

GEO 2060B-002
WORLD CITIES
Course Outline
Winter 2018

Classes: Thursdays, 2:30-4:30pm in SH-3345 (January 11 - April 5)

Instructor: Siera Vercillo, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, Western University

Office/Hours: SSC 1424, Thursdays (before class) from 12:00-2:00pm

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Teaching Assistant: Roger Antabe, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Geography, Western University

Office/Hours: SSC 1424, Tuesdays 10:00 -11:00am

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to introduce you to urban studies from a global perspective. Using important geographic concepts, this course will dive into analyzing the history of urban design and city growth, as well as contemporary economic and political issues, environmental concerns and socio-cultural aspects of cities. Uniquely, each class will focus on general historical and contemporary trends of urbanization in a specific region of the world and take you through distinctive cities and their major urban problems, which will then be compared to other cities globally. Using case studies, we will discuss topics related to land use, gentrification, congestion, transit/traffic, socio-economic inequality (class, race, and gender), homelessness, slums, crime/violence, and other issues.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will have an introductory knowledge of a range of issues that affect the development of global cities from both a case specific, regional and global perspective. Students will be able to compare the opportunities and constraints of different cities around the world related to the global political-economy. Students will also be able to apply broad geographic concepts to their understanding of the dynamics of world cities, such as the human-environment impact at multiple scales.

COURSE PREREQUISITS - None

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

READINGS

There is one assigned textbook that students will be responsible for reading in preparation for classes.

- **Textbook: 6th Edition - *Cities of the World: Regional Patterns and Urban Development*** by Stanley Brunn, Maureen Hays-Mitchell, Donald Zeigler and Jessica Graybill.
ISBN: 9781442249165 (Can be found at Western University's Bookstore or Library)
 - Please note that **there is also an EBook available** (ISBN: 9781442249172)
 - You can also borrow the book from Weldon Library (*2 hour loan*) (Call #: HT151.C569 2016)
- * *It is not advisable to use older editions of the textbook*

EVALUATION METHODS

Students are expected to attend and participate in lectures, including taking detailed notes. The midterm and final exams will consist of multiple choice, fill in the blank, short and long answer questions, and will entail map components. Students will also write a short assignment and final paper about one world city (details will be provided separately). There is no required group project or group work for this course.

The breakdown of grades are as follows:

Short Assignment (due February 1 st):	15%
Midterm Exam (on March 1 st):	20%
Final Paper (due April 5 th):	30%
Final Exam (between April 14 - 30):	35%

POLICY STATEMENTS

- Students are expected to take detailed notes during class. **Brief concept summaries of lectures will be provided only** and full lecture slides will not be posted electronically after classes.
- Students may use electronic devices during class, but are discouraged from pursuing non-course content.
- Students are expected to attend the midterm and final exam on the dates they are held, as listed. If a student will require special accommodation, this must be arranged and confirmed prior to the date of both exams.
- Make-up quizzes/exams will only be held in the event of medical or personal accommodation approved by a counselor. In the event of an absence during an exam, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor no later than 24h following the exam date.
- The short assignment and final paper must be **submitted electronically on OWL no later than 5:30pm** on the due dates listed above. Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day that it is late. Students will also receive their grade and written feedback electronically.
- If a student objects to the grade they receive, they may request a re-grading. To do so, students must email the teaching assistant (also cc'ing the instructor) with a detailed explanation as to why they feel their work deserves re-grading. This written explanation must be received **no earlier than 24 hours after receiving the grade**, or the case will not be considered. Note on re-grading: one of three outcomes is possible: a student's grade may be raised, it may remain the same, or it may be lowered.

CLASS FORMAT AND LEARNING

Since there are no labs or tutorials for this course, a typical class will begin with traditional lectures based directly on the assigned readings. This will be followed by an activity, such as documentary discussions or guest speakers. Classes will include the use of PowerPoint slides, **which will not be posted prior to or after lecture**. The implication of this is that students should take detailed notes. Students should email the instructor for assistance with note taking for lectures or readings. Lastly, there is a considerable amount of reading in this course, and any material covered in class and in the textbook may appear on the midterm and final exam.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

The following are recommended strategies to students for completing the course with a good grade:

- Attend all classes, take detailed notes and contribute actively to class discussions and activities;
- Read assigned material ahead of time, taking detailed notes;
- Complete the short assignment and final paper on time following the detailed instructions;
- Ask questions in and outside of class and make use of office hours and peer support if you need help;
- **Do not plagiarize.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

Lecture	Date	Topic/Information	Reading	Deadlines
1	Jan 11	Introduction, class expectations and syllabus review World Cities- Concepts and Theories	Chapter 1	
2	Jan 18	Cities in the United States and Canada Assignment preparation	Chapter 2	
3	Jan 25	Cities in Middle America and the Caribbean	Chapter 3	
4	Feb 1	Cities in South America	Chapter 4	Assignment Due
5	Feb 8	Cities in Europe	Chapter 5	
6	Feb 15	Cities in Russia Midterm preparation	Chapter 6	
	Feb 22	NO CLASS - Reading Week		
7	March 1	Cities in the Greater Middle East	Chapter 7	Mid-Term (Chapters 1-6)
8	March 8	Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa Final Paper preparation	Chapter 8	
9	March 15	Cities in South Asia	Chapter 9	
10	March 22	Cities in Southeast and East Asia	Chapters 10/11	
11	March 29	Cities in Australia and the Pacific Islands	Chapter 12	
12	April 5	The future of world cities Course review and exam preparation	Chapter 13	Final Paper Due
13	April 12	NO CLASS – Study Time		
	April 14-30	Final Exam	All Chapters	Exam (All Chapters)

PLEASE NOTE

Course content and the order of lectures may deviate from this general outline due to unforeseen circumstances.

COURSE APPENDIX

STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. However, students are welcome to use electronic devices during classes for note taking with reasonable limits.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

For UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

A downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Students with special accommodation will write make-up tests and examinations administered by the department on Fridays during respective periods of fall and winter terms. To prevent prior disclosure, the format and contents of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

MENTAL HEALTH

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit for more information on mental health: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

NON-MEDICAL ISSUES

Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations or other similar commitments should discuss their commitments with the instructor.

WESTERN'S COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registration Services: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/> Student Development Services:

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> & UWO Geography Undergraduate Adviser: **Angelica Lucaci** alucaci@uwo.ca