

# URB 201 METROPOLITAN MIAMI

Fall 2007



Monday, 6:25-9:05  
200 Memorial Building

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This is an introductory course (3-credits) in the Urban Studies Minor. It is intended for undergraduate students in Arts & Sciences and Architecture, but it is open to others as well. It should be of general interest to students who want to get to know Miami better. It is an excellent way to get familiar with the city, to learn basic concepts in urban studies, and to meet with outstanding teachers from across the University. Topics include Miami's early history; its emergence as a Global City; the role of tourism; Miami's famous architecture; environmental challenges such as hurricanes and protection of the Everglades; the economic development of Greater Miami; immigration, population, and local cultures; Miami's connections to the Caribbean and Latin America; and more.

The course counts towards the Urban Studies minor (15 cr.) and is also a fulfillment of the social science requirement in Arts & Sciences. The purpose, first, to familiarize students with the urban milieu of Greater Miami: its history and geography, the built environment, environmental conditions, urban culture, economic base, etc. Second, the course aims to use the case of metropolitan Miami to introduce and illustrate a range of general concepts in Urban Studies. The course employs perspectives from geography, history, architecture, environmental studies, sociology, anthropology, and political science.

## **FORMAT**

The course is taught as a series of weekly modules that each focus on a different topic. Students are expected to have read assigned class materials before class meetings. Assigned readings will be incorporated in the lecture or time will be set aside for a discussion of the readings. The format will vary: some classes consist wholly of lectures while others combine lectures with class discussion. A number of lectures will be accompanied with (audio-) visual media. On six occasions, class will be taught by guest lecturers. The course will involve a field trip in the Miami area (TBA).

## **GRADES**

Grades are based on a midterm exam (25%), comprehensive final exam (35%), term research paper (30%), and class participation (10%). Exams will consist of short essay questions and will be based on lectures and readings. You are expected to attend all classes (and be on time) and participate actively and constructively. Grading and all other administrative matters concerning the class are handled by Professor Nijman and Mr. Toro.

## **RESEARCH PAPER**

The research papers must deal with some aspect of Metropolitan Miami and are due on the last day of classes. Paper proposals must be submitted before the midterm and must be approved by the instructor or TA. Papers must be 12-20 pages of text, font Times New Roman 12, double spaced, margins 1 inch, excluding title page, illustrations, graphics, tables, bibliography. The text must include bibliographical references. The bibliography should include a variety of sources such as news media, digital archives, journal articles, books, reports, interviews, film documentaries, etc. The title page must include your name, ss#, email address, the name of the course, the paper title, and a 50-150 word abstract. Papers are due by 5 pm, Monday, December 3 and late papers are not accepted. You are encouraged to send the paper to me via email ([Nijman@miami.edu](mailto:Nijman@miami.edu)) – in that case you should not submit a paper copy. If you do submit a paper copy, please print paper on both sides and use a staple (no binders) – drop off at my mail box (Nijman) in the Geography department (Ferre Bldg). At any time during the semester, feel free to get in touch with myself or Matthew Toro for guidance on the papers.

Examples of paper topics:

- A history of professional sports in Miami;
- The role of tourism in the Miami economy;
- Ethnicity and politics in Miami;
- The Jewish community of Miami Beach;
- Geographies of poverty in Miami-Dade County;
- Public transportation in Miami;
- Affordable housing in Miami-Dade County;
- Miami's condo glut;
- Perceptions of Miami in the news media;
- The South Florida property insurance crisis;
- Urbanization and water in South Florida;
- Miami's waterfront development;

- The cruise industry;
- Big Sugar;
- Haitians in South Florida;
- Green space in urban South Florida
- Miami as Latin cultural center;
- Geographies of wealth in Miami-Dade County.

Don't hesitate to suggest your own topic(s). Take your cues from the class lectures, readings, or the Miami Herald.

## **READINGS**

You will need to purchase two books, available at the campus book store:

- Alejandro Portes & Alex Stepick, *City on the Edge. The Transformation of Miami*, University of California Press, 1993.
- W. Hodding Carter, *Stolen Water: Saving the Everglades from its Friends, Foes, and Florida*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005

Other readings will be placed on reserve at the Richter Library and will also be available online via Blackboard. In addition to assigned readings for each class meetings, students are expected to subscribe to the *Miami Herald* for the duration of the course and to follow the local news on a daily basis. *Miami Herald* coverage should be included in the research paper.

## **WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS**

### **August 27. Introduction to the Course**

Introduction to the course: syllabus; purpose of the course; expectations; organization; readings; grading policy; office hours. This is followed by an introductory discussion of Metropolitan Miami and the field of Urban Studies, including a mental map exercise of the Greater Miami area.

### **September 3. Labor Day (no class)**

### **September 10. Early Years: Travel and tourism in South Florida (guest lecture by Prof. Robin Bachin)**

This lecture examines the role of tourism in shaping the early growth of South Florida from the 1890s through the 1920s. The history of Miami reflects many of the trends that have shaped travel, tourism, and urban growth in the last century. Miami was built on promotionalism, on selling the image of paradise through new forms of advertising and media emerging at the turn of the twentieth century. At the same time, boosters also hoped to convince travelers to put down roots in Miami and make it into a viable community, not just a tourist resort. Promoters developed dramatic sketches and drawings of tropical fantasylands, places with alluring names like Opa-Locka and Miramar, whose themed designs represented early models for idealized cities that would be epitomized with the advent of Disney World and, more recently, Celebration, Florida.

This class will explore the strategies and tactics of early developers, planners, and architects to create exclusive communities in South Florida, but also highlight how this promotion of exclusivity was based on the reality of exclusion, both of people of color and of Jews.

Reading:

- Dean MacCannell, *The Tourist: A New Theory of the Leisure Class* (Berkeley, 1999), Pp. 1-37.
- Deborah Dash Moore, *To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A.* (Cambridge, Mass., 1994), Pp. 1-52.
- Marvin Dunn, *Black Miami in the Twentieth Century* (Gainesville, 1997), pp. 143-170.

### **September 17. Airplanes, Air-conditioning and Cubans: The Remaking of Miami**

After World War II, Miami was transformed as result of geopolitical and technological changes. Air-conditioning was crucial to making Miami a permanent (not seasonal) home for many northerners and mass air travel put Miami in reach of many domestic and foreign places. The rise to power of Fidel Castro triggered large scale migration from Cuba to Miami. Together, these developments resulted in the rapid growth of Miami from the 1950s onward. This class focuses on these developments and on their impact on Miami in demographic, cultural, economic, political, and geographical ways.

Readings:

- Portes & Stepick, pp. xi-122.

### **September 24. Miami's Architecture: Visions of the Pan-American City (guest lecture by Prof. Jean-Francois LeJeune)**

Starting with George Merrick's articulated vision of the 1920-30s, *Miami in the 1960s* will explore the idea and growing reality of the hemispheric city by focusing on urban architectural design. The most spectacular architectural expression of pan-Americanism during this period was Interama, a large-scale project to create a hemispheric trade and cultural center in Miami while responding to the economic imperatives of Florida within the Cold War environment. Though there were versions of the project as early as the 1920s, Interama gained momentum during the 1950s with state sponsorship and a major site (where FIU North Campus and the Oleta River State Park are currently situated). The project peaked in the 1960s, when the state Inter-American Center Authority recruited a group of world-class architects—Marcel Breuer, Louis Kahn, Edward Durrell Stone, José Luis Sert, Paul Rudolph and Harry Weese—to design a massive complex of buildings and outdoor spaces that represented a future of pan-American cooperation. A 1962 promotional booklet described Interama as a “permanent meeting ground for the Americas” and defined “Progress with Freedom” as the central theme. Though Interama was never built, the project crystallized the hemispheric ideal of the 1960s.

Readings:

TBA

### **October 1. Urban Governance in South Florida (guest lecture by Prof. Jonathan West)**

This class provides a general framework for understanding metropolitan government and governance and uses contemporary Miami as a case study. Political structures in metropolitan undergo frequent change. Previous structures have included the “political city” (traditionally elected mayor/city council governance) and the “administrative city” (city manager appointed by city council). However, in recent years cities have adapted and changed their structures so much to accommodate contemporary demands that the traditional models no longer reflect reality. Alternative conceptions will be considered. In the Miami setting structural change can be analyzed using John Kingdon’s policy window model with its focus on agenda setting. Here the importance of focusing events, a skilled policy entrepreneur, and timing of events help explain reform outcomes.

Required readings:

- H. George Frederickson and Gary Alan Johnson. The Adapted American City: A Study of Institutional Dynamics. *Urban Affairs Review* 26, 6, July 2001: 872-884.
- Annette Steinacker. Prospects for Regional Governance: Lessons from the Miami Abolition Vote. *Urban Affairs Review*. 37, 1, September 2001: 100-118

Recommended reading:

- Frederickson, H.G., Johnson, G.A. and Wood, C. *The Adapted City: Institutional Dynamics and Structural Change*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2004.
- Kingdon, J. *Agenda, Alternatives, and Public Policies*. NY: Harper Collins, 1984.

### **October 8. Miami’s Urban Ecology**

The lecture focuses on the environmental conditions of urbanization in southeast Florida and on the impact of urban growth on the environment. Miami is hemmed in between the Atlantic coast and the Everglades and it has reached its maximum east-west extent, up against the Urban Development Boundary. The fast growing population of metropolitan Miami has increased demands for water, a demand that must be met without further damage to the Everglades. The danger of hurricanes has not had a major effect on urban design (other than building codes) but sky-rocketing insurance premiums may well leave their mark on the city’s economy and socio-economic composition.

Reading:

- Carter, pp. 1-135.

Recommended reading:

- Carter, pp. 136-263.

### **October 15. MIDTERM EXAM**

### **October 22. Race and Ethnicity in Post-industrial Miami (guest lecture by Prof. George Wilson)**

This lecture will focus on the dynamics of deindustrialization in Miami in the last several decades. In particular, it will focus on how deindustrialization and the transformation to a service sector economic infrastructure has impacted on levels of socioeconomic

inequality and the altering of life-chance opportunities in Miami. Special attention is paid to areas that have been documented to have been hardest hit by the ravages of industrial restructuring including Liberty City and Overtown in Miami.

Readings:

- William Julius Wilson, *The Truly Disadvantaged*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987, Pp. xiii-50.

- Portes & Stepick, pp. 176-203.

### **October 29. Miami's Emergence as a World City**

Since the early 1970s, processes of globalization played an important part in the formation of a global network of cities. These so-called "world cities" are key nodes in the global economy and in networks of flows of capital, goods, and populations. Miami is generally considered a second-tier global city, closely tied to New York, the primary node in the western hemisphere. This lecture concentrates on conceptualization of world city functions, measurements of the global urban network and city rankings, and in particular on the position of Miami as a world city.

Readings:

- Portes & Stepick, pp. 123-175.

- J. Nijman, "Place-particularity and deep analogies: A comparative historical essay about Miami's emergence as a world city." *Urban Geography* vol. 28 (2007): 92-107.

### **November 5. Marginalized Populations in Greater Miami (guest lecture by Prof. Bryan Page)**

Social stratification is inevitable in large systems of human organization. Distribution of wealth arrays along the lines of this stratification, and at the bottom of this distribution reside the people least advantaged in terms of social class and wealth. A subset of the people on the bottom of class and wealth are those who do not participate in most aspects of the social structure of the communities in which they live. They live on the margins of "mainstream" societies. Social and behavioral studies of these populations can lead to insights necessary for remediation of the larger societies' problems. This lecture will provide a general overview of marginality among urban populations and will use Greater Miami as a case study. Marginality in Miami is associated with class, race and ethnicity, and citizenship.

Reading:

Gmelch G & Zenner WP (eds.). *Urban Life: Readings in Urban Anthropology*. Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland Press. Pp. 378-417.

### **November 12. Locals, Exiles, and Cosmopolitans**

In discussions of Miami's population, it has become commonplace to focus on the ethnic/racial triad of non-Hispanic Whites, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic Blacks. In this lecture we review these categories and discuss an alternative triad of locals, exiles and cosmopolitans. The latter categories cut across race and ethnicity and

are instead based on spatial identities and identification with Miami. This view underscores Miami's character as a 'transient city.'

Readings:

- J. Nijman, "Ethnicity, class, and the economic internationalization of Miami." In: J. O'Loughlin & J. Friedrichs (eds.), *Social Polarization in Post-Industrial Metropolises*. Berlin and Chicago: Gruyter-Aldine 1996: 283-300.
- J. Nijman, "Locals, exiles, and cosmopolitans. A theoretical argument about identity and place in Miami." *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie* vol. 98 (2007): 167-178.

### **November 19. Growth, Form and the New Urbanism (Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk)**

Metropolitan Miami's physical form is the result of a century-long aggregation of settlement patterns which in retrospect often appear to have been shortsighted. This class will focus on the physical development of South Florida in the context of international patterns of 20<sup>th</sup> century urban growth, and contemporary efforts to guide future development as well as conservation.

Readings:

- Andrés Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Jeff Speck, *Suburban Nation: The Rise of Sprawl and the Decline of the American Dream*. North Point Press, N.Y., 2000. Chapter 1, pp. 3-20 - What is Sprawl and Why, Chapter 8, pp.135-151 - The City and the Region.
- Congress for the New Urbanism, *The Charter For The New Urbanism* New York: McGraw Hill, 2000.
- N. Peirce, C. Johnson, "Will Growth Doom South Florida" and "New Urbanism Prophecies Come True", *South Florida Sun Sentinel*, November 19, 2000. [also see this link: [http://www.collinscenter.org/tgp/tgp\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=106300](http://www.collinscenter.org/tgp/tgp_show.htm?doc_id=106300)]

### **November 26. The Paradigmatic City (Jan Nijman)**

The paradigmatic city may be defined as the city that displays more clearly than other cities the fundamental features and trends of the wider urban system. The paradigmatic city serves as a model, a laboratory for analysis. Examples of paradigmatic cities in the United States were Chicago in the 1920s and 1930s and Los Angeles in the 1980s and 1990s. In this lecture, we take a closer look at the arguments of the 'LA School' and we consider Miami's candidacy for paradigmatic city of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Readings:

- M. Dear & S. Flusty, "The resistible rise of the LA School." In: M. Dear (ed.), *From Chicago to LA: Making Sense of Urban Theory*. Thousand Oaks Ca: Sage Publications, 2002. Pp. 3-16.
- J. Nijman, "The paradigmatic city." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* vol. 89 (2000): 135-145.

**FINAL EXAM:** Monday, December 10, 8-10:30 pm, Rm. 200 MM

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