The Dreams of planning
Bringing utopia to order in modern, European cities

Semestre d'enseignement
- Semestre d'automne
X Semestre de printemps

Autres langues de l'enseignement (facultatif)

E-cours
- oui
X non

Type d'enseignement (obligatoire)
- Cours magistral avec conférences de méthode
X Cours magistral seul
X Séminaire
X Enseignement électif
X Atelier

Descriptif du cours
At the beginning of the industrialization period, at the dawn of modernity, most cities in Europe suddenly increased in population and jobs. The modern city is home of social utopias and political reforms, as well as of technical projects and plans. This class explores how the notions of planning and the design of cities emerged during the transition of the late 19th century. It will first examine the process of urbanization and urban change in European cities. Then, it will articulate some concepts relevant to urban planning in different national contexts. The conceptual framework focuses on the antagonism and cooperation among civil servants, technical experts, and decision-makers. The class will take short conceptual excursions in London, Paris, Vienna; visits to Manchester, Berlin, Rome, Barcelona, Prague. Finally, the class will point elsewhere, in a comparative exercise with the cities in expansion in the late 20th century. The class will explore how new urban artifacts (buildings, neighborhoods) were conceived; and who is responsible for assembling and deploying these spatial interventions among the growing number of local policy tools.

At the end of this course, students will:
- have acquired a basic knowledge of European urbanization since the nineteenth century;
- understand how cities faced development issues and implemented planning decisions in specific moments;
- understand the development of a reflexive practice intended to control future developments through spatial models and planning procedures;
- understand the intellectual and political friction between (local) decision makers, social reformers, and technical practitioners.

**Mode of validation**

Students will be assessed by the *Conférences de méthode* (67%); and a final written exam (2 topics to choose), duration 3 hours (33%).

**Rules for cell phones and laptops:**

Cell phones should be turned off during class. Laptops are not allowed for note-taking in this class. Language: English

**Lectures principales demandées**


**Optional readings:**


**Background**

1. Excavating the future of the European city
2. Urbanisation and Cities of modern Europe
3. The state against the cities
4. Utopias vs. technical dreams

**Materializing utopia**

5. Inventing a new city
6. A modern building sector
7. Public space and collective memory
8. Metropolitan transport

**Sour dreams**

9. Cholera, earthquake and Epidemics
10. Landscaping the city
11. Housing the poor
12. The return of dreams?
Conférences de méthode
1.  An analysis of a non-central European neighbourhood built between 1850 and 1930 (of about 20,000 inhabitants); the aim is to analyse the historical process of urbanisation and the corresponding change in spatial forms, and to reconstruct the planned or non-planned interventions that motivated it. A model will be provided, based on technical maps or on Google map. The analysis has to point out what has changed, and what hasn’t, and which changes do not appear on the map. A short descriptive section (2,500 words) will cover one of the topics dealt with during classes (paper: 50%).
2.  A comparative analysis of three different papers or books on the same topic. The topic should be related either to the second or third part of the class, and namely: either an example of advanced spatial solution adopted in some cities to answer to political pressures; or to an (re)emerging urban issue which has not found a convincing solution. These three choices must be validated by the lecturer.
3.  The oral discussion of a case study, based upon a written short paper: a “portrait” of a city and of its major transformation during the age of the industrial revolution and after.
1 Excavating the future in the European city
A preliminary definition of the modern city. Political reformers and utopian thinkers. Political reactions to the modernisation process: conflicts and political reforms. Design, politics and social reforms: a place for dreaming the future. The difference between dreams and utopia, and vice versa. The suspended relation between technical forecast and political power. A comparative approach to studying urban society during the industrialisation process.

2 Urbanisation and Cities of modern Europe
A short introduction to the cities of Europe. The urbanisation process since the industrial revolution. The spatial determinants of the industrialisation process. Geography matters. How to address the urbanisation of the continent.

3 The state against the cities
Nation states and development imperatives. Local elites and the nation building process. The awkward positions of cities. Political rights, revolution and urban conflicts during the 19th century. The slowly increasing role of the technical experts: engineers, architects and planners.

4 Utopias vs. technical dreams
The links between politics and technics. The divide between local and central decision makers. Ancient utopias and new technical imagination. The establishment of new disciplines. The emerging fields of a new technical knowledge.

5 Inventing a new city

6 A modern building sector

7 Public space and collective memory
The emerging public sphere. New centres of urban sociability: café, theatres... the public space in the bourgeois society. The ideal and nature of publicness and the “public” in the urban order. Tradition and modernity. Space for capitals: celebrating power, empires, and triumphs. Collective memory and the use of the past.

8 Metropolitan transport
9 Cholera, earthquakes and epidemic
The 19th century was overconfident on the human capacity of controlling natural phenomena. Science’s progress and the increased control of the built environment. Tragedies that shook this confidence and brought to consistent reformulations. The birth of modern hygiene; and the science of healthy urban environments.

10 Housing the poor
The evocative tale of the divided city. The great divide between poverty and related social policies. The early attempts to build a welfare state. Inventing social housing, inventing new ways of living. Housing and social services.

11 Landscaping the city
Controversial feelings: urban love and urban fears. The flight of the urban middle class to the suburbs: the fear of the “dangerous crowd”. The love for nature, the invention of recreational parks. Beautifying the city or leaving it? The garden city as an ideal solution: a new link between social reforms and urban form. The open way to 20th century’s new towns.

12 The return of dreams?
Does the neoliberal era put all dreams to an end? As Jameson put it, it is easier “to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism”. Technological fears and risks hamper all future related activities. The need arises to reposition both politics and science. Also, most urban issues are reformulated at the crossroad of new ethical and technological concerns.
1 Excavating the future of the European city


Novel:

Others:

2 Urbanisation and Cities of modern Europe

- Andrew Lees and Lynn Hollen Lees, “Europe: 1800–2000”, *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*, Edited by Peter Clark
- Penelope J. Corfield, “Cities in Time”, *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*, Edited by Peter Clark

Others:

3 The state against the cities


Others:

Novel:
- Th. Mann, Buddenbrooks: the decline of a family.

4 Utopias vs. technical dreams
- Barbara Miller Lane, Architecture and Politics in Germany 1918-1945 (2nd edition, 1985), chapters 1-3, 5,

Others:

5 Barcelona: inventing the new city

Others:
- Michael Neuman, Ildefons Cerdà and the future of spatial Planning, The network urbanism of a city planning pioneer, TPR, 82 (2) 2011

Novel:

6 Paris: the construction of the modern building sector

Others:
- David Harvey, Paris Capital of Modernity (Routledge, 2006).
- Louis Chevalier, Laboring Classes and Dangerous Classes (Princeton, 1973 [1958])

Novel:

7 Vienna: Public space and collective memory

*Others:*

8 **London: metropolitan transport**

9 **Cholera, earthquakes and epidemic**

*Others:*

10 **Landscaping the city**

11 **Housing the poor**

*Others:*

12 **The return of dreams?**
- R. Fishman, Ch. 2 in Scott Campbell & Susan S. Fainstein, ed., *Readings in Planning Theory*