all aspects of the course, including the essay.

Overall course evaluation:
Exam – 50%
Essay – 30%
Tutorial Presentation and Hand in – 20%

Session dates 09h00 -11h00 Mondays Feb – June 2015
Venue – 2.27 Davies Room
Students who enroll for this course are expected to do the reading for the topic prior to the scheduled tutorial.

Monday 16 Feb – Introductory class
Background to the reading list, allocation of tasks, the essay, the exam, the schedule, vula etc.

Monday 23 Feb – Internal class meeting discussion/reading swop etc.
The room has been booked for your use on these days when we will not have a formal session but where you may wish to meet as a group.

02 March – Internal class meeting discussion/reading swop etc.

Monday 09 March - What is the urban – the debate in context


Monday 16 March – What is Southern theory?


Monday 23 March – Urban poverty, gender and development geography


**Monday 30 March – Internal class meeting discussion/reading swop etc.**

**Monday 13 April – Ordinary Cities**


**Monday 20 April – Internal class meeting discussion/reading swop etc.**

**Monday 04 May - Southern urban thinkers – Distinctive African urbanism**


& /OR


Monday 11 May – Internal class meeting discussion/reading swop etc

Monday 18 May - The Asian urban century


Monday 25 May – Urban Planning


Monday 01 June - New Critiques of southern urban theory


Other readings may be added as they come out

**Monday 08 June – Open session on the essay**  
**Monday 15 June – Putting it all together**

**ESSAY:** Prepare a 5-6 000 word review article for *Progress in Human Geography* (see the journal for the style guide) that foregrounds two or three of the new synthesis volumes on cities of the global south.

The purpose of the essay is to identify, synthesize and reflect on the emerging debates, periodization and divergent conceptual positions evident within the secondary literature on Cities of the South. You may wish to highlight specific tensions, consider the relevance of the new material for teaching, outline the contributions of individual authors or regions or locate the debates in wider discussions of urban change or social theory – or you can take some other direction in your submission. Whatever your framing for the paper, it is likely that you would want to reference texts other than just those of these three books that should otherwise form the core of your paper:


If you would like to see me and you have not found me in my office (room 6.02), please mail me for an appointment (susan.parnell@uct.ac.za)

Professor Susan Parnell