This seminar explores the complexity of the city as an evolving and turbulent landscape. We will be engaging a multiplicity of cities in our readings and discussion, e.g., Chicago, Los Angeles, London, Capetown, Mumbai, St. Louis, Detroit, Berlin, Manchester, and New York. Our concern is with the swath of current economic, political, cultural, and social forces that are constituted in and reverberate across the city in current global and neoliberal times. Topical issues addressed include the city as a globalizing entity, rights to the city, the racialized urban economy, the new local state in the city, contemporary urban governance, nature in the city, and the new gentrification. Readings for the course reflect a mix of classic pieces, theoretical-conceptual expositions, and contemporary empirical applications of ideas and theories.

Class Format: This class is an advanced graduate seminar that will involve weekly reading and discussion. Seven main topics about the contemporary city will be covered; each will involve two weeks of analysis. All students are expected to read the six readings for that two week module (three readings per week). Each class will entail a critical review and investigation of the three readings that week.

Grading: - Final Paper – due last day of class
- Two Critical Topical Reviews – due the fifth and tenth weeks of class

I. GLOBALIZATION, NEOLIBERALISM, AND THE CITY


II. CITY AS “GO-GLOBAL” PROJECT


III. CITY AS IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE AND PROCESS


Doussard, Marc, 2013. Degraded Work: the Struggle At the Bottom of the Labor Market (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota)1-170

IV. CITY AS SITE OF GOVERNMENTALITY AND BIOPOWER


V. RACE, RACIALITY, AND THE CITY


VI. UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT, UNEVEN REDEVELOPMENT, AND THE CITY


VII. CITY AS SITE OF POLITICAL RESISTANCE


Harvey, David, 2000. Spaces of Hope (Berkeley: University of California).

