

Seattle's mayor has a vision for Seattle: a safe city, an affordable city, a vibrant city, an interconnected city, and a city that fosters innovation. Moreover, we are living in a city that has a history of trying to balance economic growth and environmental stewardship. Is this the city of the future? How can we try to answer that question?

In general, cities have been studied from a wide range of perspectives: sociology, architecture, geography, urban planning, economics, public policy, and philosophy. In this course we will follow many of these crooked paths of knowledge and artistic representation that have been carved through the city; the likes of Henri Lefebvre and David Harvey, Michel Foucault, Colson Whitehead, Frederick Engels, Timothy "Speed" Levitch, Adrian Parr, and others. We will also engage with current writings about the urbanization of Seattle and visit three sustainable sites, (South Lake Union, Yesler Terrace, and one of the first 'living buildings' in the world, the Bullitt Center), in an effort to carve some of our own.