Urban Political Theory
970:652
Civic Square, Room 112
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This is an advanced graduate course in urban political theory. The readings draw on an interdisciplinary literature that is concerned primarily with understanding and explaining urban change. The readings begin with older discussions in Political Science about how cities are governed and who does the governing and then dive into structural power dynamics on a variety of fronts. We will follow how these debates evolved as the world changed and new approaches to understanding the urban emerged. The course objective is to consider power and change from a variety of perspectives. Each week we take a different approach to understanding the urban. Your task is to think critically about the urban and about the ways in which we attempt to make sense of it.

Grading

*Attendance and Participation* 30%

Please read all of the material and come prepared to class ready to engage in a discussion about that material. Highlight terms, phrases, and ideas that you would like to pursue in that week’s discussion and write them on the board as you enter class.

*Reflection Papers* 40%

Submit four 6-10 page critical literature reviews during the course of the term. The reflection papers present an opportunity for you to think critically about the readings and classroom discussions. A well written reflection paper will engage with the discussions rather than summarize them.

*Final Exam* 30%

Complete a take home exam of 6-10 pages

**Academic Integrity**

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Readings

1 Introduction


2 Pluralism and Its Discontents


4 Critical Left I


5 Critical Left II


6 Other Structural Power Considerations


7 Neoliberalism

Neoliberalism special issue– Antipode 2002 v 11

8 Processes


9 Governmentality

Foucault, M. “Governmentality”


10 The West Coast


11 The East Coast


12 World


13 Post-


14 Post-


15 Last Week