

Cities and Environment

Geography 605

Fall 2007

Professor Robin Leichenko

Registration: Geography Seminar 16:450:605:03

Index 30437

This graduate seminar explores connections and intersections between urban areas, processes of urbanization, and the environment. The course will cover a broad range topics and literatures including global environmental change and cities, urban vulnerability, urban political ecology, environmental justice, consumption, suburbanization, and sustainability. Among the many common themes and concepts underlying these various topics are scale, globalization, social and spatial fragmentation, equity, and connectivity. The broad goals of the course are 1) to expose students a range of literatures, discourses, and ways of thinking about cities and environment; and 2) to provide a format for students to look in-depth at one topic and or area of literature on the urban environment. The course will follow a seminar format with emphasis on reading and discussion of assigned materials.

*This course is also open to advanced undergraduates via special permission number.

Meeting time and place

Tues 10:20-1:00, B120 Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus

Contact information

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:30 to 1:30 and by appointment

Books for Purchase

Gandy, Matthew. 2003. *Concrete and Clay – Reworking Nature in New York City*. MIT Press.

Klinenberg, Eric. 2002. *Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Marcotullio, Peter and Gordon McGranahan, eds. 2007. *Scaling Urban Environmental Challenges: from Local to Global and Back*. London: Earthscan.

Other Articles and Book Chapters

Other articles and book chapters will be posted on the course [sakai](#) website. A partial and tentative list of these materials includes:

Revised 9/4/07

- Agyeman, Julian, Robert D. Bullard, and Bob Evans, eds. 2003. *Just Sustainabilities: Development in an Unequal World*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. (selected chapters)
- Berkes, Fikret. 2007. Understanding Uncertainty and Reducing Vulnerability: Lessons from Resilience Thinking. *Natural Hazards* 41: 283–295.
- Bulkeley, Harriet and Michele M. Betsill. 2003. *Cities and Climate Change: Urban Sustainability and Global Environmental Governance*. London: Routledge (selected chapters).
- Conca, Ken. 2002. Consumption and Environment in a Global Economy. In *Confronting Consumption*, ed. Thomas Princen, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca, 133–153. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Cutter, Susan. 2006. The Geography of Social Vulnerability: Race, Class, and Catastrophe. In Social Science Research Council, *Understanding Katrina: Perspectives from the Social Sciences*. Accessed 15 June 2007 <<http://understandingkatrina.ssrc.org/Cutter/>>
- Cutter, Susan L., Christopher T. Emrich, Jerry T. Mitchell, Bryan J. Boruff, Melanie Gal, Mathew C. Schmidlein, Christopher G. Burton and Ginni Melton. 2006. The Long Road Home. Race, Class and Recovery from Hurricane Katrina. *Environment* 48(2): 8–20.
- Feng, Huan, Lizhong Yu and William Solecki. 2005. *Urban Dimensions of Environmental Change – Science, Exposures, Policies, and Technologies*. Monmouth Junction, NJ: Science Press (selected chapters).
- Gleeson, Brendan and Nicholas Low. 2000. Cities as Consumers of the World's Environment. In *Consuming Cities: the Urban Environment in the Global Economy after the Rio Declaration*, ed. Nicholas Low, Brendan Gleeson, Ingemar Elander, and Rolf Lidskog, 1–29. London: Routledge.
- Godschalk, David R. 2003. Urban Hazard Mitigation: Creating Resilient Cities. *Natural Hazards Review* 4(3): 136–143.
- Hartman, Chester and Gregory D. Squires, eds. 2006. *There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class and Hurricane Katrina*. New York: Routledge. (selected chapters)
- Lankao, Patricia Romero. 2007. Are We Missing the Point? Particularities of Urbanization, Sustainability and Carbon Emissions in Latin American Cities. *Environment and Urbanization* 19(1): 159–175.
- Leichenko, Robin M., and William D. Solecki. 2005. Exporting the American Dream: The Globalization of Suburban Consumption Landscapes. *Regional Studies* 39(2): 241–253.
- Leichenko, Robin M. and William D. Solecki. 2006. Global Cities and Local Vulnerabilities. *IHDP Update* 2/06: 10–12.

- Leichenko, Robin M. and William D. Solecki. 2007. Suburban Consumption Landscapes and Environmental Justice in Cities of the Developing World. *Society and Natural Resources*. Under review.
- Logan, John. 2006. *The Impact of Katrina: Race and Class in Storm Damaged Neighborhoods*. Working Paper. Providence, RI: Brown University, Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences.
- McGranahan, Gordon, Deborah Balk and Bridget Anderson. 2007. The Rising Tide: Assessing the Risks of Climate Change and Human Settlements in Low Elevation Coastal Zones. *Environment and Urbanization* 19(1): 17–37.
- McGranahan, Gordon, Pedro Jacobi, Jacob Songsore, Charles Surjadi, and Marianne Kjellen. 2001. *The Citizens at Risk: From Urban Sanitation to Sustainable Cities*. London: Earthscan.
- Mitchell, J. Kenneth. 1999a. *Crucibles of Hazards: Megacities and Disasters in Transition*. Tokyo: United Nations University Press. (selected chapters)
- Pelling, Mark. 2003. *The Vulnerability of Cities: Natural Disasters and Social Resilience*. London: Earthscan. (selected chapters)
- Pulido, L. 2000. Rethinking environmental racism: White privilege and urban development in Southern California. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90:12-40.
- Rosenzweig, Cynthia and Solecki, William D. 2001. Global Environmental Change and a Global City: Lessons for New York. *Environment* 43(3): 8–18.
- Sanchez-Rodriguez, Roberto, Karen C. Seto, David Simon, William D. Solecki, Frauke Kraas, and Gregor Laumann. 2005. *Science Plan: Urbanization and Global Environmental Change*. Bonn, Germany: International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change.
- Slocum, Rachel. 2004. Consumer Citizens and the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. *Environment and Planning A* 36: 763–782.
- Solecki, William D. and Robin M. Leichenko. 2006. Urbanization and the Metropolitan Environment: Lessons from New York and Shanghai. *Environment* 48.4: 8–23.
- Young, Abby. 2007. Forming Networks, Enabling Leaders, Financing Action: The Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. In *Creating a Climate for Change: Communicating Climate Change and Facilitating Social Change*, ed. Susanne C. Moser and Lisa Dilling, 383–398. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grading

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Evaluation of grades will be based on weekly preparation (40%) and a term paper (60%)

Weekly preparation (40% total)

(1) Reading and active participation in seminar discussions. At the beginning of each weekly meeting, each seminar participant will contribute a question or issue pertaining to the readings. These will be recorded on the board and will structure our discussion for the week.

(2) Written reaction notes. Reaction notes (one to two pages) should be brought to class **every week** in response to each week's reading assignment. The reaction notes are intended to make you think critically about the content of the readings and to provide you with ideas for class discussion. These notes are not intended to be a formal reaction paper. Rather, they will provide a way for you to get your thoughts and ideas about the readings down on paper and will help you to identify questions or issues that you would like to pursue during our class discussion. I will not grade or collect the reaction notes, but will just "check" to see that they have been completed.

Paper (60% total)

Students will select a paper topic early in the semester and will work on the paper throughout the semester. We will devote some class time approximately every other week to discussion of progress on student papers.

A draft version of the paper is due on Nov 13.

The final paper is due on Dec 11.

The paper should be approximately 20 pages in length. The draft version should be approximately 12-15 pages in length.

Policy regarding late papers and incompletes

Extensions of the due date for the final paper will not be granted except in the event of a documented family or personal emergency. Incompletes will not be granted in this class except in the event of a documented family or personal emergency.

Revised 9/4/07

Weekly Schedule and Readings
Tentative Schedule – subject to revision

All readings will be from the class books or from chapters and articles that will be made available on the Sakai course site prior to the week in which they are assigned.

Readings from the class books are listed in normal text below. *Readings posted on Sakai are in italics below.* All readings are required.

Week 1 (Sept 4) Introduction to the class – ways to think about cities and environment

Week 2 (Sept 11) Global environmental change and cities:

Sanchez-Rodriguez et al. 2005; Rosenzweig and Solecki 2001; McGranahan et al 2007; Slocum 2004; Young 2007 - chapter; Feng, Yu and Solecki – chapters;

Week 2 (Sept 18) Globalization, cities, and environment

Marcotullio and McGranahan 2007 – chapters 1, 2, 3, 4; *Leichenko and Solecki 2005*

Week 4 (Sept 25) Urban vulnerability – overview:

Mitchell 1999 --chapters; Pelling 2003 – chapters; Godschalk 2003; Berkes 2007; Leichenko and Solecki 2006

Week 5 (Oct 2) Urban vulnerability -- case study of the Chicago heat wave:

Klinenberg 2003 – whole book

Week 6 (Oct 9) Urban vulnerability -- case of Hurricane Katrina:

Cutter 2006; Cutter et al. 2006; Logan 2006; Hartman and Squires 2006 – chapters; Leichenko and O'Brien 2008 – chapters;

Week 7 (Oct 16) Urban political ecology – overview:

Gandy 2003 –Introduction and chapters 1, 2, 3; *Readings to be assigned*

Week 8 (Oct 23) Urban political ecology and urban parks:

Readings to be assigned

Class Field Trip to a Philadelphia park

Week 9 (Oct 30) Urban environmental justice - overview:

Gandy 2003 – chapters 4 and 5; *Agyeman et al. 2003 - chapters*

Week 10 (Nov 6) Equity: Urban environmental justice, fragmentation, and suburbanization:

Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 7; *Leichenko and Solecki 2007; Pulido 2000*

Week 11 (Nov 13) Urban sustainability -- overview:

Solecki and Leichenko 2006; Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 11, McGranahan et al. 2001 chapter

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Note: **Tues, Nov 20** has a Thursday class schedule due to Thanksgiving.

Week 12 (Nov 27) Sustainability and urban consumption:

Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 8, 9, 12; *Conca 2002 - chapter*; *Gleeson and Low 2000 - chapter*

Week 13 (Dec 4) Sustainability and local/global agendas:

Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 10, 13; *Bulkeley and Betsill 2003 - chapters*; *Lankao 2007*

Week 14 (Dec 11) Presentations