



Comparative Urban Politics: Theory and Practice

Syllabus

Title of the Course	Comparative Urban Politics: Theory and Practice		
Name of the Instructor	Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu & Dr. Ulas Bayraktar		
Language	English	ECTS	6
Hosted by	TU Berlin, Habitat Unit	Certificate issued by	TU Berlin, Habitat Unit, Philipp Misselwitz
min. number of participants	5	max. number of participants	15
Online class time	Wednesday 10:00 – 11:00 (GMT+1)		

About the instructors

Dr. Mehmet Penbecioglu

Penpecioglu is a city planner and urban politics scholar. He received his masters and PhD from the Middle East Technical University. He completed his postdoctoral research at TU Delft OTB. He was unlawfully expelled from his latest post at Izmir Institute of Technology. As an independent researcher, he is continuing to give lectures and to carry out research and publications in the fields of urban politics and local governments.

Dr. Ulas Bayraktar

Bayraktar obtained his PhD degree from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris in political science. He researched and published mainly on urban politics, local democracy and public policies. He was expelled from his public post at the Mersin University for being among the Petitioners for Peace. He is one of the founder-partners of Kùltùrhane.

Description of the course

The course offers a comparative perspective of the field of urban politics. By comparing different theories and diverse practices, this course will introduce students to an analytical framework to understand urban politics and explain its underlying dimensions of political power and social struggle. It consists of two major interrelated parts: (1) Theoretical Foundations of Urban Politics and (2) Comparing the Practices of Urban Politics.



The first part covers the main theoretical discussions for urban politics. Classical urban theory, known as the Chicago School, puts forward a non-political, ecological and behavioural explanation of urban development. Urban regime analysis and growth machine conceptualization, on the other hand, concentrate on the role of political and civil society agents; manifests their collaborative relations and identifies urban coalitions. Based on a critical political-economy perspective, the structuralist Marxist approach originates from capital-labour contradiction and reveals the conflictual relations of state policies, collective consumption and urban social movements. Marxist Geography literature mainly indicates how the “production of built environment” becomes an integral strategy for the accumulation and circulation of capital. Lefebvrian conceptions of “urban revolution” and “production of space” open new ways for exploring “planetary urbanization”.

Conceptual discussions during lectures 1-6 constitute the theoretical backbone in the first part of the course. In the second part, lectures 8-10 pay particular attention to practices of urbanism across the world, explaining their common political-economic trajectory and diverse settings of power relations. Lectures 11-13 are devoted to explain Turkish urban politics. These lectures set out the historical background and informal roots of Turkish urban politics; explain political dominance of mayors as a part of authoritarian neoliberal regime. The course is concluded by a final lecture on “City as Commons”.

Learning aims: What do you and the participants learn during the course?

1. Main theoretical foundations of urban politics (within a historical background and critical perspective)
2. Key practices of urban development and transformation (in diverse socio-political geographies of capitalism)
3. Comparison of different urbanism practices (and their meaning in terms of urban political theory)

What do you expect from the participants?

1. Attend the online class: Lecturers expect participants to attend the online class and to come to this meeting prepared.
2. Read the main readings and watched video lectures before coming to the online meeting. It is also expected that participants be actively involvement in the meeting, formulating critical questions and discussing key issues based on each week's topics.
3. Weekly Reflection Papers: Lecturers expect participants to write down a one-page reflection paper after each week's online class. In this reflection paper, it is expected that participants discuss main concepts, make comments and formulate questions on specific topics by each week. (The evaluation of the participants' performance will be mainly based on this reflection papers.)

Can one participate without planning to fulfill these expectations?

Yes.

No. ✓



Course organisation

The course is organized as a 14 week program consisting of different topics in urban political theory and practice.

There are two mutually constitutive parts in the course: (1) Theoretical Foundations of Urban Politics and (2) Comparing the Practices of Urban Politics. In the first part, lecturers provide a critical analysis of urban theories in relation to their historical dimensions and political meanings. In the second part, we present and discuss key cases/practices of urban politics (including urban development and transformation, local government policies etc.) by establishing the analytical links with the theoretical background.

The course consists of video lectures, presentations, readings and online class discussions. For each week, lecturers and participants concentrate on a specific topic of urban political theory and practice. Presentations and discussions of these topics will be carried out through these lectures, readings and discussions. For some weeks, in addition to video lectures, participants will watch some documentaries, interviews (prepared by the lecturers) and films specific to each week's topic and provide a better understanding for the issues discussed.

Detailed description of the course

The course is organized as a 14-week program. With the active involvement of the participants, lecturers present and discuss key topics in urban political theory and practice.

The detailed organization of the topics for each week is mentioned below.

PART 1 – THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF URBAN POLITICS

Week 1: Classical Urban Theory by Chicago School – Main concepts introduced, course outline to be discussed.

(Lecture 1 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioğlu)

Main Reading

Wirth, L. (1938) Urbanism as a Way of Life, American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 44, No. 1, pp. 1-24.

Suggested Reading

Saunders, P. (1986) Social Theory, Capitalism and the Urban Question, Social Theory and the Urban Question, Chapter 1, Routledge.

Week 2: Structuralist Marxist Approach to Urban Politics – The Urban Question

(Lecture 2 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioğlu)



Main Reading

Saunders, P. (1986) Chapter 6 The Urban as a Spatial Unit of Collective Consumption, Social Theory and the Urban Question, Routledge.

Suggested Reading

Castells, M. (1977) Chapter 11 Emergence of the Theoretical Field of Urban Politics, Chapter 12 Theoretical Tools for the Study of Urban Politics, The Urban Question, Arnold, London.

Week 3: The Role of Key Agents in Urban Politics – Growth Machines and Urban Regime Analysis

(Lecture 3 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Readings

Logan, J. and Molotch, H. (1987) Chapter 3 The City As a Growth Machine, Urban fortunes: the political economy of place. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Mossberger, K. (2009) Chapter 3 Urban Regime Analysis, Theories of Urban Politics Jonathan S. Davies & David Imbroscio (eds.), Sage Publications.

Suggested Reading

Stoker, G. & Mossberger, K. (2011) The Evolution of Urban Regime Theory: The Challenge of Conceptualization, Urban Affairs Review, 36(6), pp. 810-835.

Week 4: The Radical Sociological Critique of Urban Politics – Lefebvrian Approach and the Idea of Urban Revolution

(Lecture 4 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Lefebvre, H. (2003) Chapter 1 From the City to Urban Society, The Urban Revolution, University of Minnesota Press.

Suggested Readings

Lefebvre, H. (1979) Chapter 8 Space: Social Product and Use Value, State Space World: Selected Essays, N. Brenner & S. Elden (Eds.), University of Minnesota Press.

Merrifield A. (2006) Henri Lefebvre: A Critical Introduction, Routledge.

Week 5: Marxist Geography – Urbanization of Capital and Entrepreneurial Urban Governance

(Lecture 5 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Harvey, D. (1989) From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism, Geografiska Annaler Series B: Human Geography, 71 (1), pp. 3-17.

Suggested Reading

Harvey, D. (1986) Chapter 2 Urban Process Under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis, The Urban Experience, The John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.



Week 6: Neoliberal Urban Hegemony: Urban Transformation and the Large Scale Urban Projects

(Lecture 6 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Swyngedouw E., Moulaert F. and Rodriguez A. (2002) Neo-liberal urbanization in Europe: large-scale urban development projects and the new urban policy, *Antipode*, 34 (3), pp. 542-577.

Suggested Reading

Smith N. (2002) New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy, *Antipode*, 34 (3), pp. 427-450.

PART 2 – COMPARING THE PRACTICES OF URBAN POLITICS

Week 7: Planetary Urbanization and Changing Socio-Spatial Patterns Of Urban Practices

(Lecture 7 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Brenner, N. & Schmid, C. (2015) Towards a new epistemology of the urban? *City*, Vol. 19, No. 2-3, pp. 151-182.

Further Reading

Brenner, N. (Edt.) (2013) *Implosions/Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization*, Berlin: Jovis.

Week 8: Urban Politics in the Global South – Formal/Informal Divide and Changing Urbanism Practices in Southern Cities

(Lecture 8 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Roy, A. (2009) The 21st-Century Metropolis: New Geographies of Theory, *Regional Studies*, 43:6, pp. 816-830.

Suggested Reading

Schindler, S. (2017) Towards a Paradigm of Southern Urbanism, *City*, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 47-64.

Roy, A. & Ong A. (Eds.) (2011) *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*, Wiley-Blackwell.

Week 9: The Crisis of Neoliberal Urban Policies and Emerging Forms of Urban Social Movements in Diverse Geographies

(Lecture 9 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Bayırbağ, M. & Penpecioglu M. (2017) Urban crisis: 'Limits to governance of alienation', *Urban Studies*, Vol. 54, Issue 9, pp. 2056-2071.

Suggested Reading

Meyer M. (2009) The 'Right to the City' in the context of shifting mottos of urban social movements, *City*, Vol. 13, No. 2-3, pp. 362-374.



Week 10: Turkish Urban Politics 1 – Historical Background and Informal Roots: Immigration and the Formation of Settlements in Turkey

(Lecture 10 by. Dr. Ulaş Bayraktar)

Main Reading

Erder, S. (1999), Where do you hail from? Localism and networks in Istanbul. In Keyder (ed.), Istanbul between the local and the global, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Suggested Reading

Pamuk, O. (2015), Strangeness in my Mind, Knopt Publishing.

Şengül, T. (2003) On the trajectory of urbanization in Turkey: An attempt at periodization, International Development Planning Review, 25 (2): 153-168.

Week 11: Turkish Urban Politics 2 – Turkish Way of Authoritarian Neoliberal Urbanism

(Lecture 11 by. Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Çavuşoğlu, E. & Struz, J. (2014) Producing force and consent: Urban transformation and corporatism in Turkey, City, 18 (2): 134-148.

Suggested Film

Ekümenopolis: Endless City (2011) – A documentary of Turkey's neoliberal urbanization experience, Director İmre Azem.

Suggested Reading

Penpecioglu, M. (2013) Urban Development Projects and the Construction of Neo-liberal Urban Hegemony: The case of Izmir, METU Journal of Faculty of Architecture, 30 (1), pp. 165-189.

Week 12: Turkish Urban Politics 3 – Urban Presidentialism and Mayors as the Omnipresent Political Actors in Turkey

(Lecture 12 by Dr. Ulaş Bayraktar)

Main Reading

Bayraktar, U. (2018) Policy-making at local level: An analysis of Turkish municipalities, in Bakir & Ertan (eds.), Policy-Analysis in Turkey, Policy Press, Bristol, 105-120.

Suggested Reading

Bayraktar, U. (2007) Turkish municipalities: Reconsidering local democracy beyond administrative autonomy, European Journal of Turkish Studies [Online] <http://journals.openedition.org/ejts/1103>

Week 13: Turkish Urban Politics 4 – Alienation and the transformation of urban public spheres in Turkish cities

(Lecture 13 by Dr. Mehmet Penpecioglu)

Main Reading

Batuman, B. (2015) 'Everywhere Is Taksim': The Politics of Public Space From Nation-Building to Neoliberal Islamism and Beyond, Journal of Urban History, Vol. 41(5): 881-907.



Suggested Reading

Genç, F. (2018) Urban Social Movements and the Politics of the Commons in Istanbul, The Politics of the Commons: From Theory to Struggle, E. Erdoğan, N. Yüce & Ö. Özbay (Eds.), [Online] <https://commons.sehak.org/docs/Politics-of-Commons-SEHAK-2018-online-version.pdf#page=81>

Week 14: Commoning Urban Politics: City as Commons

(Lecture 14 by Dr. Ulaş Bayraktar)

Main Reading

Stavrides, S. (2016) Common Space: The City As Commons, London, Zed Books.

Suggested Reading

Erdoğan, E., Yüce, N. & Özbay, Ö. (Eds.) (2018) The Politics of the Commons: From Theory to Struggle, Published by Civil and Ecological Rights Association, [Online] <https://commons.sehak.org/docs/Politics-of-Commons-SEHAK-2018-online-version.pdf#page=81>