Geog 2060A – World Cities
Course Outline: Section 001 Distance Studies 2024

1. Course Information

Delivery Mode online
Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6

Classes Start	Classes End	Last Day to Add	Last Day to Drop	Exams
May 6	July 26	May 10	June 10	July 29-August 1

Monday May 20, 2024: Victoria Day Holiday
Monday July 1, 2024: Canada Day

Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Gabor Sass	gabor.sass@uwo.ca	Tuesday 10 to 11 am (EST)

☒ Office hours will be held using Zoom Tuesdays from 10 to 11am (EST)
☒ Students will be able to sign up for an appointment using email
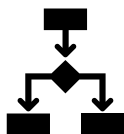
2. Calendar Description

A global perspective on urbanism. In each session a selected city is used to emphasize a particular urban problem, urban spatial structure or world region.

2.5 lecture hours, 0.5 course
Antirequisite(s): none
Prerequisite(s): none
Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility

Senate Regulations state, "unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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."
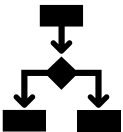
3. Textbook

$\boxtimes$ All resources will be posted in OWL

$\boxtimes$ Required textbook:

- Brunn S.D., D. J. Zeigler, M. Hays-Mitchell, J.K. Graybill (eds.). 2020. Cities of the World: Regional Patterns and Urban Environments. New York: Rowman & Littlefield
  [7th Edition]. (Available as e-book at Western libraries)

$\boxtimes$ Additional recommended resources:

- David, M. 2006. The Planet of Slums. New York: Verso [HV4028.D38 2006]
- Girardet, H. 2014. Creating Regenerative Cities. Routledge.

4. Course Objectives and Format

World Cities is an introductory course in urban geography that will take a global perspective to consider such pertinent topics as urban planning and design, urban growth and de-growth, sustainability and resilience, poverty, violence, and socio-economic inequality. After laying the theoretical foundations to urbanization and urbanism, the course will take an around-the-world journey to highlight different opportunities and challenges of distinctive world cities such as New York and Shanghai.

Students who take this course will be:
  i.   given lots of self-directed learning opportunities;
  ii.   invited to experience different cultures and;
  iii. challenged to imagine themselves as active participants in the vast global network of urbanized humanity.

$\boxtimes$ Asynchronous work (handout, quiz) must be completed within one week of being assigned

$\boxtimes$ Missed work should be completed within [48] hours

All course material will be posted to OWL: http://owl.uwo.ca. Any changes will be indicated on the OWL site and discussed with the class.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click here. [Using the right browser is important, especially when using different features integrated with OWL]

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- You will develop a critical understanding of key urban geographical concepts related to world cities.
- You will gain a thorough knowledge of a range of issues that affect world cities from both a case specific and global perspective.
- You will be able to compare the opportunities and constraints of different cities around the world related to the global political-economy.
- You 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.
- You will gain research and writing skills by answering a research question relating to a world city of your choice.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Wk	Dates	Topic(s)	Readings	What's due?
1	May 6-10	Introduction to the course: What are World Cities?	Chapter 1 (2-36)	
2	May 13-17	Conceptual Foundations: City function and structure; terms and definitions	Chapter 1 (36-48)	Handout #1; Quiz #1
3	May 20-24	City Futures: Sustainability and Resilience	Chapter 13 (522-549)	Handout #2; Quiz #2
4	May 27-31	Cities of the Greater Middle East	Chapter 7 (272-315)	Handout #3; Quiz #3
5	June 3-7	Cities of Europe	Chapter 5 (188-230)	Handout #4; Quiz #4
6	June 13	**Mid-Term Exam**		Handout #5; Quiz #5
7	June 17-21	Cities of East Asia	Chapter 11 (446-489)	Assignment #1 [June 17]
8	June 24-28	Cities of South & South-East Asia	Chapter 9 (362-404)	Handout #6; Quiz #6
9	July 2-5	Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 8 (316-362)	Handout #7; Quiz #7
10	July 8-12	Cities of Middle & South America	Chapter 4 (138-188)	Handout #8; Quiz #8
11	July 15-19	Cities of US and Canada	Chapter 2 (50-96)	Handout #9; Quiz #9; Assignment #2 [July 15]
12	July 22-26	Cities Wrap: Review		Handout #10; Quiz #10;

7. Communication

☒ Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours

☒ A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements

☒ Students should email their instructor(s) using email

☒ Emails will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours

8. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Participation	OWL "Assignments" – Word Document [handout]	5%	Weekly
Weekly quizzes	OWL "Tests & Quizzes"	10%	Weekly
Assignments	OWL "Assignments" – Word Document	25%	Assignment #1 [June 17]; Assignment #2 [July 15]
Mid-term exam	Virtual with ProctorTrack	25%	June 14
Final exam	Virtual with ProctorTrack	35%	July 29 - August 1

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters/sections in the text. Detailed information about the course, including exams, will be provided early in the semester. The midterm exam will cover chapters 1, 5, 7, 13. The final exam will cover all assigned chapters with more emphasis placed on the 2nd half of the course.

☒ All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified

☒ Virtual proctoring will be used [ProctorTrack]

☒ Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)

☒ Students will have [2] submissions to Turnitin

☒ Rubrics will be used to evaluate assessments and will be posted with the instructions

☒ After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting their evaluator; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

Click here for a detailed and comprehensive set of policies and regulations concerning examinations and grading. The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

☒ Late assignments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 10 %/day

☒ Late assignments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report

☒ An assignment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class

☒ A make-up mid-term exam will not be offered [The weight of a missed exam will be transferred to the final exam.]

Grades will not be adjusted on the basis of need. It is important to monitor your performance in the course. Remember: *You* are responsible for your grades in this course.

9. Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness - Undergraduate Students

Student Medical Certificate (SMC)

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

10.   Make-up Examinations

Makeups will be granted with approved documentation only. All documentation for missed exams must be provided to the Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the scheduled exam, otherwise the instructor will assign a grade of zero. As stated earlier make-up exam for the mid-term will not be offered.

The format and content of make-ups may differ substantially from the scheduled test or examination.

11.   Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during examinations except for the device used to complete the online exam.

12.   How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Populate all your deadlines at the start of the term and schedule time at the start of each week to get organized and manage your time.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class.
3. Follow weekly checklists created on OWL or create your own to help you stay on track.
4. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
5. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
6. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact your instructor(s) and or teaching assistant(s).
7. Reward yourself for successes. It seems easier to motivate ourselves knowing that there is something waiting for us at the end of the task.

13.   Online Proctoring Notice and Guidelines

Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using the remote proctoring service, Proctortrack. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and

acknowledge that you will be required to provide **personal information** (including some biometric data) and the session will be **recorded**. More information about this remote proctoring service is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines page.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. Information about the technical requirements are available at the following link:

https://www.proctortrack.com/tech-requirements/.

14. 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.

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).

15. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography and Environment strives at all times to provide accessibility to all faculty, staff, students and visitors in a way that respects the dignity and independence of people with disabilities.

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 519-661-2147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website.

More information about "Accessibility at Western" is available.

16. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit Western's Health and Wellness website for more information on mental health resources.

17. Support Services

Western's Support Services
Student Development Centre

18.   Important Dates

May 6: First day of classes
May 10: Last day to add
June 10: Last day to drop
May 20: Victoria Day
July 1: Canada Day
July 26: Classes end
July 29-August 1: Exams