AR-445   **The rise of capitalist urban space**
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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA1, MA3	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	Oral
Workload	90h
Weeks	12
Hours	**2 weekly**
Courses	2 weekly
Number of positions	

Summary

This course aims at building a genealogy of capitalism through the spaces it has produced retracing history from the English 'Agricultural Revolution' of the 18th century to the rise of the Welfare State. Topics such as the factory, housing and infrastructure will be presented and discussed.

Content

This course aims at building a genealogy of capitalism through the spaces it has produced. In a way, this is an attempt to revisit Leonardo Benevolo's *The Origin of Town Planning*, a seminal study in which the Italian historian charted the evolution of Western urbanism in light of capitalistic development. While Benevolo located the beginnings of urbanism in the 19th century reformist tradition, I argue that the very ground zero of both urbanism and planning had to be situated in the English 'Agricultural Revolution' of the 18th century and in the concomitant colonial appropriation of North America. Within these two events, not only large masses of people were dispossessed of their means of livelihood, but the entire urban territory was re-configured in order to facilitate capitalism's primary goal: the extraction of surplus value from the entire spectrum of social relationships. The course will reread all the most important stages that followed this seminal event: the building of large infrastructural systems such as canals and railways, the commodification of domestic space, the rise of the factory and the technical construction of the labor force, the birth of the welfare state and the development of reformist policies that attempted to soften or counter the consequences of capitalist development. I will maintain that the rise of urbanism and planning were parallel to both the increasing commodification of land use and the working class' resistance to their subaltern position to capital. During the seminar we will discuss subjects, politics, policies, and projects that are central to the formation of the contemporary hegemony of capitalistic social relationships and we will look at how the engineering and building of urban space became a crucial step in ensuring the reproduction of capitalist urban space.

Course Sessions
Session 1:
Thursday 23rd September
-	How capitalism started?
-	Marx's concept of 'primitive accumulation'.
Session 2:
Thursday 7th October
-	Dispossession: the English agricultural revolution
-	The spaces of colonialism
Session 3:
Thursday 21st October
-	The origin of the factory system in England
-	Planning and building the capitalist territory
Session 4:
Thursday 4th November
-	'Rational' Architecture and early industrialization in the United States
-	Society as a Factory: the rise of 'Fordism'.
Session 5:

Thursday 18th November
- The Commodification of Housing: from the town house to the Terraced house
- The Origins of Social Housing
Session 6:
Thursday 2nd December
- The Rise of the 'Welfare State'.
- Capitalism and Reformism

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

• Interpret in a critical manner the concepts developed during the course

• Argue the relations between socio-political issues, urban form and architecture

• Develop a reflection on the relationship between historical conditions and architecture

Expected student activities

Personal work during the semester, reading of texts, personal study of a theme to be concretized into a paper of approximately 3.000 words.

Assessment methods

The main goal of the course is to encourage students to read as much as they can. Therefore, the main factor in the evaluation will be the student's capacity to assemble and read a relevant body of texts.
50% Selection of specific theme and **reading** relevant bibliography
30% Writing of the paper, especially referencing and footnoting.
20% Clear oral exposition