

THE ANCIENT CITY
Anthropology 3510
Fall 2019

Checklist of Key Themes and Concepts

“New Urban Age” Issues (Topics that are part of the United Nations’ “New Urban Agenda”)

Sprawl
Overcrowding
Affordability (housing, transportation, etc.)
Homelessness
Concentrated wealth/poverty
Accessibility (public space, green space, cultural amenities)
Immigrant and refugee integration (cultural diversity issues)
Social segregation (by race/ethnicity, income, education, etc.)
Governance
Prosperity
Pollution, air quality, environmental impact
Security
“Right to the City”
Sustainability

Fundamentals

Urbanism
Urban Materiality
Urbanization
Urban Imaginary
Urban Sustainability
Urban Commons
Civic Meaning & Identity (Cosmogram; Cosmovision)
Archisemiotics (meaning in architecture)
Urban sensorium

Definitions of the City

Demographic
Functional

Historical Biases (of “Western Historiography”/“Colonial Imagination”)

Geographical: West & North vs. South
Social/Class: Elites/“Cultural Creatives” vs. Non-elites
Locational: Core/Center vs. Edge/Periphery
Size: Bigger vs. Smaller
Architectural: Public vs. Private
Spatial: Built space vs. Open Space

Methods/Data Sources

Archaeological
Iconographic
Documentary (hieroglyphs, codices, oral traditions)
Phenomenological (Empathy; Imagination)
Geophysical (e.g., LIDAR surveys)

Planning Paradigms

Open
Enclosure
Master Planning
Participatory Planning

Planning People ("Disruptors")

Hausmann
Howard
Le Corbusier
Moses
Jacobs
Sargon, Akhenaten, Anonymous Teotihuacanos, *Others???*

Planning Principles

Sennett's "Open Forms"

Edges (Babylon; Khorsabad)
Porous Borders (walls)
Shells (incomplete forms; e.g., at Teotihuacan)
Synchronous spaces (Songo Mnara)

Butz's Planning Principles (illustrated at Chunchucmil)

Salience (height, volume/mass, color, precision)
Permeability
Centricity

Others

Axis Mundi (Avenue of the Dead at Teotihuacan)
E-Groups (Mayan cities)
"Third Spaces" (Mohenjo-daro)

Measures of Social Inequality

Gini Coefficients (most large American cities average around 53-55)
-Teotihuacan = 12
-Catalhoyuk = 28
-Tenochtitlan = 30
-Caracol = 34
-Chunchucmil = 58
-Tikal = 62

Urban Monumentality

Pyramid
Temple
Palace
Tomb
Citadel
Processional Ways/Causeways
Bath
Plaza
Sunken Plaza

Raised Platform
Earthen Mound
Great House
Others???

Urban Governance Structures

Hierarchy
Heterarchy
Others???

Urban Historical Processes

Origins (e.g., Synekism)
Ruralization
Renewal (e.g., Haussmanization)
Collapse (e.g., environmental degradation; overpopulation; class struggle)

Urbanisms

Ancient Urbanism (Old, Indigneous)
New Urbanism
Dispersed (Low Density) Urbanism or High Density Ruralism
Village Urbanism
Sustainable Urbanism
Others???

City Models

Cosmic City (Babylon; Chinese cities)
Radiant City (Khorsabad)
Garden City (Caracol)
City Beautiful
Edge City
Instant City (Amarna)
Clustered City (Jenne-Jeno)
Multiethnic/Intercultural City ("Cosmopolis")
Market City (Chunchucmil)
Imperial City (Tenochtitlan)
Others???