

UP 185 Cities in a Global Perspective

Department of Urban and Regional Planning @UIUC

Spring 2017 Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:50 AM, Lincoln Hall 1060

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Course Description and Overview

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.

Learning Methods and Expectations

You will learn in multiple ways, including attending lectures, engaging in discussions, reading text, field observation, watching movies, and listening to audio materials. To improve your understanding of the course material, you are highly encouraged to actively participate in class discussion. You are required to complete the assigned activity before the class starts--be it reading watching a documentary or making a field observation. In addition to attending class sessions, you will be required to complete the individual and group assignments to enhance your learning.

Use of laptops and other electronic devices: The classroom use of laptops, tablets, cell phones and other electronic devices are not allowed in this course. Students are encouraged to write down their lecture notes and for discussion purposes bring with them to class a paper copy of the assigned text.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and a pre-requisite for passing the class. If you miss more than three classes without a valid (and documented) excuse you cannot get an A; if you miss more than three lectures and two seminars you cannot receive a B; if you miss more than four lectures and three seminars you cannot receive a C.

Academic Integrity: Learning involves an effort to do assignments by yourself, even if the result is not perfect. Taking some or the whole part of other people's work, even when they are from anonymous source like from an internet website, should be considered as an act of plagiarism. Plagiarism is like stealing, except that what you steal is an intellectual property instead of a tangible object. If you are unsure whether what you do can be considered plagiarism or not, consult Rule 33 (Academic Integrity) of the University's Code of Policies and Regulations Pertaining to All Students. (www.uiuc.edu/admin_manual/code/rule_33.html).

Any cheating and plagiarism of any kind will be investigated and penalized. Such penalty will include failing the course and having a permanent record of plagiarism in your university file. To avoid this risk, make sure you familiarize yourself with Rule 33!

Respect in the classroom and other learning environments: You are responsible to maintain respectful environment in all class-related activities, including all lecture sessions, discussions, and collaborative projects. You may find the code of conducts for students in your

University Student Code. Consult Student Code Article 1—Student Rights and Responsibilities, Part 1. Student Rights: §1-102: http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/article_1/a1_1-102.html

Course Evaluation

The final grade has the following components:

Assignment One: Trip around the world (three google maps) up to 21 points

Exploration of three cities via audio visual material — one city in each of the following continents: Asia, Latin America, and Africa. (see Assignment One guideline)

Assignment Two: Understanding cities up to 18 points.

Choose a city you explored for assignment one. Consult instructor for recommended text to study and understand that city more closely. Instructor must approve your selected text based on which you will submit a short essay (5 pages double space). See hand out for details.

Quizzes 15 points

There are 4 quizzes during the semester. Each quiz has 5 points. We will choose the three quizzes for which you received the best scores. Students are required to respond to quiz questions on assigned readings and course lectures.

Short reflective writings Up to 6 points

Students are expected to engage with local organizations or attend events related to the class discussions. The instructor will present specific opportunities along the semester and the students are free to choose three of such activities followed by a short written reflection (one page, single spaced) to be submitted no later than seven days after the event. The reflection should not be limited to a description, but your personal narrative about how that lecture or event impacted you. What was weird, interesting, intriguing, frightening, or confusing? Have you seen anything that drew your attention or that you did not understand? Did your participation raise any questions for you about the dynamics of the cities? In these short pieces we are looking for the reflective writer in you.

Final assignment: City Observations 40 total

Group Presentation 5 points

Individual Paper 35 points

Total = 100 points

Conversions from Numeric to Letter Grades

| Numerical Grade | Letter Grade |
|-----------------|--------------|
| ≥ 97.5 | A+ |
| > 92.5 | A |
| > 90.0 | A- |
| > 87.5 | B+ |
| > 82.5 | B |
| > 80.0 | B- |
| > 77.5 | C+ |
| > 72.5 | C |
| > 70.0 | C- |
| > 67.5 | D+ |
| > 62.5 | D |
| > 60.0 | D- |
| < 60.0 | F |

Required Reading:

All readings for this course are from the book titled: *Cities of the Global South Reader* (CGSR) edited by Miraftab & Kudva (2014) and available for purchase (used and new) at the Illini bookstore. One copy of the CGSR is on reserve at the library for this course. The volume cannot be checked out but can be read in the library reading room. Any additional reading not included in the CGSR as well as links to audio-visual materials for this course can be downloaded from the course Compass site. You are required to read/watch/listen to the assigned materials before each class session begins.

At the beginning of the course you may feel overwhelmed with the amount of reading required to prepare prior to class sessions. However there are ways to improve your reading skills so that you can get the most from the limited time you have. Consult the handout on Compass titled *Ten Steps to Critical Reading*.

To improve your academic writing skills consult another handout posted on compass titled: *Guide to Writing Effective Essays*. You are highly encouraged to take the benefit of consultations with the Writers Workshop (<http://www.cws.illinois.edu/workshop/>). You can make appointment through their website. You can also consult the Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu>) which is one of the most comprehensive collection of writing information available online.

If English is not your first language, the OWL also provide useful resources for English as a second language (ESL) writers at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/esl/>.