

## **Urban Planning 692: Special Topics Latino Cities**

Dr. Michael Martin  
Spring Semester 2008  
T & TH 4:30-5:50  
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### **Class Objective:**

The three objectives of this course are:

- 1) To expose students to the unique urban experiences of Latinas/os, Latin Americans, Spaniards and indigenous people.
- 2) To obtain a general knowledge of the built form and urban planning from a Latino/a point of view.
- 3) To better understand the role of urban development as it relates to Latin American cities and American barrios.

### **Course Description:**

The field of Urban Planning is dominated by theories that are deeply rooted in the experience of Anglos. This course, however, is designed to be a historical overview of the urban form from the point of view of Latinas/os. This does not mean to imply that Latina/o Urban Planning is a separate field of study with its own theoretical grounding that is separate from established Urban Planning theory, but rather a subset of Urban Studies that recognizes that the urban experience for Latinas/os is unique and deserves a closer examination.

This class will begin with the pre-Columbian urban experiences of indigenous people originating from what is now called Mexico and Peru, as well as, the urban experiences of Iberians. We will examine some of the world's greatest ancient cities and will discover that urban design and architecture that we consider Latin American is actually a mix of Spanish, Islamic and indigenous styles. Next, we will look at the Latin America urban experience. Spanish colonialism was more urban than any other colonial empire in the world's history and that Spanish colonial urban planning is the uniting factor of all Latin American cities. We will see how the trends of neocolonialism and nationalism built the mega-cities of modern Latin America. We will also investigate how modern-day chaos and violence is rooted in urban inequality. The final section will look at barrios (Latina/o neighborhoods) in cities across the United States. We will study how these communities came to be, what important issues affected them, and what the future has in store for them.

Throughout this course, an attempt will be made to cultivate your knowledge and understanding of the many unique races and ethnicities that make the Latin American experience. This class will involve lectures, movies, slideshows and exposure to music and art.

**Course Requirements:**

This class will be based on a 100-point scale: (A=100-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-88, B=87-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-78, C=77-73, C-=72-70, D+=69-68, D=67-60, D-=59-58, & F>57). Any test or paper not turned in will result in a zero (0) and 10% of the total score will be reduced for every day that a test or paper is late (i.e. one day late on a 25 point test will lose 2.5 points).

You will be expected to attend class, participate in discussions, read the assigned material and be prepared for class. Any meaningful class discussion depends on your ability to interpret the assigned readings. For this reason there will be a series of reading reports, quizzes and other assignments. These assignments will be worth a total of **10 points**.

You will also be given one in-class test and one paper. These will each be worth 25 points each for a total of **50 points**. All test questions will be drawn from my lectures, discussions, films, slideshows and from the readings. No early or second exams will be given and make-up exams are only allowed in the case of a verifiable excused absence. Details about the paper will be given during Week 3 of class.

The final exam will be comprehensive in nature but will be weighted toward the information presented after the first test. The final exam is worth **40 points**.

**Other Issues:**

Reasonable accommodation will be made for a host of circumstances, please ask me as soon as possible if you need accommodations of any kind. The following references can be used to better understand the nature of reasonable accommodations:

[http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad+admin\\_policies/S1.5.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad+admin_policies/S1.5.htm)

[http://www4.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad\\_Aff/policy/](http://www4.uwm.edu/Dept/Acad_Aff/policy/)

[http://www4.uwm.edu/current\\_students/records\\_grades/ferpa.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/records_grades/ferpa.cfm)

[http://www4.uwm.edu/current\\_students/military\\_call\\_up.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm)

I wish to draw particular attention to the issue of academic conduct and ask that you review the rules relating to student academic misconduct procedures as specified in Chapter UWS 14 and Faculty Document No. 1686 and can be found at:

[http://www4.uwm.edu/acad\\_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm](http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm)

**Schedule of Classes: (subject to change)**

Week 1: 1/22 & 1/24

**Introduction to the Course, General Business & Theoretical Groundings: Urban Planning and Latina/o Studies**

***Section I: Roots of Latina/o Cities: Pre-Colombian & Spanish***

This section will explore the early roots of Latino Urban Studies through the eyes of Indigenous Americans and the Spanish. We will focus on what allowed indigenous people the ability build great cities and develop a unique urban form. We will also look at Spain and the urban mind-set of the conquistadors.

Week 2: 1/29 & 1/31

**Indigenous Cities: Ceremonial Centers to City-States**

*Cities Highlighted: La Venta, Maya Cities, Teotihuacán, Chavin & Chan Chan*

No Reading

*Film: Teotihuacán*

Week 3: 2/5 & 2/7

**The Greatest Pre-Columbian Empires and Their Conquest**

*Cities Highlighted: Tenochtitlan and Cuzco*

Kandell, Jonathan, La Capital: The Biography of Mexico City, Henry Holt & Co., New York, NY, 1988. Chapter 2: Cannibal Empire, p. 26-54.

*Film: Engineering an Empire: The Aztecs*

Week 4: 2/12 & 2/14

**Iberian Heritage: Historical Roots of Latina/o Identity and the Latino Built Form & the Conquest**

*Cities Highlighted: Cordoba, Grenada, Seville, Cadiz, Toledo*

No Reading

*Slideshow: Spanish Architecture: Cathedrals, Alcazars, La Mezquita & Alhambra*

*Film: Cities of Light (Portion of Film)*

## ***Section II: Iberian Colonialism and Latin American Urban Development***

The colonialization of Latin America, unlike the United States, was deeply rooted in the urban experience. This section will show that modern-day Latin American cities have been deeply affected by the Iberian colonial experience. We will also the modern Latin American experience as it relates to politics, economics and demographics. This section is designed to provide the context to understand the commonalities of all Latin American cities via their shared experiences.

Week 5: 2/19 & 2/21  
**Colonial Latin America: Origins of Urban Form**

Hanke, Lewis, History of Latin American Civilization, Little, Brown & Co., Irvine, CA, 1967.  
 Chapter 13: Urban Life p. 276-283

Chasteen, John Charles, Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, W. W. Norton, New York, NY, 2001. Chapter 3: The Colonial Crucible, p. 63-92.

*Film: Urban Design and Planning in Havana, Cuba: An Historical Perspective (part)*

Week 6: 2/26 & 2/28  
**Modern Latin America: From Political Instability to Mega-City**

Chasteen, John Charles, Born in Blood and Fire: A Concise History of Latin America, W. W. Norton, New York, NY, 2001. Chapter 8: Nationalism, p. 213-244.

\*\*Almandoz, Arturo, editor, Planning Latin America's Capital Cities, 1850-1950, Routledge Press, New York, NY, 2002. Chapter 1: Introduction, p. 1-12.

*Film: Favelas (part)*

Week 7: 3/4 & 3/6  
**MID-TERM TEST & REVIEW**

## ***Section III: Latin American Cities: Case Studies***

Latin America has some of the world's largest cities and a unique historical perspective. We will trace the evolution of three Latin American cities (Lima, Buenos Aires and Mexico City) from small colonial centers of politics and trade to the explosion of industrialization and urban migration. We will pay special attention to each cities unique qualities and the factors that made them what they are today

Week 8: 3/11 & 3/13  
**Lima, Peru - Colonial Jewel to Mega-City Sprawl**  
*Issues Highlight: Urban Space, History of Colonial Architecture*

\*\*Almandoz, Arturo, editor, Planning Latin America's Capital Cities, 1850-1950, Routledge Press, New York, NY, 2002. Chapter 7: Lima: The Script of Urban Surgery, p. 170-192.

\*\*Higgins, James, Lima: A Cultural History, Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 2005. Part I: Introducing Lima: "The Strangest Saddest City", p. 1-17.

No Week: 3/17 *Spring Break*

Week 9: 3/25 & 3/27  
**Buenos Aires, Argentina - The Chicago of South America**  
*Issues Highlight: Transportation Systems*

\*\*Almandoz, Arturo, editor, Planning Latin America's Capital Cities, 1850-1950, Routledge Press, New York, NY, 2002. Chapter 3: Buenos Aires: A great European City, p. 45-74.

\*\*Scobie, James, Buenos Aires: Plaza to Suburb, 1870-1910, Oxford University Press, New York, NY, 1974, Chapter 3: Locational Forces: Ports, Railroads and Federal District, p. 70-114.

*Music Lecture: Tango is Life: From the Milongas of the Pampas to the Musical Identity of Buenos Aires*

Week 10: 4/1 & 4/3  
**Mexico City, Mexico - North America Oldest, Most Complex Urban Space**  
*Issues Highlight: History of Latin American Urban Planning,*

Joseph & Szuchman-Chapter 1 181-201.

\*\*Almandoz, Arturo, editor, Planning Latin America's Capital Cities, 1850-1950, Routledge Press, New York, NY, 2002. Chapter 6: Mexico City: The Urban Development of Mexico City 1850-1930, p. 139-169.

#### ***Section IV: Urban Latina/os in the United States***

The first Latina/o settlements in the United States were overwhelming rural. Today, Latina/os are one of the United States most urban racial/ethnic groups in the United States and account for the majority of growth in our nations largest cities. This section will explore the historical development of the largest barrios in the United States. We will also be use GIS technology to explore the spatial dynamics of barrio development.

Week 11: 4/8 & 4/10  
**Urban Mexicans: The L.A. Barrio: A City Within A City**  
*City Highlighted: Los Angeles, Chicago*  
*Issues Highlight: Historical Housing Segregation, Immigration Policy*

Sanchez, George, Becoming Mexican American: Ethnicity, Culture, and Identity in Chicano Los Angeles, 1900-1945, Oxford University Press, 1995. Chapter 4: Americanization and the Mexican Immigrant, p. 87-107.

**\*\*Romo, Ricardo, East Los Angeles: History of a Barrio, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX, 1983. Chapter 4: Creating An Eastside Barrio, p. 61-88.**

**Week 12: 4/15 & 4/17**  
**Urban Puerto Ricans: From the Big Stick to Deindustrialization**  
*City Highlighted: New York City, Chicago*  
*Issues Highlight: Government Housing Policies, Gentrification*

Suro, Roberto, Strangers Among Us: Latino Lives in A Changing America, Vintage Press, 1999. Chapter 10: From Stickball to Crack, p. 138-157.

*Guest Lecture: William Velez-Puerto Ricans Barrios in the United States*

**Week 13: 4/22 & 4/24**  
**Urban Cubans: A Middle Class Diaspora to South Florida**  
*City Highlighted: Miami*  
*Issues Highlight: Ethnic Enclaves, Urban Labor Markets & Emerging Business Markets*

Portes, Alejandro and Alex Stepick, City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami, University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 1993. Chapter 5: Enter the Cubans & Chapter 6: How the Enclave was Built. p. 89-149.

**Week 14: PAPER DUE**

**Week 15: 5/6 & 5/8**  
**Review for FINAL EXAM**

**Week 16:**  
**FINAL EXAM**