

## Course Description: Introduction to Metropolitan Studies

Instructor: Jan M. Padios

Cities are intricate products of social relations, cultural practices, the organization of labor, and environmental dynamics; they are also places that produce dreams, conflicts, and change. Cities are sites of multiple ways of life; they are also living sites in and of themselves. This course is an introduction to interdisciplinary approaches to the study of cities. It is designed to familiarize students with scholarship that examines space, labor, and value; urban ecology and environmental justice; urban space and gender, race, and sexuality; and the development of cities within key moments in the history of capitalism – especially the industrial revolution and neoliberalism. Readings and assignments will expose students to various methods of inquiry, namely material geography, ethnography, historical analysis, and cultural studies. Heavy emphasis will be placed on students' observations and analyses of various sites within New York City, and their ability to discuss these (both verbally and in written form) in relation to the course material. Students at any point in their college trajectory and with any academic background are welcomed to join the course.