Green Cities: Urban Agriculture, Sustainability, and Environmental Justice

Fall 2017 - ONLINE COURSE (3 cr., soc sci GER)
Urban Studies 360: Perspectives on the Urban Scene (topics course), Lec. 201
Instructor: Kat Kocisky

As our world becomes increasingly urbanized, cities face growing social, economic, and environmental challenges that pose the questions: “what does a green city really look like?” and “for whom are they designed?” In this course, students will have the opportunity to explore conflicts of environmental social inequality in cities, including the uneven distribution of green space, gentrification, and food injustice. Looking at the topic of green cities from a critical perspective, this course will examine how neoliberal policies impact who has access to green amenities like parks and healthy, affordable food sources, while exploring efforts by cities to create more just, sustainable urban communities using equitable planning strategies and urban agriculture. Finally, the course will touch on our own relationships to the built and natural environments, the characteristics that we think a green city should have, and the larger meaning and significance of urban environmental sustainability.