

**READING AND COMPOSITION IN HISTORY**  
**The Socialist City: Urban Life in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century from Havana to Pyongyang**

Instructor: Katherine Zubovich  
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Office Hours: Mondays 10 am-noon  
Office: 2108 Dwinelle Hall

Seminar  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
4:00 - 5:30 pm  
35 Evans Hall

In the twentieth century, socialist governments took power, first in Europe and then in other countries throughout the world. From the USSR to China, Cuba to Mozambique, leaders sought to radically transform the daily lives of their citizens. This transformation was to be achieved in large part through urban redevelopment and planning schemes. In this class, we will explore the history of attempts throughout the socialist world to build “socialist” cities, distinct in their appearance, economy, and infrastructure from capitalist urban spaces. We will cover a wide geography, traveling in our readings each week from the streets of Moscow and East Berlin to other cities, including Havana with its state-owned ice-cream parlors and Dar es Salaam, home to the world’s only socialist drive-in cinema. Key questions that we will pose throughout the semester include: How did city planners deal with the legacy of pre-socialist urban spaces? How did socialist architecture and plans shape people’s everyday lives in the twentieth century? And how does socialist urban design continue to shape cities today, long after the end of the Cold War?

This course satisfies the second half of the university’s reading and composition requirement. We will focus on developing the basic skills of a liberal arts education: reading critically and writing persuasively. The course will also serve as an introduction to historical research and will focus on the components of historical thinking: change over time, causality, context, complexity, and contingency. The first half of the class will require students to write brief essays focused on developing these basic skills. These short writing assignments will ask students to analyze one or more of the assigned texts. In the second half of the course, students will write a longer research essay based on texts of their choosing. At the end of the course students will demonstrate their mastery of the various components of historical thinking in a clearly written essay.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

The Course Reader is required. Please purchase a printed copy (not a digital version) of the Reader at Copy Central. It will be ready starting August 26. The two required books, by Chang-tai Hung and Kate Brown, are available at the Cal Bookstore for purchase. You may also wish to purchase these books on Amazon. Alternatively, these books have been placed on reserve at Moffitt Library (you can check them out for 2-hour periods). Hung’s book is also available as an e-book, accessible for free through the Berkeley Library catalogue.

1. Course Reader for purchase at Copy Central (2576 Bancroft Way, 510-848-8649)
2. Chang-tai Hung, *Mao’s New World: Political Culture in the Early People’s Republic*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011.
3. Kate Brown, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

- :: Attendance, active participation, and punctuality.....10%
- :: Diagnostic Essay, 3 pages.....not graded  
*Due: Mon Sept. 7 @ 5pm (bCourses)*
- :: Essay #1: Historiographical Review Essay, 5 pages.....25%  
*Draft due: Sun Sept. 20 @ 5pm (bCourses)*  
*Essay due: Sun Sept. 27 @ 5pm (bCourses)*  
*Revised essay due: Wed Oct. 14 (submit printed copy in class)*
- :: Essay #2: Source Analysis Essay, 8 pages.....30%  
*Draft due: Sun Oct. 25 @ 5pm (bCourses)*  
*Essay due: Sun Nov. 1 @ 5pm (bCourses)*  
*Revised essay due: Wed Nov. 18 @ 5pm (bCourses)*
- :: Essay #3: Research Paper Proposal, 1-3 pages.....2%  
*Due: Wed Nov. 4 @ 4pm (bCourses)*
- :: Essay #3: Outline and Bibliography, 2-3 pages.....3%  
*Due: Wed Nov. 11 @ 5pm (bCourses)*
- :: Essay #3: Research Paper, 10 pages.....30%  
*Draft due: Mon Nov. 30 in class*  
*Revised essay due: Mon Dec. 14 (submit printed copy to me at my office)*

### Attendance, Active Participation, and Punctuality

Attendance is *mandatory* for Weeks 1 and 2 of the class. Anyone who does not attend the first two classes will be dropped from the class. Attendance will be taken at every class. You may miss up to three meetings without penalty. Save these permitted absences for unavoidable situations, such as sickness or emergencies. More than three absences will be grounds for failing the course. Tardiness is very disruptive to the class. Three late arrivals to class count as one absence. Exceptions will, of course, be made for extenuating circumstances. Be sure to discuss your situation with me if such circumstances arise.

Different people have different ways they best participate, all of which are valid: active listening, thoughtful preparation, sharing a well-formulated idea or question after a long pause, helping a classmate understand a concept, coming to office hours. No student will receive a passing grade without demonstrating regularly that they have done the required assignments (including reading assignments) and without actively participating in the seminar. If you do not regularly speak in class, it is up to you to find other ways to make contributions and demonstrate your understanding of the readings.

### Paper Revisions

Please note that both paper #1 and paper #2 will be revised, and your final grade for the paper reflects the grade of the revision. Students must substantially revise papers #1 and #2. Successful revisions can improve the initial grade assigned by up to a full point (for example, C+ to B+). You must consult with the instructor in office hours *before* attempting the revision and come up with a revision plan.

### **Writing Assignment Specs**

All papers must be double-spaced, typed in Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1-inch margins. Late papers will be docked one +/- marking for every 24 hours past the submission deadline.

### **Academic Integrity**

All assignments must reflect original and independent work. Plagiarism—not acceptable under any circumstance—is the use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging its source. Students should be aware that plagiarism and cheating can be cause for failing the assignment or even the class, and that all instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. A good rule of thumb is: when in doubt, cite. If you have any questions do not hesitate to see me. The library has a useful website (<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/how-to-find/cite-sources>) that not only defines University policy on plagiarism but also explains how to use citations in your papers. Another good source on plagiarism and how to avoid it can be found at Purdue’s Online Writing Lab (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/2/>). When referring to books, articles, and other sources in the papers you write for this class, you are required to include citations in Chicago Style, unless otherwise stated. We will spend time in class before papers are due talking about why, when, and how to cite.

### **Accommodations**

If you need disability-related accommodations; if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me; if you will miss class for athletic, religious, or other university-endorsed reasons; or if you need special arrangements in case of building evacuation, please let me know immediately. If you need documentation or more information concerning accommodations, please contact the Disabled Students’ Program (DSP), located at 260 Cesar Chavez Student Center, [www.dsp.berkeley.edu](http://www.dsp.berkeley.edu), 642-0518.

*Note: The syllabus is subject to change. I will let you know of any and all changes.*

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

† Indicates a reading that is in the Course Reader.

### **WEEK 1: WELCOME**

Aug 26 (W) – Introduction to the course

Reading: “You can see Berlin’s East-West Divide from Space” (on bCourses).

## WEEK 2: WHAT IS A “SOCIALIST CITY”?

Aug 31 (M) – General Readings: In search of definitions

Readings: [1] † R.A. French and F.E. Hamilton, “Is there a Socialist City?” *The Socialist City: Spatial Structure and Urban Policy*, (New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979), 1-21; [2] † James Bater, *The Soviet City: Ideal and Reality*, (London: Edward Arnold, 1980), 1-5; [3] † Sonia Hirt, “The Socialist City,” *Iron Curtains: Gates, Suburbs and Privatization of Space in the Post-socialist City*, (Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley & Sons, 2012), 34-40.

🚩 Today you will receive the diagnostic essay assignment via bCourses.

Sept 2 (W) – Magnitogorsk (Magnetic Mountain)

Readings: [1] † Stephen Kotkin, “The Idiocy of Urban Life,” *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995), 106-145; [2] Miliutin, *Sotsgorod: The Problem of Building Socialist Cities*, 1930, short selections (on bCourses).

Images: Magnitogorsk folder (on bCourses)

## WEEK 3: BUILDING THE SOCIALIST CITY

Sept 7 (M): Labor Day (no class)

**Assignment: Diagnostic Paper Due @5pm (bCourses)**

Sept 9 (W) – Moscow

Readings: [1] † Greg Castillo, “Moscow: Gorki Street and the Design of the Stalin Revolution,” in *Streets: Critical Perspectives on Public Space*, ed. Zeynep Celik et al, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994), 57-70; [2] Lazar Kaganovich, *The Socialist Reconstruction of Moscow and Other Cities in the USSR*, 1931, selections (on bCourses).

Images: Moscow folder (on bCourses)

🚩 Today you will receive the assignment for Essay #1 via bCourses.

## WEEK 4: THE CITY AS A SHOWCASE OF SOCIALISM

Sept 14 (M) – Beijing: Monumental Spaces

Readings: Chang-tai Hung, *Mao’s New World: Political Culture in the Early People’s Republic*, read the Introduction and Chapters 1 (“Tiananmen Square”) and 2 (“Ten Monumental Buildings”), 1-72.

Sept 16 (W) – Beijing and Pyongyang: City as Stage

Readings: [1] Hung, *Mao’s New World*, read Chapter 4 (“Parades”), 92-108; [2] † Charles K. Armstrong, “A Declaration of Self-Reliance, 1953-55,” *Tyranny of the Weak: North Korea and the World, 1950-1992*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013), 52, 65-79.

Images: *New York Times* 2015 dispatch “Live from North Korea” (bCourses); Julia Leeb photographs from her 2014 book *North Korea: Anonymous Country* (bCourses)

## WEEK 5: PEER REVIEW

Sept 20 (Su) – Assignment: Essay #1 Draft due @ 5pm (bCourses)

Sept 21 (M) – Peer Review Workshop

Sept 23 (W) – Peer Review Workshop

Sept 27 (Su) – Assignment: Essay #1 Due, 5 pages @ 5pm (bCourses)

## WEEK 6: PUBLIC SPACES

Sept 28 (M) – Havana and Nowa Huta: Socializing in the Socialist City

Readings: [1] † James R. Curtis, “Havana’s Parque Coppelia: Public Space Traditions in Socialist Cuba,” *Places*, 8(3), 1993: 62-67; [2] † Katherine Lebow, “New Men,” *Unfinished Utopia: Nowa Huta, Stalinism, and Polish Society, 1949-56*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2013), 44-73.

Sept 30 (W) – Dar es Salaam: Leisure and Entertainment

Readings: † Laura Fair, “Drive-In Socialism: Debating Modernities and Development in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania,” *American Historical Review*, 118(4), 2013: 1078-1104.

🚩 Today you will receive the assignment for Essay #2 via bCourses.

## WEEK 7: PRIVATE SPACES

Oct 5 (M) – Leningrad: Communal Apartments

Readings: † Katerina Gerasimova, “Public Privacy in the Soviet Communal Apartment,” in *Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc*, ed. David Crowley and Susan E. Reid, (Oxford: Berg, 2002), 207-230.

Oct 7 (W) – Leningrad/Mexico City/Ulanbaatar: Mass Housing

Readings: [1] † Steven Harris, “The Waiting List,” *Communism on Tomorrow Street: Mass Housing and Everyday Life after Stalin*, (Washington D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2013), 111-153; [2] Plan for a Workers’ City, Mexico City, Union of Socialist Architects, 1938 (on bCourses).

Images: Microdistrict in Ulanbaatar, Mongolia (on bCourses)

## WEEK 8: MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS

Oct 12 (M) – Beijing: Museums

Readings: Hung, *Mao’s New World*, read Chapters 5 (“The Red Line”), and 9 (“The Cult of the Red Martyr”), 111-126, 213-234.

Oct 14 (W) – Beijing and Berlin: Monuments

Readings: [1] Hung, *Mao’s New World*, chapter 10 (“The Monument to the People’s Heroes”), and the Conclusion, 235-267; [2] † Brian Ladd, “East Berlin Political

Monuments in the Late German Democratic Republic: Finding a Place for Marx and Engels,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, 37(1), 2002: 91-104.

**Assignment: Revised Essay #1 Due (submit printed copy in class today, Oct 14)**

✚ Today you will receive the assignment for Essay #3 on bCourses.

### **WEEK 9: MOBILITY FOR THE MASSES**

Oct 19 (M) – Moscow: Mass Transit

Reading: † Andrew Jenks, “A Metro on the Mount: The Underground as a Church of Soviet Civilization,” *Technology and Culture*, 41(4), 2000: 697-724.

Images: Moscow Metro Maps: 1935, 1946, 1962, 1971, 1980, 2015 (on bCourses)

Oct 21 (W) – Library Session with Jennifer Dorner in 350C Moffitt Library (bring Cal ID to enter the library)

### **WEEK 10: PEER REVIEW**

Oct 25 (Su) – **Assignment: Essay #2 Draft Due @5pm (bCourses)**

Oct 26 (M) – Peer Review Workshop

Oct 28 (W) – Peer Review Workshop

Nov 1 (Su) – **Assignment: Essay #2 Due @5pm (bCourses)**

### **WEEK 11: THE COLD WAR**

Nov 2 (M) – USSR: Cold War in the Kitchen

Readings: † Susan E. Reid, “‘Our Kitchen is Just as Good’: Soviet Responses to the American Kitchen,” in *Cold War Kitchen: Americanization, Technology, and European Users*, ed. Ruth Oldenziel and Karin Zachmann, (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2009), 83-112.

Film: “The Kitchen Debate” (on bCourses, we will watch it in class together)

Nov 4 (W) – Tashkent and Kabul: Socialist Cities for Export

Readings: [1] † Paul Stronski, “The Tashkent Model,” *Tashkent: Forging a Soviet City, 1930-1966*, (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010), 234-256; [2] † Elke Beyer, “Competitive coexistence: Soviet town planning and housing projects in Kabul in the 1960s,” *The Journal of Architecture*, 17(3), 2012: 309-332.

**Assignment: Essay #3 Proposal Due @ 4pm (bCourses)**

### **WEEK 12: SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST CITIES I**

Nov 9 (M) – Richland (USA)/Ozersk (USSR): Atomic Cities and Company Towns

Reading: Kate Brown, *Plutopia*

Nov 11 (W) – Veterans Day (no class)

**Assignment: Outline & Bibliography for Essay #3 Due @5pm (bCourses)**

**WEEK 13: SOCIALIST AND CAPITALIST CITIES II**

Nov 16 (M) – Richland/Ozersk: Atomic Cities and Company Towns

Reading: Kate Brown, *Plutopia*

Nov 18 (W) – **Assignment: Revised Essay #2 Due (submit on bCourses @ 5pm)**

No class today. Extra time for completing Essay #2 and getting started on Essay #3.

**WEEK 14: THE CITY IN LATE AND POST-SOCIALISM**

Nov 23 (M) – Sofia and Russia: Privatization, Neoliberalism, and the “Intransigence of Things”

Reading: [1] † Sonia Hirt, “Sofia: Wither the Socialist City,” *Iron Curtains: Gates, Suburbs and Privatization of Space in the Post-socialist City*, (Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley & Sons, 2012), 81-104. [2] † Stephen J. Collier, “Pipes,” in *Patterned Ground*, ed. Steve Pile, et al, (London: Reaktion Press, 2004), 50-52; [3] † Jane R. Zavisca, “Transplant Failure: The American Housing Model in Russia,” *Housing the New Russia*, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2012), 49-68.

Nov 25 (W) – Thanksgiving Break (no class)

**WEEK 15: PEER REVIEW**

Nov 30 (M) – Peer Review Workshop **Assignment: Essay #3 Draft Due in class today**

Dec 02 (W) – Peer Review Workshop

Dec 14 (M) – **Assignment: Essay #3 Due, 10 pages (submit printed copy to me in my office)**