The notion of the “urban” transcends the fact that more than fifty percent of humanity now lives in cities. It begs the question of its ontological and theoretical relationship to “the rural” and other abstractions such as society, space and nature. Because this intellectual terrain is so beholden to (or deeply haunted by) Marx’s theories of capitalism and modernity, we will explore “the urban” through a close reading of *Capital* alongside influential elaborations by David Harvey, Henri Lefebvre and others regarding the interrelationships between the urban form and the circulation and accumulation of capital, rent, financialization, crisis, and the city as site of collective re/production of value, space, nature, and the subject. We will then turn to the emerging field of urban political ecology and its recent engagements with the works of Latour, Haraway, Badiou, Deleuze and others. The seminar assumes no prior knowledge, and welcomes new and advanced graduate students.