Urban Political Ecology
Reading & Conference
Spring 2012
Tu 2:30 – 3:30
Urban Center Rm. 312

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Office Hours: Tu 12:30 to 2:30

Given the interest expressed by a group of students, I am offering this R&C on Urban Political Ecology this Spring. I will be offering a full seminar on Urban Political Ecology (UPE) in Fall 2013. This R&C should not be taken as a substitute, as we will go both deeper and wider in the seminar. This R&C is simply intended as a preview to whet your appetite... We’ll cover some intro readings to introduce the UPE framework (in contradistinction to “urban ecology”, a biophysical approach to understanding cities), some central theories (and methodological approaches), and several case studies to illustrate what UPE can look like.

Expectations: This R&C is student-led. My role will be limited, ie, I’ll be there to listen to you guys talk about the readings and to chime in once in a while. As such, you must come prepared to our weekly meetings. To come prepared you should do these things:

- Read all the readings
- Jot down several questions to help guide discussion
- Each week one or two of you will briefly present the readings (10 minutes) to get things started.
- Write up an annotated bibliography entry for 10 of the readings that are most useful (1/3 page each is plenty). You’ll need to turn in your annotated bibliography to me at the end of the term.

Course Overview

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<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>Theory as Method in UPE</td>
<td>Harvey (pp. 71-116), Heynen 2006</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>Production of Nature</td>
<td>Smith (Ch 2), Loftus 2012 (pp. 4-13)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>5/1</td>
<td>Case Study: Slum Ecologies</td>
<td>Davis 2002 (Ch. 17), Davis 2006 (Ch. 6)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>5/8</td>
<td>Nature and the State</td>
<td>Whitehead et al. 2007, Chs. 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>5/15</td>
<td>Case Study: Sewers and Taps</td>
<td>Gandy (Intro, Ch 1)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>5/29</td>
<td>Case Study: The American Lawn</td>
<td>Robbins (Intro, Chs 1, 4, 5)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>6/5</td>
<td>More cases studies</td>
<td>Pick two papers to discuss from the reading list</td>
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Readings

Week 1: Urban Ecology...


Week 2: ... vs. Urban Political Ecology


Week 3: Theory as Method


Week 4: Production of Nature


Week 5: Case Study: Slum Ecologies


Week 6: Nature and the State

Week 7: Case Study: Sewers and Taps


Week 8: Marxist ANTs?


Week 9: Case Study: The American Lawn


Week 10: More Case Studies (pick 2 articles/chapters from the following)

- Any others you find interesting and useful...