

University of Florida  
Department of History  
Spring 2019

**AMH 5930: Power and Policing in Cities**

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Thursday: Period 9 - 11 (4:05 PM - 7:05 PM)

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Thurs 12:00-1:00pm  
and by appointment

**Course Description**

This seminar investigates one of the most powerful forces shaping urban environments. We will look at cities in different hemispheres (with a focus on North America) to explore how urban spaces are policed (a term that we will define broadly to include political, social, economic, and gendered policing efforts). We will read works by scholars who look at issues of urban policing and examine how they frame arguments about cities in different geographic regions. We will examine the ways that different structures and agents (city planners, policy makers, police, growth machines) attempt to police urban spaces and how residents find creative solutions to fight back against government policies, local police, and private organizations that encroach upon their rights. Over the course of the semester, we will cover issues such as conquest, riots and rebellions, violence and security, capital accumulation, migration, quality of life campaigns, and incarceration. Sample questions include: how do various groups define and control territory? How do they make and mark space? What is the role of the various militias, “para-militaries”, mercenaries, and guerrillas in the history of colonial/neo-colonial control of cities? How has neoliberalism changed the policing of cities? How do city dwellers resist policing efforts? We will pay special attention to the relationship between the control of space and the exercise of power and keep a sustained focus on those who find ways to rebel against the borders and boundaries imposed upon them by the state.

Note: Students will be required to work on a semester-long research paper or equivalent project on a relevant topic. You will also edit the work of your peers, meet individually with me, and come together in class to discuss writing activities. When you begin to teach, you will be faced with editing your students’ papers and dissertations in a constructive way. Moreover, editing the work of peers is something you will spend a good deal of time doing as an academic. Therefore critiquing your fellow students will be an integral part of the course. This is an exercise in collegiality. It will allow you to grow accustomed to taking into account other people’s opinions on your own thinking and writing at an early stage in the process.

**Course Objectives**

- To provide students with a thematic introduction to a new topic.
- To prepare students for oral examinations.
- To allow students to hone their skills in designing and executing historiographical/research projects.
- To provide opportunities for students to improve their oral and written communication skills.

## Required Readings

The texts for this class are available for purchase at the UF Bookstore or from an online retailer. Note: Amazon.com offers competitive pricing on many of these books, including the option to rent books and purchase used copies. Copies are also available at the library, though I encourage you to make these texts part of your personal library if and when cost permits.

## Class Assignments and Grading

**Participation and prompt question submission [20%]** - Each week, all class members will do the required reading. You are expected to come to class on time; engage with the texts and with fellow seminar participants; and make contributions that are clear, direct, and take our conversations in productive directions. In addition, you will post to Canvas a discussion question about the reading by noon on the Wednesday before class. Note: these questions should reflect a serious engagement with the text. You must read previously posted questions before posting your own. Please avoid repetition.

**Peer Editing [10%]** - At the end of term, you will submit an editing portfolio that represents your editing of peers' work. Editing due dates: January 31, February 21, March 21, April 4.

## Research/historiographical paper [70% total]

- topic statement [5%] – 1-2 pages due January 24
- primary source write up [0%] – due February 7
- research questions [0%] – due February 7
- thesis statement [5%] – due February 14
- annotated bibliography [10%] – due February 28
- prospectus [10%] – due March 14
- 10 draft pages [10%] – due March 28
- final paper [30%] – due April 22

## UF Grading Scale

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E	WF	I	N	G	S	U
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A100-94, A-: 90-93

C+: 77-79, C: 74-76, C-: 70-73

B+: 87-89, B: 84-86, B-: 80-83

D+: 67-69, D: 64-66, D-: 60-64

F: below 64

## Expectations

- This seminar will only function properly if everyone is in attendance. Please attend all classes. If for some reason you need to miss class, you must notify me at least 24 hours in advance and provide a book review on the core text. After one absence, I will deduct a full letter grade for every class missed.
- Complete the readings before class and turn your work in on time. Late assignments will be penalized by a full grade for every 24 hours late.
- Come to class prepared to engage in active discussion.
- Conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times (more on this during the semester).
- Note: all Canvas submissions are due on the Wednesday before class at 12pm unless otherwise noted.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

### **Student Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <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>.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week One (January 10)**

No reading due

Writing assignment(s):

Think about the research and writing you want to conduct this semester.

#### **Week Two (January 17):**

CITIES OF POWER: THE URBAN, THE NATIONAL, THE POPULAR, THE GLOBAL

Writing assignment(s):

Begin drafting your topic statement due Week 3.

#### **Week Three (January 24):**

LANDSCAPES OF POWER: FROM DETROIT TO DISNEYWORLD

Writing assignment(s):

Upload your topic statement to Canvas.

Begin to identify primary source collections for your work and write a few paragraphs about them (where they are, what you think they include, when you will get there, how you will use them, etc.) due Week 5.

#### **Week Four (January 31):**

IMPOSING DECENCY: THE POLITICS OF SEXUALITY AND RACE IN PUERTO RICO, 1870–1920

Writing assignment(s):

Upload a short reader's report on your peers' posted topics to Canvas. Using your reader's reports, be prepared to critique your peers' work and answer their critiques of your work.

**Week Five (February 7):**

CITY OF INMATES: CONQUEST, REBELLION, AND THE RISE OF HUMAN CAGING IN LOS ANGELES, 1771–1965

Writing assignment(s):

Upload your primary source write up to Canvas. Be prepared to discuss the major primary sources that (you think) will support your research.

Come to class having thought through two questions that your paper will answer for discussion. These are big, “so what” questions. We will contextualize them and suggest secondary literatures.

**Week Six (February 14)**

HOLLOW LAND: ISRAEL’S ARCHITECTURE OF OCCUPATION

Writing assignment(s):

Turn your questions into a two-paragraph thesis statement. Show this thesis statement to someone who is not in your field and see what kinds of questions that person asks about it.

Revise the statement accordingly. Post this statement to Canvas.

Begin work on an annotated bibliography on your topic due Week 8.

**Week Seven (February 21)**

Saskia Sassen, “The Global City: Introducing a Concept,” *Brown Journal of World Affairs* vol. 11(2): 27-43; “Cities in Today’s Global Age: An exploration of the new economic role of cities and the networks they form in an increasingly global world” in *Connecting Cities: Networks* (A Research Publication of the 9th World Congress of Metropolis), 2008; “The Specialised Differences of Cities Matter in Today’s Global Economy” in *Reforming the City: Responses to the Global Financial Crisis*, Sam Whimster (ed.), 2009; “When the City Itself Becomes a Technology of War,” *Theory, Culture & Society*, 2010.

Writing assignment(s):

Upload a short reader’s report on your peers’ thesis statements to Canvas.

Five-minute presentations: be prepared to make your argument and demonstrate your essay’s place in the literature. Be prepared to critique your peers’ work and answer their critiques of your work.

**Week Eight (February 28)**

REBEL CITIES: FROM THE RIGHT TO THE CITY TO THE URBAN REVOLUTION

Writing assignment(s):

Upload to Canvas an annotated bibliography of the most pertinent (probably 5-6, no more than 10) secondary sources, explaining each book’s argument and sources and demonstrating their fit with your work.

Schedule a meeting with me this week to discuss your thesis statement and bibliography of secondary sources.

**Week Nine (March 7): SPRING BREAK**

**Week Ten (March 14)**

**CITIES UNDER SIEGE: THE NEW MILITARY URBANISM**

Writing assignment(s):

Upload a 4-6 page prospectus to Canvas. The prospectus should expand the original topic statement and add a historiographical treatment that centers your argument in the literature (by now you should have an argument!). Discuss your major primary sources.

**Week Eleven (March 21):**

**THE NEOLIBERAL CITY: GOVERNANCE, IDEOLOGY, AND DEVELOPMENT IN AMERICAN URBANISM**

Writing assignment(s):

Upload critiques of peers' prospectus to Canvas.  
Work on drafting 10 pages of your paper due Week 12.

**Week Twelve (March 28):**

**CITY OF WALLS: CRIME, SEGREGATION, AND CITIZENSHIP IN SÃO PAULO**

Writing assignment(s):

Upload 10 pages of your research paper to Canvas.

**Week Thirteen (April 4):**

**CITIES OF KNOWLEDGE: COLD WAR SCIENCE AND THE SEARCH FOR THE NEXT SILICON VALLEY**

Writing assignment(s):

Critique the 10 pages that you receive from your peers (you may do this by jotting notes on the text). Save a copy for your editing portfolio.

**Week Fourteen (April 11):**

**TOXIC COMMUNITIES: ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM, INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, AND RESIDENTIAL MOBILITY**

Writing assignment(s):

Final papers due April 22

**Week Fifteen (April 18):**

**PLANET OF SLUMS**

Writing assignment(s):

Final papers due April 22

**April 22: Final Research Papers and Editing Portfolios due**