Peter J. Carroll  
History 405-0-24  

**HISTORY OF “THE” MODERN GLOBAL CITY**  
Day/Time: T 6:00-8:50  
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 216  
Office Phone: (847) 491-2753  
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Maximum Enrollment: 15

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This class engages the “spatial turn” in the humanities and social sciences by examining influential arguments about cities as fundamental to the modernist progress or retrogression of society in the 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries. According to many influential social science and literary manifestoes, urban development provides the quintessence of national and greater civilizational progress – or regress. We will start by considering how the theoretical literature on “urban space” can complement and transform “urban history” and examine paradigmatic Euro-American conceptions of “the modern city.” We will then explore how notions of modern urbanism have had a very different effect and reception in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

**AREA OF CONCENTRATION:** Global

**TEACHING METHOD:** Seminar

**EVALUATION METHOD:** Presentation, class participation, book reviews, final paper

**GRADING BASIS:** ANC

**TENTATIVE READING LIST:**
Zhang Li, *In Search of Paradise: Middle-class living in a Chinese Metropolis* (Ithaca: Cornell University, 2010), 9780801448331.

**NOTES:** Attendance at first class is mandatory

**INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:** Peter J. Carroll (PhD Yale, 1998) specializes in the social and cultural history of 19th and 20th century China. His research interests include urban history, Chinese modernism, popular and material culture, gender/sexuality, and nationalism. A two-time Fulbright recipient, he has also held fellowships with the Project on Cities and Urban Knowledges, International Center for Advanced Studies, New York University; the Library of Congress’s John W. Kluge Center; and the Centers for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan, and at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, he has been a visiting scholar at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences and the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica. He is the author of *Between Heaven and Modernity: Reconstructing Suzhou, 1895-1937* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006), which was awarded the Best Book (Non-North American) 2007 prize by the Urban History Association, and several scholarly articles. He is currently working on a book project on suicide and ideas of modern society in China during the first half of the 20th century.