This graduate seminar explores connections and intersections between urban areas, processes of urbanization, and the environment. The course will cover a broad range topics and literatures including global environmental change and cities, urban vulnerability, urban political ecology, environmental justice, consumption, suburbanization, and sustainability. Among the many common themes and concepts underlying these various topics are scale, globalization, social and spatial fragmentation, equity, and connectivity. The broad goals of the course are 1) to expose students a range of literatures, discourses, and ways of thinking about cities and environment; and 2) to provide a format for students to look in-depth at one topic and or area of literature on the urban environment. The course will follow a seminar format with emphasis on reading and discussion of assigned materials.

*This course is also open to advanced undergraduates via special permission number.

**Meeting time and place**
Tues 10:20-1:00, B120 Lucy Stone Hall, Livingston Campus

**Contact information**
Professor Robin Leichenko
email: rleichen@rci.rutgers.edu; phone: 445-4056
Office Hours: Mondays 11:30 to 1:30 and by appointment

**Books for Purchase**


**Other Articles and Book Chapters**
Other articles and book chapters will be posted on the course sakai website. A partial and tentative list of these materials includes:


Hartman, Chester and Gregory D. Squires, eds. 2006. *There is No Such Thing as a Natural Disaster: Race, Class and Hurricane Katrina*. New York: Routledge. (selected chapters)


Grading
Evaluation of grades will be based on weekly preparation (40%) and a term paper (60%)

**Weekly preparation (40% total)**

(1) Reading and active participation in seminar discussions. At the beginning of each weekly meeting, each seminar participant will contribute a question or issue pertaining to the readings. These will be recorded on the board and will structure our discussion for the week.

(2) Written reaction notes. Reaction notes (one to two pages) should be brought to class every week in response to each week’s reading assignment. The reaction notes are intended to make you think critically about the content of the readings and to provide you with ideas for class discussion. These notes are not intended to be a formal reaction paper. Rather, they will provide a way for you to get your thoughts and ideas about the readings down on paper and will help you to identify questions or issues that you would like to pursue during our class discussion. I will not grade or collect the reaction notes, but will just "check" to see that they have been completed.

**Paper (60% total)**

Students will select a paper topic early in the semester and will work on the paper throughout the semester. We will devote some class time approximately every other week to discussion of progress on student papers.

A draft version of the paper is due on Nov 13.
The final paper is due on Dec 11.

The paper should be approximately 20 pages in length. The draft version should be approximately 12-15 pages in length.

**Policy regarding late papers and incompletes**

Extensions of the due date for the final paper will not be granted except in the event of a documented family or personal emergency. Incompletes will not be granted in this class except in the event of a documented family or personal emergency.
Weekly Schedule and Readings
Tentative Schedule – subject to revision

All readings will be from the class books or from chapters and articles that will be made available on the Sakai course site prior to the week in which they are assigned.

Readings from the class books are listed in normal text below. Readings posted on Sakai are in italics below. All readings are required.

**Week 1 (Sept 4)** Introduction to the class – ways to think about cities and environment

**Week 2 (Sept 11)** Global environmental change and cities:
Sanchez-Rodriguez et al. 2005; Rosenzweig and Solecki 2001; McGranahan et al 2007; Slocum 2004; Young 2007 - chapter; Feng, Yu and Solecki – chapters;

**Week 3 (Sept 18)** Urban vulnerability – overview:
Mitchell 1999 --chapters; Pelling 2003 – chapters; Godschalk 2003; Berkes 2007; Leichenko and Solecki 2006

**Week 4 (Sept 25)** Urban vulnerability -- case study of the Chicago heat wave:
Klinenberg 2003 – whole book

**Week 5 (Oct 2)** Urban vulnerability -- case of Hurricane Katrina:
Cutter 2006; Cutter et al. 2006; Logan 2006; Hartman and Squires 2006 – chapters; Leichenko and O’Brien 2008 – chapters;

**Week 6 (Oct 9)** Globalization, cities, and environment
Marcotullio and McGranahan 2007 – chapters 1, 2, 3, 4; Leichenko and Solecki 2005

**Week 7 (Oct 16)** Urban political ecology – overview:
Gandy 2003 –Introduction and chapters 1, 2, 3; Readings to be assigned

**Week 8 (Oct 23)** Urban political ecology and urban parks:
Readings to be assigned

*Class Field Trip to a Philadelphia park*

**Week 9 (Oct 30)** Urban environmental justice - overview:
Gandy 2003 – chapters 4 and 5; Agyeman et al. 2003 - chapters

**Week 10 (Nov 6)** Equity: Urban environmental justice, fragmentation, and suburbanization:
Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 7; Leichenko and Solecki 2007; Pulido 2000

**Week 11 (Nov 13)** Urban sustainability -- overview:
Solecki and Leichenko 2006; Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 11, McGranahan et al. 2001 chapter
Note: **Tues, Nov 20** has a Thursday class schedule due to Thanksgiving.

**Week 12 (Nov 27)** Sustainability and urban consumption:
Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 8, 9, 12; *Conca 2002 - chapter; Gleeson and Low 2000 - chapter*

**Week 13 (Dec 4)** Sustainability and local/global agendas:
Marcotullio and McGranahan, chapter 10, 13; *Bulkeley and Betsill 2003 - chapters; Lankao 2007*

**Week 14 (Dec 11)** Presentations