

## **GEOG 325: New Master-Planned Cities (Power, Ideology, and Identity)**

Dr. Sarah Moser

Email: [sarah.moser@mcgill.ca](mailto:sarah.moser@mcgill.ca)

Phone: 514-266-9908

Office: Burnside 413 | Office hours: Tuesdays 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Alyssa Wilbur

Email: [alyssa.wilbur@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:alyssa.wilbur@mail.mcgill.ca)

Office: Burnside 322 | Office hours: by appointment

Winter 2017 class meeting times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:05 – 2:25 p.m.

Location: 306 Burnside Hall

**Course Description:** This course examines the origins, designs, and cultural politics of planned cities, focusing primarily on those currently under construction in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. A variety of themes will be explored including design responses to urban pollution, traffic congestion, and over-crowding, and the rationale for branding cities as ‘green’ cities, ‘smart’, and ‘creative’. The course examines the various motivations underlying the design and construction of planned cities and how they are shaped by power, religion, political ideologies, and economic interests. There will be a focus on evolving concepts used in city design as well as the continuities and cultural revivalism expressed through urban design and architecture. Students interested in urban and cultural geography, cities, architecture, and planning in different cultural contexts will enjoy this course.



### **Goals for this course**

This course will:

- Broaden students’ awareness of the variety of contemporary planned cities, the rationale for their creation, and their strategic visions.
- Encourage students to develop interdisciplinary research, analytical and critical thinking skills and gain familiarity with various research methods.
- Increase students’ understanding of the factors that influence the design of cities including religious and political ideology, power, economic strategies, nation-building, and branding.
- Introduce students to how scholars of geography and urban studies are examining the new cities phenomenon.

## **Evaluation:**

**10% participation** – In order to keep current on new cities, students will be expected to participate online through Facebook and/or Twitter. (Wed. February 22 and the second half is due in the final class)

- The class Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/210545632614387/?fref=nf>
- The class Twitter handle: #newcitiesmcgill

20 posts (on Facebook or Twitter or both...60 Tweets needed, only 20 FB comments needed) are required to gain the full 10%. A minimum of 5 of your FB posts (and 15 Tweets) must link to an online article relating to a new city. The rest of the posts can be responses to classmates' posts and comments. To receive full marks, comments must be substantive and at least one paragraph, not just stating you enjoyed the article! You can use your own Facebook and Twitter accounts or use anonymous accounts. If you are using anonymous accounts, please let the T.A. know your online name so your comments can be counted.

\*Keep track of all of your posts, including the time and date and submit a hard copy of this in the final class to the T.A. This will ensure that your comments are not overlooked when it comes time for calculating evaluations. For example:

1. January 15, 2015 at 4:47 p.m., Facebook: [paste full comment and link]
2. February 1, 2015 at 9:21 p.m., Twitter: [paste full comment and link]

**25% paper** – (due Week 9) – Students will write a paper (8-10 double-spaced pages) exploring a theme relating to a new city phenomenon that we have covered in the course (heritage revival, 'green' cities, religion, politics, (post)colonialism, etc). These papers will be distributed to 3 other students in the class plus the T.A. for peer review so submit 4 hard copies in class. 20% of the grade will come from the averaged results of the peer review, and 5% of the grade will come from an assessment of how you evaluated your peers (quality and constructiveness of suggestions, etc). I, along with the T.A., will be overseeing the peer review and grading process. A more detailed hand-out about this assignment will be distributed.

**30% group project** (Week 13) – The class will be divided into groups of 5 and each group will select one city to critically explore in depth. Explain the political, economic, cultural, religious and other forces driving the creation of the city. Provide a concise summary of the project and choose a few dimensions of the project to critique. Raise questions about the challenges the city may face and where possible, explain the precedents builders of the city looked to. The final product is a 10 minute video about the city that will be shown in class (20%) and a hard copy summary of the video (10%). A more detailed hand-out about this assignment will be distributed.

**35% exam** – Students will write a final exam during the exam period. The final class will be a review for the exam.

\*late assignments will be penalized 10% per day

\*all written assignments must be submitted using 12 point Times New Roman font, standard margins, double-spaced, with pages numbers

**Class schedule and readings** (\*readings in **bold** are required, the others are supplementary)

WEEK 1	Introduction to the course
1. Wed Jan 4	<b>The future perfect: New cities, the stories they tell, and the questions we ask</b>
WEEK 2	<b>Spilhaus, Athelstan. (1968) The experimental city, <i>Science</i> 159 (3816): 710-715.</b>
2. Mon Jan 9	
<b>Experimental cities</b>	
3. Wed Jan 11	Harappa (Indus Valley Civilization), Teotihuacan (Mexico), mainland Southeast Asian cities, Chinese cities (maps of cosmos), Roman cities, Cahokia (USA)
<b>Ancient planned cities</b>	<b>Robinson, O. F. (1994) <i>Ancient Rome: City Planning and Administration</i>. London: Routledge. ‘Planning: The overall view’, 12-27.</b> <b>Michael E. Smith. (2007) Form and Meaning in the Earliest Cities: A New Approach to Ancient Urban Planning. <i>Journal of Planning History</i> 6 (1): 3-47.</b> Anthony Reid, ‘The Structure of Cities in Southeast Asia, 15th—17th Centuries,’ <i>Journal of Southeast Asian Studies</i> 11 (1980), 235-250. <i>Discussion:</i> 1) How does Smith’s argument counter previous scholarship on ancient planned cities? 2) Do you think it is relevant to compare cities in different cultural contexts? Explain why or why not.
WEEK 3	Lowell, Lawrence
4. Mon Jan 16	Crawford, Margaret. (1995) <i>Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns</i> . London: Verso. Chapter 1, "Textile Landscapes: 1790-1850".
<b>Industrial planned cities</b>	
5. Wed Jan 18	Angkor, Burma, Mayan Civilization, Putrajaya, Masdar, Bristol
<b>Religion and the city I</b>	<b>Moser, Sarah. (2013) ‘New cities in the Muslim world: The cultural politics of planning an ‘Islamic’ city’. In <i>Religion and Place: Landscape, Politics and Piety</i>. (Edited by Peter Hopkins, Lily Kong and Elizabeth Olson).</b> Ashmore, Wendy and Jeremy A. Sabloff. (2002) ‘Spatial orders in Maya civic plans’, <i>Latin American Antiquity</i> 13: 201-215. Chiahara, Daigoro. (1996) ‘The Concrete representation of Indian Cosmology’ (Chapter 3) in <i>Hindu-Buddhist Architecture in Southeast Asia</i> . (Leiden: BRILL).
WEEK 4	<b>Moser, Sarah. (2012) ‘Circulating visions of “High Islam”: The adoption of fantasy Middle Eastern architecture in constructing Malaysian national identity’, <i>Urban Studies</i> 49 (13): 2913-2935.</b>
6. Mon Jan 23	

<b>Religion and the city II</b>	<b>Seekins, Donald M. (2009) ““Runaway chickens” and Myanmar identity’, <i>City</i> 13 (1): 63-70.</b>
	<i>Discussion:</i> 1) In what ways is religious ideology integrated into the physical design of the city, its architecture and its symbolic spaces? Examples. 2) Why does the ruling elite use religion in city planning? 3) Can you think of any other examples from other planned cities that integrate religion into the design or layout of the city?
7. Wed Jan 25 <b>Creating capital cities I</b>	Washington, DC; Paris; Canberra; Ankara, Turkey; Grozny, Chechnya; Putrajaya, Malaysia; the ‘City Beautiful’ movement <b>Vale, Lawrence J. (2008) ‘Capital and capitol: An introduction’ (Chapter 1), <i>In Architecture, Power and National Identity</i>. London / New Haven: Yale University Press.</b>
WEEK 5 8. Mon Jan 30 <b>Creating capital cities II</b>	<b>Vale, Lawrence. ‘Early designed capitals: For union, for imperialism, for independence’ (p. 56-104)</b> <b>Vale, Lawrence. ‘Designing power and identity’ (Chapter 10)</b> <i>Discussion:</i> 1) How are cities used to construct a national identity? Examples of strategies. 2) What can we learn about political regimes by analyzing the cities they build? 3) New capitals draw attention to and away from what? Examples?
9. Wed Feb 1 <b>Colonial cities</b>	<b>Yeoh, Brenda. (1996) Chapter 1, <i>In Contesting Space: Power Relations and the Urban Built Environment in Colonial Singapore</i>. (New York: Oxford University Press). 1-27.</b> King, Anthony D. (1976) <i>Colonial Urban Development: Culture, Social Power and Environment</i> (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul) 2-40, 123-55. <i>Discussion:</i> 1) How are politics and culture intertwined? 2) How are urban policies a manifestation of colonial values? 3) How did colonial administrators seek to exert control over such matters as cultural identity, race relations, tradition, industrial growth, and so on? 4) How did understandings of modernization influence the design of colonial cities?
WEEK 6 10. Mon Feb 6 <b>Colonial legacies in contemporary new cities</b>	<b>Moser, Sarah. (2015) ‘New Cities: Old wine in new bottles?’ <i>Dialogues in Human Geography</i>. (1-5)</b> <b>Moser, Sarah. (2015) ‘Rejecting and reproducing colonial urbanism in contemporary Malaysian city design’ in Hahn, Hazel (Ed.). <i>The Circulation of Culture Between Europe and Southeast Asia</i>. (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press)</b> <i>Discussion:</i> 1) What do contemporary new cities have in common with colonial cities? 2) How do we go about figuring out the colonial legacy on contemporary new cities? Discuss various methodologies and approaches. 3) How do we determine what is a colonial legacy and what is a new innovation?

<p>11. Wed Feb 8 <b>High modernist cities</b></p>	<p>Chandigarh, Brasilia</p> <p><b>Vale, Lawrence J. (2008) ‘Designed capitals after World War Two: Chandigarh and Brasilia’ (Chapter 4) 121-145.</b></p> <p><b>Scott, James C. ‘The high-modernist city: An experiment and a critique’ (Chapter 4) in <i>Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed.</i> (103-146)</b></p> <p>Le Corbusier, <i>The City of To-morrow and Its Planning</i> (Reprint, Dove, 1987)</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> 1) What are some of Scott’s critiques of Brasilia? 2) How could his approach be used to analyze current new cities? 3) What similarities do you see in the ambitions of high modernist new cities and some contemporary new cities?</p>
<p>WEEK 7 12. Mon Feb 13 <b>Postcolonial cities</b></p>	<p>*guest lecture Alyssa Wilbur, MA candidate, McGill University - Dompok, Indonesia</p> <p>Abuja, Astana, Naypyidaw, Putrajaya, Dompok</p> <p><b>Vale, Lawrence J. (2008) ‘Designed Capitals since 1960’ (Chapter 5) 146-193.</b></p> <p><b>Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Naypyidaw, Myanmar’ <i>Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia</i>, Amsterdam: SUN, 122-143.</b></p> <p><b>Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Astana, Kazakhstan’ <i>Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia</i>, Amsterdam: SUN, 144-166.</b></p> <p>1) How and why do creators of cities often reference earlier architecture in new capitals? 2) What ideas or values are being conveyed through the design of the cities to different users of the cities? (e.g. about identity, morality, etc)</p>
<p>13. Wed Feb 15 <b>New cities as national economic strategy</b></p>	<p>Iskandar Malaysia, King Abdullah Economic City (Saudi Arabia), Yachay Knowledge City (Ecuador)</p> <p><b>Rizzo, Agatino and Glasson, John. (2011) ‘Iskandar Malaysia’, <i>Cities</i> 29 (6): 417-427.</b></p> <p><b>Moser, Sarah; Swain, Marian; and Alkhabbaz, Mohammed. (2015) ‘King Abdullah Economic City: Engineering Saudi Arabia’s post-oil future’, <i>Cities</i>. 45: 71-80.</b></p>
<p>WEEK 8 14. Mon Feb 20 <b>New cities in Africa</b></p>	<p>*Guest lecture: Laurence Côté-Roy, PhD candidate, McGill University - new cities in Africa and Morocco</p> <p><b>Watson, Vanessa. (2014) ‘African urban fantasies: Dreams or nightmares?’ <i>Environment and Urbanization</i> 26 (1): 215-231.</b></p> <p><b>Murray, Martin J. (2015) “‘City doubles’”: Re-urbanism in Africa’ in MirafTAB, Faranak; Wilson, David; and Salo, Ken (Eds.) <i>Cities and Inequalities in a Global and Neoliberal World</i>. Pp. 92-109.</b></p>

15. Wed Feb 22	<b>Datta, Ayona. (2015) ‘New urban utopias of postcolonial India: Entrepreneurial urbanism in Dholera smart city, Gujarat’, <i>Dialogues in Human Geography</i> 5 (1): 3-22.</b>
<b>New urban utopias in India</b>	<i>Discussion:</i> 1) what are Datta’s key criticisms of new master planned cities? 2) How is Dholera ‘entrepreneurial’? 3) Is there a way to save these cities from being disasters? What practical changes would you recommend, if any?
<b>***first half of participation grade due at the beginning of class! Wed Feb. 22***</b>	
<b>***Reading week February 27-March 3 – no classes!***</b>	
WEEK 9	<b>Conducting research on new cities</b>
16. Mon March 6	<b>Moser, Sarah. (forthcoming) Methodology paper, <i>Geoforum</i>.</b>
<b>methods</b>	<i>Discussion:</i> 1) what are the challenges of conducting research on new cities? How can we as researchers work around these challenges? 2) What are some methods that can be used to examine new cities? 3) Provide examples of how methods differ depending on what questions we are asking.
17. Wed March 8	<b><i>Cities of Tomorrow (2015)</i></b>
<b>Video!</b>	<i>Discussion:</i> 1) What tone does the documentary take regarding new cities? Examples. 2) What would you have liked to see more / less of? What changes would you make?
<b>***Papers due in class – papers will be distributed to peer reviewers so bring 4 copies***</b>	
WEEK 10	<b>Caprotti, Frederico. (2014) ‘Critical research on eco-cities? A walk through Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, China.’ <i>Cities</i> 36: 10–17.</b>
18. Mon March 13	<b>Rapoport, Elizabeth. 2014. “Utopian visions and real estate dreams: The Eco-City past, present and future.” <i>Geography Compass</i> 8 (2): 137–49.</b>
<b>Critical research on eco-cities</b>	Pow, C. P., & Neo, H. (2010). Building ecotopia: critical reflections on eco-city development in China. <i>Towards a liveable and sustainable urban environment: eco-cities in East Asia</i> . Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, 91-106.
<b>***Submit peer reviews in class***</b>	
19. Wed March 15	Qatar, Masdar
<b>Discourses of sustainability</b>	<b>Keeton, Rachel. (2011) ‘Masdar City, United Arab Emirates’ <i>Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia</i>, Amsterdam: SUN, 48-71.</b>
	<b>Koch, Natalie. (2014) “‘Building glass refrigerators in the desert’: Discourses of urban sustainability and nation building in Qatar’, <i>Urban Geography</i> 35 (8): 1118-1139.</b>

<p>WEEK 11 20. Mon March 20</p>	<p><b>Datta, Ayona. (2012) 'India's ecocity? Environment, urbanisation, and mobility in the making of Lavasa', <i>Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy</i> 30: 982-996.</b></p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> 1) How are different 'green' ideas manifested in new cities? 2) How do 'green' cities parallel broader societal values? 3) Is the concept of a new 'green city' an oxymoron?</p>
<p>21. Wed March 22</p> <p><b>'Creative' and high-tech cities</b></p>	<p><b>Hall, Peter. (2000) 'Creative cities and economic development', <i>Urban Studies</i> 37 (4): 639-649.</b></p> <p><b>Leslie, Deborah. (2005) Creative cities? <i>Geoforum</i> 36 (4): 403-405.</b></p> <p><b>Keeton, Rachel. (2011) 'New Songdo City, South Korea' <i>Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia</i>, Amsterdam: SUN, 306--331.</b></p> <p><b>Keeton, Rachel. (2011) 'Saadiyat Island, United Arab Emirates' <i>Rising in the East: Contemporary New Towns in Asia</i>, Amsterdam: SUN, 190-209.</b></p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> 1) In what ways do 'creative' cities differ from regular cities? 2) Do you think environments can encourage people to think more creatively? If so, how? 3) Can totalitarian governments create creative cities? Can creative cities be designed?</p>
<p>WEEK 12 22. Mon March 27</p> <p><b>Seasteading and charter cities</b></p>	<p>*Guest lecture: Isabelle Simpson, PhD Candidate, McGill University</p> <p><b>Steinberg, P. E., Nyman, E., &amp; Caraccioli, M. J. (2012). Atlas swam: freedom, capital, and floating sovereignties in the seasteading vision. <i>Antipode</i>, 44(4), 1532-1550.</b></p> <p><b>Simpson, Isabelle. 'Charter cities in Honduras: Techno-colonial experiments in urban policy?' (<i>Urban Geography</i>, under review)</b></p> <p><b>Charter cities in Honduras? <i>Open Democracy</i>:</b> <a href="https://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/arthur-phillips/charter-cities-in-honduras">https://www.opendemocracy.net/opensecurity/arthur-phillips/charter-cities-in-honduras</a></p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> 1) Who are these cities designed for? 2) What is the reason for these new partnerships? Who benefits? 3) How are foreign entities gaining control over new cities in other countries? What problems do you anticipate? What are some of the benefits?</p>
<p>23. Wed March 29</p> <p><b>Global new cities</b></p>	<p><b>Creating 'Global' Cities</b></p> <p><b>Moser, Sarah. (2012) 'Constructing identity in two new Southeast Asian capitals: Putrajaya and Dompak', in <i>Rethinking Global Cities</i>. New York: Routledge.</b></p> <p>Douglass, Mike and Huang, Liling. (2007) Globalizing the city in Southeast Asia: Utopia on the urban edge – the case of Phu My Hung, Saigon, <i>IJAPS</i> 3 (2): 1-42.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> 1) What makes a city 'global'? How do different entities conceptualize the meaning of 'global' differently? 2) Can global cities be planned or can they only spontaneously emerge? What conditions can a ruling elite</p>

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provide to encourage the creation of a ‘global city’, as defined by Saskia Sassen?  
 3) Does a city require a particular political system in order to become ‘global’?

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WEEK 13

24. Mon April 3                      Presentations!

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25. Wed April 5                      **\*\*no class – I am away for a conference!\*\***

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WEEK 14                                  Presentations + review class

26. Mon April 10

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**Other info and links:**

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