

Cities in a Global Perspective

CRN 53015

3 Credit Hours

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Prof. Faranak Miraftab, Instructor

Who Should Take the Course

If you are interested in learning about cities and what makes them different from or similar to one another, join this undergraduate class to learn about cities and urban issues in many different parts of the world.

This class also satisfies the campus required GenEd courses in Western Culture and in Social & Behavioral Sciences.

What's it All About

This course consists of the study of cities around the world to provide an understanding of the social, political, cultural and economic forces that shape the cities in the context of globalization. Examples of cities from a range of countries including Iran, Mexico, Chile, India, Brazil, Canada, Australia, South Africa and the US will be included in the lectures and course readings. The course aims to provide:

- 1) A global perspective on the processes of urbanization
- 2) An understanding of the social, historical cultural and economic forces that shape cities and urban life in them
- 3) The analytical skills that unfold the processes of globalization and how they influence and account for urban formation

What You Will Do

The regular class format will be lecture/discussions. The course involves individual and group assignments, including:

- 1) Trips around the world - You will explore the cities of your choice using Google Earth and web-based audio visual material including documentary movies and clips, as well as academic and popular text written about that city.
- 2) Group project - You will participate in a small group to research a city of your choice. Each group will develop a written report and make a class presentation about that city.
- 3) Quizzes - You will participate in quizzes on assigned readings and course lectures.
- 4) Exam - You will participate in a final exam on course readings and lectures.



About the Instructor

Prof. Miraftab's research interest concerns social aspects of urban development, and is specifically focused on how low-income groups and women in particular access housing and basic urban services. Her teaching covers multi-cultural understanding of cities as social processes. Her teaching draws on her urban research in Latin America, Africa, Middle East and North America. She also serves as the coordinator of the Transnational Planning Stream in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.