



Images by Linn Birkeland Seim (Al Jazeera) [top] and Faintlightofdawn (<http://www.panoramio.com>) [bottom]

GEOGRAPHY 2060B World Cities

Winter/Spring 2013

Course Outline



Western
UNIVERSITY · CANADA

Department of Geography
University of Western Ontario

Contact Details

GEOG 2060B
course outline

Course Instructor:

Dr. Jana Fried

office: Room 2221, Social Sciences Centre

email: jfried4@uwo.ca

telephone: 519 661-2111 ext. 82829

(please call during office hours only)

office hours: Thursday, 13:00 – 15:00 (SSC 2221),
or by appointment

Teaching Assistants:

email: TBA

office hours: TBA

AND

email: TBA

office hours: TBA



Images by Jeremy Woodhouse for Getty Images (top) and Hans Madej for Laif/Redux (bottom) (both www.time.com)

Lectures:

weekly

Tuesday, 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Room 2028, Social Sciences Centre

Attendance:

Attendance at lectures is optional, but strongly recommended. There will be a number of unscheduled pop quizzes. Students are responsible for keeping up with course material of missed lectures.

Communication with the Instructor:

I am happy to help you with any problems you might have with the course, by email or by person during my office hours or by appointment. I am also open to suggestions for improving the course and would be happy to hear from you even before the official course evaluation. I am willing to provide feedback in person or by email, but ask you to do one of the following:

- come to talk to me during regular office hours (Thursdays 1-3 pm, Room 2221 SSC)
- email me to schedule an appointment
- email me with a question. I will try to reply within 24 hours unless the email is send during weekends.

Course Description:

For the first time in human history, the majority of the global human population now lives in towns or cities. This global urbanization trend shapes not only urban agglomerations themselves but profoundly impacts economic, social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of world development at all geographical scales. Cities are at the core of our globalising world.

The course World Cities will provide you with an introduction to urban settlements in different regions of the world, discussing similarities and differences in current and historic urban development around the globe. Here, some of the most widely recognized cities in different cultural areas will be examined in some detail. In this course, you will also be introduced to some fundamental theories used to study urban geography. Furthermore, specific case studies will illustrate some of the opportunities as well as pressing challenges facing World Cities today. Issues covered will illuminate diverse aspects ranging from social, cultural and economic issues to urban planning and environmental management.

Course Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives:

At the end of the course, students should be able to

- understand both the diversity and some commonalities in the historic development (incl. cultural, social, environmental, political, historical, economic aspects) of major cities around the world
- identify major challenges faced by cities today, understand root causes and evaluate possible solutions
- appreciate the importance of cities in our globalised world
- critically assess and evaluate how current and impending developments at local, national and international scales will potentially shape the future of an urbanised world

Course Content

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The course takes a combined regional and systematic approach, by which major cities in different world regions will be explored while case studies are used to illustrate key urban challenges in greater detail.

Lecture schedule

Tue, January 8:	Course overview & introduction
Tue, January 15:	History of urbanisation; Cities of North America
Tue, January 22:	Cities of Middle and South America
Tue, January 29:	Cities of Europe
Tue, February 5:	Cities of Russia
Tue, February 12:	Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa
[Tue, February 19:	Reading week]
Tue, February 26:	Cities of South Asia
Tue, March 5:	Cities of Southeast Asia [Final due date for assignment: Monday(!), March 4]
Tue, March 12:	Cities of East Asia
Tue, March 19:	Cities of Australia and the Pacific Islands
Tue, March 26:	Cities of the Future
Tue, April 2:	Catching Up
Tue, April 9:	Review

*NOTE: This scheduling of lecture topics is **provisional**, and may change depending on guest speaker availability, current events (news items related to World Cities) and class dynamics during term.*

Evaluation of the course will be based on the following components:

Pop Quizzes: 30 %

There will be four pop quizzes throughout the term testing lecture and reading material covered in the course up to the date of each quiz. The best(!) three of these quizzes (10% each) will be used to make up the total mark for pop quizzes.

Assignment: 30 %

Essay on one issue related to World Cities, exemplified by two cities from two different world regions. Essay topics will be suggested, but students have some freedom to choose a topic according to their own interest. However, diverging topics need to be approved by the course instructor or a TA beforehand. Earlier submission welcome, final submission deadline: **Mon, March 4th, 2013**. Electronic submission via individual Dropbox on OWL.

Final exam: 40 %

The final exam will be held during the official University examination period (April 14-30 2013). The final exam will be a 3-hour exam, using a combination of multiple choice, short-answer and short essay-type questions. Questions will cover the course lectures (incl. guest lectures), films and readings.

NOTE: No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

NOTE: The mark awarded by an instructor in a course at UWO is only final when students receive it from the Registrar.

Late Policy:

All assignments must be handed in before midnight on the due date. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day for the first seven days. A mark of 0%-mark will be recorded if work is submitted more than a week late.

Extensions:

If you have genuine extenuating circumstances and will not be able submit an assignment on time, you may submit a written request for extension, clearly outlining why you should be granted an extension. This request must be submitted to the course instructor at least seven days before the assignment is due.

Accommodation:

If you have genuine extenuating circumstances and failed to submit an assignment on time, you must submit a signed doctor's letter or other legitimate documentation explaining why you failed to meet the deadline. This documentation should be submitted directly to the Dean's Office, not the course instructor. It is the Dean's Office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.

*NOTE: Also see UWO's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> or http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
The downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found here: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> (under the Medical Documentation heading).*

Textbook and Readings

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There is no mandatory course textbook.

Handouts of selected lecture material will be provided electronically (via OWL) before each lecture, but students may find it helpful to take notes during the lectures to complement the handouts. The OWL site will provide a range of resources to assist with the course. Use <https://owl.uwo.ca> and then log in using your UWO username and password. Your log in will require that you be officially enrolled in the course. You should also synchronize your passwords to ensure you have access to UWO and SSC computer resources.

Additional reading, to be assigned during term, will be provided electronically (via OWL) and/or consist of selected scientific papers from academic journals to which the University subscribes (in print or online), such as *Antipode*; *Canadian Journal of Urban Research*; *CITY*; *City & community*; *City, culture & development*; *Cities*; *Economic Geography*; *Gender, place & culture*; *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Journal of Urban Planning & Development*; *Landscape and Urban Planning*; *Review of urban & regional development studies*; *Urban Affairs Review*; *Urban Forum*; *Urban Geography*; *Urbanisation & development*.

Furthermore, interested students may wish to have a look at (optional):

S.D. Brunn, M. Hays-Mitchell & D.J. Ziegler, 2012. *Cities of the World. World Regional Urban Development* (5th edition). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers: Toronto.

This book was used as one of the main sources of information for creating this course, as were ongoing research projects, academic journals, other academic books, textbooks, and various internet sources. All sources are credited in the lecture handouts.

Academic Conduct: Students should be familiar with the University Academic Policies and Regulations, and with the Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Academic Calendar on the Registrar's website.

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg37.html>

Plagiarism refers to the inclusion or submission of someone else's work (published or unpublished) without giving credit to the original author. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>.

NOTE: All required papers, exams and computer-marked multiple-choice tests may be subject to submission for textual similarity review (or a review of unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating) 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>).

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.

Geography Undergraduate Assistant:

Angelica Lucaci
SSC 2322A

Mental Health:

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

Registrarial Services:

<http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services:

<http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Social Sciences Academic Counselling:

<http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/>
SSC 2105