

University of Texas at Austin
Signature Course UGS
Spring 2011

the latin urbis:

cities in latin american history



Instructor:
Fernando Lara, PhD fernandolara@mail.utexas.edu

Tu-Th 12:30 – 2:00pm PAR 201

Friday discussions
F 1-2 in CBA 4.340,
F 2-3 in MEZ 1.206,
F 3-4 in MEZ 1.202

in his *Ciudad Letrada* Angel Rama reminds us that from the destruction of Tenochtitlan in 1521 to the inauguration of Brasilia in 1960 the Latin American City has been inscribed in a cycle of universal culture in which the city became a dream of a certain order that found in the lands of the new continent the only proper site to materialize.

this course will follow the evolution of such city, its forms, organization and meaning, from pre-columbian settlements all the way into contemporary favelas and gated communities. Organized chronologically, we will examine the development (and sometimes the destruction) of cities as the main locus of Latin American culture, struggles and aspirations.

with about 80% of its population living in cities, Latin America embodies much of the contemporary challenges and opportunities of an urbanized world, its inequalities as well as its intense socio-economic energy.

the course is intended as an introduction to the Latin American built environment for students who have not yet been exposed to such history but are interested in Latin America, its urbanism and its architecture.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Student should read the assigned texts for each class and be ready to discuss them when prompted. Participation on the discussions is an integral part of the evaluation. In addition to 3 exams, each student will write 5 brief responses (1-page each) during the semester.

brief responses - 20% of grade

5 different responses are due anytime during the semester

for each response the students should select one or more of the assigned readings and write a one-page critique of it.

all responses to be handed to TA Chrsty Taylor during Friday discussion sessions

1st exam - 20% of grade

February 22nd, 2011

Latin American cities before the encounter

2nd exam – 20% of grade

March 24th, 2011

Latin American cities facing modernization (19th and early 20th century)

final exam - 40% of grade

May 10th, 2011

all course readings

Prof. Lara's office hours are Wednesday 2-5,
GOL 2.212 (northern part of Goldsmith Hall, ground floor)
phone # 471 0711

Schedule and Readings

Jan 18th

Course introduction

CALVINO, Italo (1974) “Despina” and “Leandra” *The Invisible City*, New York: Harcourt Brace & Co, 1974, pp. 17-18; 78-79.

Jan 20th

The idea of the city

MORSE, Richard (1988) “Cities and People” *Rethinking the Latin American City*, edited by Richard Morse and Jorge E. Hardoy (Baltimore: John Hopkins University Press) pp. 3-20.

RAMA, Angel (1996) “The Ordered City”, in *The Lettered City*, Durham: Duke University Press, pp. 1-15.

Jan 21st discussion on the idea of the city

Jan 25th

The idea of Latin America

DUSSEL, Enrique (1995) “Preface”, in *The Invention of the Americas – eclipse of “the other and the myth of modernity”*, New York: Continuum, pp 9-14.

O’GORMAN, Edmundo. “The invention of America: an inquiry into the historical nature of the New World and the meaning of its history”, Bloomington: U of Indiana Press, 1961.

Jan 27th

Visit to rare maps collection, Benson Library

Jan 28th discussion on the idea of Latin America

Feb 1st

Ring Villages

WUST, Irmhild and BARRETO, Cristiana (1999) “The Ring Villages of Central Brazil: a challenge for Amazonian archaeology”, *Latin American Antiquity*, Vol 10, no. 1, Mar 1999, pp. 3-23

HECKENBERGER, Michael et alli (2008) "Pre-Columbian Urbanism, Anthropogenic Landscapes, and the Future of the Amazon", *Science* 29 August 2008: vol. 321 no. 5893 pp. 1214-1217

Feb 3rd Pueblos

KINTIGH, Keith et alli (2004) "Long Term Settlement History and the Emergence of Towns in the Zuni Area", *American Antiquity* 69(3), pp. 432-456.

SCHACHNER, Gregson (2010) "Corporate Group Formation and Differentiation in Early Puebloan Villages of the American Southwest", *American Antiquity* 75(3), 2004, pp. 432-456.

Feb 4th discussion on Amazonian and Pueblos settlements

Feb 8th

Aztec and Maya cities

MARCUS, Joyce (2000) "On the Nature of the Mesoamerican City", in *The Ancient Civilizations of Mesoamerica*, eds. M. Smith and M. Masson, Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 49-82.

SMITH, Michael (2008) "Chapter 1 City and Society in Aztec Central Mexico" and "Chapter 4 Public Architecture and the Urban Townscape" in *Aztec City-State Capitals*, Gainesville: University Press of Florida, pp. 1-26; 94-123.

Feb 10th

Inka Cities

HYSLOP, John (2000) "Introduction and chapter 2: Cuzco" *Inka Settlement Planning*, Austin: University of Texas Press, pp. 3-68

MOORE, Jerry (2005) "Memory and Architecture: House and Society on the North Coast of Peru" *Cultural Landscapes in the Ancient Andes – Archeologies of Place*, Gainesville: University Press of Florida, pp. 174-211.

Feb 11th discussion on Aztec, Maya and Inka cities

DUSSEL, Enrique. "Europe, Modernity and Eurocentrism", in *Nepantla: Views from South* 1.3, Duke University Press, 2000.

KOSTOF, Spiro. "Ch. 16: Edges of Medievalism" in *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Feb 15th
Review Session

Feb 17th,
First exam: Latin American Cities before the encounter

No discussion on Friday Feb 18th

Feb 22nd
The Encounter

DUSSEL, Enrique. "Europe, Modernity and Eurocentrism", in *Nepantla: Views from South* 1.3, Duke University Press, 2000.

KOSTOF, Spiro. "Ch. 16: Edges of Medievalism" in *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Feb 24th
The law of the Indies

KAGAN, Richard "Urbs and Civitas" from *Urban Images of the Hispanic World: 1493-1793*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1-18.

FUENTES, Carlos (1992) "The buried mirror: reflections on Spain and the New World" and "The Law of the Indies (1573)", reprinted in *Cruelty and Utopia*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, pp.13-29

Feb 25th discussion on the encounter and the Law of the Indies

Mar 1st
Colonial cities: Antigua and Lima

NEUMEYER, Alfred (1948) "The Indian Contribution to Architectural Decoration in Spanish Colonial America" *The Art Bulletin* 30(2) pp.104-121.

KAGAN, Richard, "Four Cities and their Images: Mexico City, Lima, Cuzco, Potosi" from *Urban Images of the Hispanic World: 1493-1793*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 151-198.

Mar 3rd
Salvador

VILHENA, Luis (1787) "Bahia in the Late Colonial Period", in *I Saw a City Invincible: Urban Portraits of Latin America*, Wilmington: Scholarly Resources, 1996, pp.85-102.

TRIBE, Tania (1996) "The Mulatto as Artist and Image in Colonial Brazil" *Oxford Art Journal*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 67-79

Mar 4th discussion on Salvador and Ouro Preto

Mar 8th

Ouro Preto: 18th century splendor

SMITH, Robert (1939) "The Colonial Architecture of Minas Gerais in Brazil", *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 21, No. 2, pp. 110-159.

KOMISAR, June (2004) "Creative Outposts: Treatises, Texts and Other Influences on the Colonial Architecture of Vila Rica, Brazil, paper presented at the *ACSA 2004 National Conference*, Miami, March 2004.

Mar 10th,

Hausmann in the tropics

ALMANDOZ, Arturo, "Urbanization and Urbanism in Latin America: From Haussmann to CIAM", in *Planning Latin America's Capital Cities*, ed. A. Almandoz, London: Routledge, pp. 13-44.

LEMOS, Celina (1995) "The Modernization of Brazilian Urban Space as a Political Symbol of the Republic", *The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts*, vol 21, Brazil Theme Issue, pp. 219-237

Mar 11th discussion on 19th century modernization

Mar 15th - Mar 18th - spring break

Mar 22nd

Review Session

Mar 24th

Second Exam: Latin American cities facing modernization (18th, 19th and early 20th century)

No discussion on Friday March 25th.

March 29th

Brasilia: realizing utopia

DEL RIO, Vicente (2009) "Introduction" in *Beyond Brasilia, Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil*, Gainesville, University Press of Florida, pp. 1-36.

WILLIAMS, Richard (2007) "Brasilia after Brasilia", *Progress and Planning*, 64/4, pp.301-366.

March 31st, April 1st – Latitudes Conference

April 5th:

Order and progress: 1970s authoritarianism and the Curitiba model

IRAZABAL, Clara (2009) "Urban Design, Planning and the Politics of Development in Curitiba", in *Beyond Brasilia, Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil*, Gainesville, University Press of Florida, pp. 202-223.

MOORE, Steven (2007) "The Miracle of Curitiba" *Alternative Routes to the Sustainable City*, New York: Lexington Books, pp. 73-116.

April 7th

Favelas

Movie screening: City of God

April 8th discussion on Curitiba and favelas

April 13th

Favelas

LARA, Fernando "The form of the informal, investigating Brazilian self-built housing solutions" in: *Rethinking the Informal Cities: Critical Perspectives from Latin America*, edited by Felipe Hernandez, Peter Kellet and Lea Allen, Oxford & New York: Berghen Books, 2010, pp.23-38.

HERNANDEZ, Felipe + KELLET, Peter and ALLEN, Lea. "Introduction", in: *Rethinking the Informal Cities: Critical Perspectives from Latin America*, edited by Felipe Hernandez, Peter Kellet and Lea Allen, Oxford & New York: Berghen Books, 2010.

April 14th

Gated Communities

COY, M & POHLER, M. (2002) "Gated communities in Latin American megacities: case studies in Brazil and Argentina" *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* 29(3) pp. 355 – 370.

BORSDOF, Axel & HIDALGO, Rodrigo “From Polarization to Fragmentation. Recent Changes in Latin American Urbanization”, *GeoJournal Library*, 2010, Volume 97, 23-34, DOI: 10.1007/978-90-481-3739-8_2

April 15th discussion on favelas and gated communities

April 19th
Modern Art of Latin America: exploring the Blanton Museum

April 21st
The look ahead: challenges and opportunities of Latin American cities

CANCLINI, Nestor (2005) “The Megalopolis and its informal order”, in *Informal City*, ed. A.Brillembourg, Munich: Prestel Verlag, pp. 265-268

BERNEY, Rachel (2010) “Learning from Bogota: How Municipal Experts Transformed Public Space”, *Journal of Urban Design* vol 15 no. 4, pp. 539-558

April 26th
The look ahead: challenges and opportunities of Latin American cities

FERNANDES, Edesio (2007) “Constructing the Right to the City in Brazil”, *Social & Legal Studies*, Jun2007, Vol. 16 Issue 2, p201-219.

DUARTE, Cristiane & MAGALHÃES, Fernanda (2009) “Upgrading Squatter Settlements into City Neighborhoods, the Favela-Bairro program in Rio de Janeiro”, in *Beyond Brasilia, Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil*, Gainesville, University Press of Florida, pp. 266-290.

April 28th
Design for equality

LARA, Fernando. “Beyond Curitiba: The Rise of a Participatory Model for Urban Intervention in Brazil”, *Urban Design International*, Vol 2/15, Summer 2010, pp. 119-128.

HERNANDEZ, Felipe. “Designing for Poverty” in *Beyond Modernist Masters: Contemporary architecture in Latin America*, Basel: Birkhauser, 2010, pp.58-75.

May 3rd
Preparation for final exam

No class meetings May 6-7

Acknowledgements:

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements.

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

Students with disabilities who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (471-6259 voice or 471-4641 TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing). This letter should be presented to the instructor in each course at the beginning of the semester and accommodations needed should be discussed at that time. Five business days before an exam the student should remind the instructor of any testing accommodations that will be needed.

This course uses Blackboard, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. Student enrollments in each course are updated each evening. Blackboard can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Blackboard course site regularly for class work and announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notification of these disruptions will be posted on the Blackboard login page. Scheduled downtimes are not an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Academic Integrity: According to the General Information catalog, "the value of a university degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by each student for that degree, a student should maintain a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work" (page98). Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.