Special Topics: European Cities

Cornell in Rome
Spring 2015
CRP 3724
Wed 15.30 – 18.00
Palazzo Lazzaroni

Instructors:
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Office Hours: scheduled by e-mail appointment before or after class

Grading: by Letter

I. Rationale:
The European Cities class is a special topic for Spring 2015. It deals with the notion of urbanism and urbanity, of urban policies and urban social movements within the framework of the European integration process. It fits with the field of urbanism, urban studies, urban geography and provides complementary knowledge in the field of urban government and urban development in contemporary Europe.

II. Course Aims and Objectives:
Aims
The course will focus on European Cities and the challenges they are facing in a globalized world. Introducing the main characteristics of European cities and their role in the European integration process, the student will achieve a critical understanding of different forms of government and governance, and modalities that European cities have chosen in order to face the challenge of the contemporary city.

III. Format and Procedures:
The course will introduce the concept of European Urbanism with an insight on the historical evolution of the notion of urbanism in Europe starting from two fundamental readings: Leonardo Benevolo and Patrick Le Gales. This will open the debate regarding urban development and the historical root of citizenship in Europe. These issues will be addressed introducing the role given to cities in the European integration process.

The ways in which cities have been conceptualized provide the framework within which European Cities will be further investigated. The concepts that will be introduced are the industrial city, the welfare city and the city in transformation.

The industrial city will be introduced exploring postindustrial conversion, the welfare city and its contradictions will be explored deeply through the case of Rome introducing the post war construction of welfare state policies and the informal city of Rome. Examples of European cities in transformation will be selected to introduce the neoliberal shift and the competitive imperative that cities are adopting to face contemporary challenges.
The second part of the course will focus on specific responses and approaches. Different modalities in governing the transformation of the city will be introduced: policies and programs, large events and strategic projects; regeneration and neighborhood integrated policies; public space improvements and the emergence of practices for the common good. These practices, policies and projects will be analyzed taking into account their social and spatial impact, their dialectic between growth and equity as well as the specific characteristics of the context in which they are developed.

The instructors will conduct lectures, in which students are expected to actively participate. There will be also be student presentations followed by class discussion. Thematic visits will deepen aspects introduced in class and open discussion regarding contemporary issues faced by European cities.

IV. Our Assumptions

Big and small EU cities are all different and unique, however they share some commonalities and contribute to the definition of European Urbanism. Cities are also the core of some of the most controversial issues in contemporary world, such as equity, marginality and alternatives to neoliberism. With our class we aim to achieve a better understanding of the constituents of European cities. Mixing historical perspective on the notion of Urban Europe, European citizenship and urban governance with contemporary policy and project analysis, students will have an overview of the complex notion of Urban Europe useful for future research in urbanism and urban policies.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation policy: participation and discussion in class are fundamental parts of the class requirements.

2. Student will be required to discuss and compare the reading given for class. To submit a midterm inception paper and a final paper in the form of a written essay. Student are also required to take a final exam.

Midterm assignment: inception paper, individual short preliminary essay (1500 words). Select an European or Italian city and develop an essay on urban policies/strategic choices or projects that the city has developed in the last decades. Outline a brief overview of the case, the main objectives of the process, references to the program of the EU and formulate a research question that will be developed in the Term paper. More details will be provided and discussed during lessons.

Term paper: individual extensive essay (5000 words). Critical development of the selected case described above. Underline the success or the failure, achievements of objectives, main actors involved, opportunities and weaknesses of the selected case and future perspectives with references to the literature discussed in class or specifically assigned by the instructors.

Final exam: The final exam will consist of several brief essays selected from a larger pool of topics. It will cover material from class sessions, site visits and readings.
2. Course readings:
   a) Required readings are indicated week by week in the syllabus.
   b) Additional readings will be selected in relation to the topics of individual assignments.
   c) Reading will be available in .pdf format in the blackboard; the main book readings are also available at the Library.

3. The Course is worth 3 credits

VI. Grading Procedures: Grades will be based on:
   - Midterm paper: 20%
   - Participation and class discussion: 20%
   - Term paper: 30%
   - Final exam: 30%

VII. Academic Integrity
Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. [http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html](http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html)
Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work, except in the cases of projects that are specifically structured as group endeavors.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e mail, an e mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

VIII. Accommodations for students with disabilities
In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, we are available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.