

## **IDH2930: THE URBAN REVOLUTION by Henri Lefebvre**

Spring 2017

Lecture: Wednesday period 6 Little Hall 119

Section Number 14B6

### **Instructor**

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### **Office Hours**

By appointment.

### **Course Description**

The sociologist Henri Lefebvre wrote about the phenomenon of urban revolution, taking place during the 20th century upon the ashes of the industrial age. A new form of society was developing out of it, a society that was no longer agricultural or industrial but urbanized, extending its effect as far as the countryside. This new understanding of society makes no distinction between the city and the surroundings, changing the way we live in and produce the space. As Lefebvre would say, “the urban problematic becomes predominant, when the search for solutions and modalities unique to urban society are foremost.”(p. 5) Thus, the urban revolution evolved into the main motivating force of historical change.

This seminar seeks to understand the multivalent facets of urbanization, unveiling its effect on space and grounding it in a contemporary context. Was Lefebvre right in his visioning of an urbanized society? Has industrialization really come to an end? What kind of processes are now shaping the city and society? Is the urban society still part of these processes? With these and other questions, this seminar asks students to (1) investigate the concept of urbanization, (2) determine and identify the impact of urbanization on society and its space, and (3) apply the first two objectives on contemporary situations.

### **Required Course Materials**

Lefebvre, Henri. 2003. *The urban revolution*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

## **Additional Readings**

Although the seminar focus only on “The Urban Revolution”, students are welcome to select other readings in regard to their final project.

## **Assignments**

### *1. Oral Discussion*

The seminar is designed to facilitate the contribution of each student through active discussions and oral presentations. In order to do so, student/s will prepare one powerpoint presentation of an assigned chapter (or part of the chapter) of the book. When not presenting students are still responsible of coming to class having fully read the materials in order to actively participate to discussion sparked by their peers' presentation.

### *2. Final Project*

The final project has the main goal to apply what learned in class to a contemporary urban and social situation. In order to develop the skill of deeply understanding an urban landscape beyond its bare appearance, students will be encouraged to analyze their hometown, campus or other places with which they are familiar. This could be done as a final paper or as visual project (photo-essay or video-essay). More details will be given in class.

## **Approach and Expectations**

My assessment of your performance in this course relies heavily on your attendance and participation in class discussions, and how well you apply the concepts learnt throughout the semester onto the final project. I also base my evaluation of your performance on the degree to which you provide evidence that you have taken responsibility for your own learning experience and that you are actively seeking out all of the resources possible to make the learning experience as profound and meaningful as possible.

## **Attendance**

Any absence must be explained. In general, acceptable reasons for absence are illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, jury duty, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Lateness is not permitted if not justified nor leaving early. If something is seriously wrong please do not hesitate to talk to me about it. Arrangements will be made to cope with serious illness, family or personal crises.

## Grading Philosophy and Policy

I award grades not to punish poor performance, but rather to help you understand and master the material we are covering. I expect to see increased comprehension and dominance of the concepts and ideas that we discuss during the course and I take that in consideration toward the calculation of the final grade. I encourage class discussion and I expect involvement and enthusiasm from students, the same enthusiasm I put on teaching. I will not accept assignments submitted after the due date unless students will arrange with me differently. All due dates are posted on Canvas as well as written in this Syllabus.

## Make-up policies

Make-up examinations will be scheduled only in case of documented emergencies (see the University Policy <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) or at my discretion. Please, contact me if you think you won't be able to attend one of your assigned work presentation.

## Grading Scale and Assignment Summary

Grade Proportion	Grade Scale	Grade Value
Attendance: 200 points (20%)	930-1,000 = A	A = 4.0
Discussion Activities: 200 points (20%)	900-929 = A-	A- = 3.67
Oral Presentation: 200 points (20%)	870-899 = B+	B+ = 3.33
Final Project: 400 points (40%)	830-869 = B	B = 3.00
	790-829 = B-	B- = 2.67
	750-789 = C+	C+ = 2.33
	720-749 = C	C = 2.00
	690-719 = C-	C- = 1.67
	660-689 = D+	D+ = 1.33
	620-659 = D	D = 1.00
	600-619 = D-	D- = 0.67
<b>Total: 1,000 points (100%)</b>	0-599 = E	E = 0.00

## University Grading Policy

Information on UF's grading policy can be found at the following location:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## Other Policies

1. *Common Courtesy:* Cell phones and other electronic devices are welcome in class as long as they are used for educational purposes. The instructors may ask a student engaging in disruptive behavior, including but not limited to chatting, texting or snoring, to leave the class, and the student will be marked absent for the day.
2. *Email:* I always try to promptly reply to emails, however sometimes this is not possible. Please, allow 24 hours to get an answer. Keep that in mind if you need advises or clarification on an assignment (avoid to write the night before the due date).  
Receiving an email that starts with a greetings and finishes with a “Thank you” is always appreciated.
3. *Counseling Resources:* Resources available on-campus for students include the following:
  - a. University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Rd, 392-1575;
  - b. Student Health Care Center, 392-1161; and
  - c. Dean of Students Office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261, [umatter.ufl.edu](mailto:umatter.ufl.edu).
4. *Course Evaluation:* Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction by completing online evaluations at [evaluations.ufl.edu](https://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

## Academic Honesty

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The [Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult me. For more

information regarding the Student Honor Code, please see:  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

### Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs and requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please ask me if you would like any assistance in this process.

### Class Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	DUE
1	Jan 4	Introduction to the course	
2	Jan 11	Introduction to “The Urban Revolution”	
3	Jan 18	Chapter 1 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
4	Jan 25	Chapter 2 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
5	Feb 1	Chapter 3 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
6	Feb 8	Chapter 4 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
7	Feb 15	Chapter 5 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
8	Feb 22	Chapter 6 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
9	Mar 1	Chapter 7 – Oral Presentation by student/s	Selection of the topic for the final Project
10	Mar 8	<i>Spring Break</i>	
11	Mar 15	Chapter 8 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
12	Mar 22	Chapter 9 – Oral Presentation by student/s	
13	Mar 29	Workshop on the final project	
14	Apr 5	Workshop on the final project	
15	Apr 12	Workshop on the final project	
16	Apr 19	Conclusion	Final Project