

Geography 5502: *The Neoliberal City*, Spring 2015

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00-9:20, Derby 1116

Instructor: Professor Nancy Ettlenger, 1144 Derby Hall, 292-2573; ettlinger.1@osu.edu

Office hours: by appointment

Carmen page: go to <https://carmen.osu.edu/>, login, select course; click on 'Content' tab

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Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the neoliberal governance of cities and associated problems and prospects for change from the vantage point of social in/justice. The course begins with an introduction to different critical approaches to, and definitions of, neoliberalism, and then focuses on case studies regarding selected topics drawing from the different definitions/approaches. Broadly, topics cover: scalar politics of neoliberal governance; conceptualization of 'community;' regimes of control; gentrification; cultural policy and 'creative' cities; urban branding, spectacles, and tourism; managing homelessness; informalization; financialization and real estate in neoliberal life; the embeddeness of neoliberalism in the built environment; and the roles of public art in urban change and continuity (see specific topics on pp. 7-8). Issues of difference (regarding race/ethnicity, gender, class, sexuality) are woven across topics throughout the course. Readings cover cities around the world, and accordingly, class discussion includes a comparative, context-sensitive assessment of neoliberal urban governance. Throughout the course, geographic insights on neoliberal urban governance will be discussed, notably regarding issues of place, space, context, and scale.

Students learn through critical reading and class discussion, as well as through individual research projects that develop a case study of neoliberal urban governance on a topic and city of choice. Columbus is an excellent laboratory for studying neoliberalism; students are encouraged, but not required, to develop case studies locally so as to enable a field component. Students complete a paper on their research projects by the end of the semester and also participate in a poster session, which facilitates interaction with other students about their research projects and affords each student an understanding of a broad range of research projects.

READING

E-Reserves (journal articles and chapters of books): electronic copies are accessible via the Content tab of the Carmen page for the course. The articles on Carmen are listed in the order in which you will read them (see pp. 7-8). They are listed on pp. 4-6 in alphabetical order with full bibliographic information. All reading is required unless indicated as optional. *For technical difficulties with e-reserves call e-reserves (292-6448); please alert N. Ettlenger if you have any problems accessing course material.*

CLASS PREPARATION & PARTICIPATION

Students are required to read the assigned material **before**, not after, the class in which material is to be discussed; note-taking on the assigned reading is strongly recommended. Lectures are prepared based on the assumption that students are well prepared for class. Students are expected to participate in class discussion *responsibly*, that is, based on adequate preparation. Based on past experience, students who prepare inadequately for class are unlikely to perform well or at the level of their ability, and they are

likely to fall behind and find themselves unable to effectively catch up. *All written assignments are due on a day in which class does not occur to avoid conflict with class preparation.*

CLASS ETTIQUETE

Use of cell phones, which should not be visible in class, is prohibited. Lap tops may be used only for course-related activity (viewing an article under discussion; taking notes).

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance is required. Students should drop this course if they have commitments that overlap with the class period. Students should indicate *in advance* if they cannot be at a particular class on time or have to leave in the middle due to uncontrolled circumstances that can be documented (e.g. a medical appointment). Students are responsible for any course material and announcements that are missed.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Students are evaluated on the basis of (1) a take-home essay exam; (2) a research paper; (3) Carmen questions; and (4) participation, as elaborated below.

(1) Take-home essay exam

This course includes one take-home essay exam around the middle of the semester. *The exam will be handed out in class on Tuesday, March 3* (see syllabus, p. 7). The exam requires critical synthesis of course material, and will position students to move forward with their projects. The exam should be double spaced with 1" margins using 11 or 12 Times Roman font, paginated, and proofed. Students have 11 days for the exam to permit time for organizing. It is not expected that students will spend all this time on the exams; the time frame is given in light of students' multiple responsibilities among courses, jobs, family responsibilities and so forth. (See syllabus, p. 7: due date – Friday, March 13.)

(2) Research project: paper and poster

Students develop case studies on neoliberal governance. Topics are open (using topics from the syllabus or other topics that are not included in class reading) as are cities, although bear in mind that a local case study affords the opportunity for a field component (e.g. observation, interviews). Field research is *not required*; that said, it is useful to have a time and space for developing field experience and using it towards research. Students who have developed research in Columbus or elsewhere are welcome to further develop their projects in this course.

Note on field research: Students conducting field research (e.g. interviews) are *not* required to receive approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB), but note that IRB approval is required if you plan to publish using interview data. If you plan to submit a proposal to the IRB, do so as early as possible in the semester and discuss with N. Ettliger. Most projects are most likely eligible for exempt status, which requires a proposal that is, however, streamlined – see <http://orrrp.osu.edu/irb/exempt/> .

Brief proposals for the research project (no more than 2 pages) are due no later than Friday, noon, March 27. *If possible, hand in your proposal as soon as possible to give yourself more time for reading beyond the syllabus on your topic and/or field research.* The proposals are required, but will not be formally graded, although they are part of the overall assessment of ‘participation’ (see next page); they are an opportunity for students to crystallize their interests and receive feedback. Students are welcome to discuss their projects with N. Ettliger at any time. Revised proposals (unless no revision is indicated) are due no later than Wednesday, noon, April 1. One class, towards the end of the semester, will be

devoted to discussing progress on individual research projects; students share and discuss their questions and problems.

The **proposal should include** (1) a title that conveys the main point of the project, and concise statements of: (2) a problem, which leads you to pose (3) a research question (s); (4) how you situate your research project (how is it similar to, yet different from, other, related research)?; your conceptual framework (how do you conceptualize neoliberalism?) and how that conceptual framework guides your analysis and contribution; (5) your strategy/methods for answering your question(s) (secondary and/or primary data? what kinds of data and how will you collect it, etc .?); and (6) a bibliography to date (at least some of your references should come from Web of Knowledge – see #2 below under ‘Some tips for reading beyond the syllabus’). The revised proposal should engage comments on the initial proposal and any other changes; *attach the initial proposal with my comments to the revised proposal.*

A final **paper** on the research project is due on Monday April 27; it should be double spaced with 1” margins using 11 or 12 Times Roman font, paginated, and proofed. The paper is due after the last class on April 23 which will be a **poster** session to afford: (1) exposure to, and discussion of, the wide range of projects, and (2) feedback from peers and N. Ettliger that can be used in finalizing the paper.

Undergraduate students’ papers should be 10-15 pages and should connect to course material, using at least 5 assigned references; referencing beyond course material is also required, as needed for the topic researched. *Graduate students’* papers should 15- 25 pages, should reference course material, and also extend academic referencing *well beyond course material.*

SOME TIPS FOR READING BEYOND THE SYLLABUS: There are many different ways to go about finding references beyond course material. Some useful approaches include: (1) follow the references for articles required for class as well as those you read for your projects; (2) search using keywords and/or author names at the ISI site at http://apps.webofknowledge.com.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/UA_GeneralSearch_input.do?product=UA&search_mode=GeneralSearch&SID=3DbEP6pKp5bDbCCFh69&preferencesSaved= ; (3) use the OSU Library Catalog: <http://library.ohio-state.edu/search> ; (4) subscribe to ‘contents alerts’ of journals pertinent to your interests; (5) follow pertinent references in material you read in or beyond the syllabus.

As reflected in the grading scheme below, the final paper will figure more importantly for graduate students, who are *expected* to use this course towards their research program; that is, approach the paper with the idea of further revising and using towards your MA thesis/paper or Ph.D dissertation, and/or submitting for publication. Undergraduates are encouraged but not required to use the paper towards a senior thesis and also possible publication upon revision.

(3) Carmen questions

(click on ‘Activities’ tab and then ‘Discussions’ on the drop-down menu)

Each class for which reading is assigned (following the course introduction, 1st day) students prepare 1 question or comment *per article/chapter* assigned for the required reading for that day, and post the question/comment on Carmen; students also post a question/comment on Carmen for the research project workshop on April 16 (to be discussed in advance of that class). Questions/comments on reading should be thoughtful and reveal knowledge of the assigned material and pertain to the main points of the assignment. Questions such as “What do you think about x?” or “What does x mean?” are inadmissible. Students are encouraged to read each others’ Carmen questions before class, and can respond to others’ posts.

(4) Participation

The participation portion of the evaluation (see below) pertains to: general responsible class participation (i.e. participating on the basis of adequate preparation); responsible participation in the group workshop towards the beginning of the course (syllabus, p. 7); completion of the research proposal and revisions, if necessary; and responsible participation in the poster session.

Grading scheme

Students will be evaluated on the basis of *participation*, a *take-home essay examination*, *carmen questions*, and *final paper*.

The final grade will be figured on a 4.0 scale as follows:

	<u>undergraduate students</u>	<u>graduate students</u>
participation	10%	10%
exam	35%	30%
questions posted on Carmen	15 %	15%
poster	10%	10%
paper	30%	35%

MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

- 1) Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, is not tolerated. See the Code of Student Conduct at OSU at http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp.
- 2) An ‘incomplete’ at the end of the quarter is possible *under extenuating circumstances*, which require documentation.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY (required unless otherwise specified as *optional*)

- Aalbers, M.B. 2010. The revanchist renewal of yesterday’s city of tomorrow. *Antipode* 43: 1696-1724.
- Addie, J.-P. D. 2013. The rhetoric and reality of urban policy in the neoliberal city: implications for social struggle in Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati. *Environment and Planning A* 40: 2674 – 2692.
- Aguiar, J.C.G. 2012. Cities on the edge: smuggling and neoliberal policies at the Iguazú triangle. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 33: 171-183.
- Allspach, A. 2010. Landscapes of (neo-)liberal control: the transcarceral spaces of federally sentenced women in Canada. *Gender, Place and Culture* 17: 705-723.
- Bach, J. 2011. Modernity and the urban imagination in economic zones. *Theory, Culture & Society* 28: 98-122.
- Bernstein, N. 2008. City of immigrants fills jail cells with its own. *New York Times on the Web*, December 27, <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/27/us/27detain.html>, last accessed 8/2/2013.
- Chaskin, R.J. and Joseph, M.L. 2013. ‘Positive’ gentrification, social control and the ‘right to the city’ in mixed-income communities: uses and expectations of space and place. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37: 480-502.
- Crossa, V. 2014. Reading for difference on the street: de-homogenizing street venting in Mexico City. *Urban Studies* DOI: 10.1177/0042098014563471, 1-15.
- Davidson, M. 2007. Gentrification as global habitat: a process of class formation or corporate creation? *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers NS* 32: 490-506.
- Davidson, M. and Lees, L. 2009. New-build gentrification: its histories, trajectories, and critical geographies. *Population, Space and Place* 16: 395-410.

- DeFilippis, J., Fisher, R., and Shragge, E. 2006. Neither romance nor regulation: re-evaluating community. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 30: 673-689.
- England, M. 2008. When 'good neighbors' go bad: territorial geographies of neighborhood associations. *Environment and Planning A* 40: 2879-2894.
- (optional) Ettlinger, N. 2010. Bringing the Everyday in the Culture/Society Discourse. *Human Geography* 3(1): 49-59.
- Fairbanks II, R.P. 2011. The politics of urban informality in Philadelphia's recovery house movement. *Urban Studies* 48: 2555-2570.
- (optional) Florida, R. 2002. The rise of the creative class: why cities without gays and rock bands are losing the economic development race. *Washington Monthly*, <http://www.washingtonmonthly.com/features/2001/0205.florida.html> , last accessed July 26, 2013.
- Fraser, J.C., Chaskin, R.J., and Bazuin, J.T. 2013. Making mixed-income neighborhoods work for low-income households. *Cityscape* 15: 83-100.
- (optional) Friedmann, J. and Wolff, G. 1982. World city formation: an agenda for research and action. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 6: 309-344.
- Ghertner, D.A. 2012. Nuisance talk and the propriety of property: middle class discourses of a slum-free Delhi. *Antipode* 44: 1161-1187.
- Graham, S. 2012. When life itself is war: on the urbanization of military and security doctrine. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 36: 136-155.
- Guazon, T.M. 2013. Creative mediations of the city: contemporary public art as compass of metro Manila's urban conditions. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37: 864-878.
- Hanan, J.S. Home is where the capital is: the culture of real estate in an era of control societies. *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 7: 176-201.
- Harvey, D. 1989. From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: the transformation in urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler* 71 B: 3-17.
- He, S. and Wu, F. 2009. China's emerging neoliberal urbanism: perspectives from urban redevelopment. *Antipode* 41: 282-304.
- Hiemstra, N. 2014. Performing homeland security within the US immigrant detention system. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 32: 571-588.
- (optional) Huxley, M. 2013. Historicizing planning, problematizing participation. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37: 1527-1541.
- Jaffe, R. 2012. Criminal dons and extralegal security privatization in downtown Kingston, Jamaica. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 33: 184-197.
- Kanai, M. 2014. Buenos Aires, capital of tango: tourism, redevelopment and the cultural politics of neoliberal urbanism. *Urban Geography* 35: 1111-1117.
- Kern, L. 2009. Gendering reurbanisation: women and new-build gentrification in Toronto. *Population, Space and Place* 16: 363-379.
- Lanz, S. 2012. Be Berlin! Governing the city through freedom. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37: 1305-1324.
- Lazzarto, M. 2009. Neoliberalism in action: inequality, insecurity and the reconstitution of the social. *Theory, Culture & Society* 26: 109-133.
- Lee, J-A. 2007. Gender, ethnicity, and hybrid forms of community-based urban activism in Vancouver, 1957-1978: The Strathcona story revisited. *Gender, Place and Culture* 14: 381-407.
- (optional) Lefebvre, H. 1996. The right to the city. In *Writings on cities*, trans. E. Kofman and E. Lebas, pp. 147-159. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell.
- Leslie, D. and Catungal, J.P. 2012. Social justice and the creative city: class, gender and racial inequalities. *Geography Compass* 6: 111-122.
- Lurie, D.V. and Wodiczko, K. 1988. *October* 47: 53-67.

- Mayer, M. 2007. Contesting the neoliberalization of urban governance. In *Contesting neoliberalism: urban frontiers*, eds. H. Leitner, J. Peck, and E.S. Sheppard, pp. 90-115. New York: Guilford.
- McLean, H. 2014. Cracks in the creative city: three contradictions of community arts practice. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38: 2156-2173.
- McGuirk, P. 2012. Geographies of urban politics: pathways, intersections, interventions. *Geographical Research* 50: 256-268.
- Meehan, K. 2013. Disciplining de facto development: water theft and hydrosocial order in Tijuana. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 31: 319-336.
- Mele, C. 2013. Neoliberalism, race and the redefining of urban redevelopment. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37: 598-617.
- (optional) Miller, P. and Rose, N. 1990. Governing economic life. *Economy and Society* 19: 1-31.
- Mitchell, K. 2010. Ungoverned space: global security and the geopolitics of broken windows. *Political Geography* 29: 289-297.
- Murphy, S. 2009. "Compassionate" strategies of managing homelessness: post-revanchist geographies in San Francisco. *Antipode* 41: 305-325.
- New York City Chapter, Right to the City Alliance 2010. *People without homes & homes without people: account of vacant condos in select NYC neighborhoods*. New York: Right to the City Alliance, New York chapter
http://www.urbanjustice.org/pdf/publications/People_Without_Homes_and_Homes_Without_People.pdf, last accessed 7/25/2013.
- Nuijten, M., Koster, M., and de Vries, P. 2012. Regimes of spatial ordering in Brazil: neoliberalism, leftist populism and modernist aesthetics in slum upgrading in Recife. *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* 33: 157-170.
- Parker, C. 2009. Tunnel-bypasses and minarets of capitalism: Amman as neoliberal assemblage. *Political Geography* 28: 110-120.
- (optional) Peck, J. 2005. Struggling with the creative class. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29: 740-770.
- (optional) Peck, J. and Tickell, A. 2002. Neoliberalizing space. *Antipode* 34: 380-404.
- Rankin, K.N. and Delaney, J. 2011. Community BIAs as practices of assemblage: contingent politics in the neoliberal city. *Environment and Planning A* 43: 1363-1380.
- Rose, N. 1993. Government, authority and expertise in advanced liberalism. *Economy and Society* 22: 283-299.
- Schiller, N. G. 2011. Localized neoliberalism, multiculturalism and global religion: exploring the agency of migrants and city boosters. *Economy and Society* 40: 211-238.
- Sharp, J., Pollock, V. and Paddison, R. 2005. Just art for a just city: public art and social inclusion in urban regeneration. *Urban Studies* 42: 1001-1023.
- Spence, L.K. 2012. The neoliberal turn in black politics. *Souls* 14: 139-159.
- Wacquant, L. 2010. Crafting the neoliberal state: workfare, prisonfare, and social insecurity. *Sociological Forum* 25: 197-220.
- Willse, C. 2010. Neo-liberal biopolitics and the invention of chronic homelessness. *Economy and Society* 39: 155-184.
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- Zukin, S. 1997. Cultural strategies of economic development and hegemony of vision. In *The urbanization of injustice*, pp. 223-243. NY: New York University Press.

SYLLABUS

date *	general topic	class lecture/discussion	assignment	
t Jan 13	Introduction			
th 15	definitions of/ approaches to neoliberalism	neo/Marxist approaches to neoliberal hegemony	Harvey; Aalbers <i>optional: Lefebvre, Peck & Tickell</i>	
t 20		and resistance	Mayer; Addie	
th 22		poststructural approaches to neoliberalism	Rose; Lanz; McGuirk <i>optional: Miller & Rose; Huxley</i>	
t 27		and resistance	Kanai; McLean	
th 29		the difference that difference makes	Spence; Crossa	
t Feb 3		recap: class workshop & group presentations		
th 5				
t 10	scalar politics and the neoliberal city: locality/city as a nexus of connections		Bach; Parker	
th 12			He & Wu; Schiller	
t 17	conceptualizing 'community' in the neoliberal city		DeFilippis et al.; England	
th 19	neoliberal regimes of control	securing the neoliberal city	Graham; Mitchell; Jaffe	
t 24		carceral geographies	Wacquant	
th 26			Allspach; Hiemstra; Bernstein	
t Mar 3	gentrification	situating types of gentrification & their dynamics	Davidson & Lees; Davidson; NYC Right to the City Alliance	
th 5		neoliberal & racialized discourses and actions on 'blight,' 'obsolescence,' 'nuisance' exam handed out	Mele; Ghertner	
t 10		resisting gentrification	Lee; revisit McLean, Kanai, Crossa	
th 12		mixed-income housing and 'development'	Chaskin & Joseph; Fraser et al.	
f 13	exam due by noon, hard copy, N. Ettliger's office (1144 Derby)			
t 17	SPRING BREAK!			
th 19				
t 24	cultural policy & creative cities	urban cultural policy	Zukin; Rankin & Delaney <i>optional: Florida, Peck, Ettliger</i>	
th 26		cultural workers	Lloyd; Leslie & Catungal	
f 27	research proposals due by noon – e-mail as word document			

t	31	managing homelessness	Lurie & Wodiczko; Willse; Murphy
w	Apr 1	revised proposals due by noon – e-mail as word document	
th	Apr 2	informalization & neoliberalism: formal-informal articulations	Meehan; Zapata Campos and Zapata; revisit Crossa
t	7		Fairbanks; Aguiar
th	9	financialization, real estate, and the everyday	Lazzarato; Hanan
t	14		cont'd.
th	16	research project workshop	carmen posts
t	21	neoliberal embeddedness in the built environment	Nuijten et al.; Kern
th	23	poster session	
m	27	research papers due by 3:00pm, N. Ettliger's office (Derby 1144)	

* Dates indicated for discussion of specific topics are tentative. Discussion of a particular topic may continue into the next class, as needed.