

Western University
GEOG 2060B: World Cities
Course Outline
Winter 2014

Course Information

Tuesdays 2:30pm-4:30pm
UCC 37

Prerequisites: None
Anti-requisites: None

Instructor: Dr Liam Riley
Office: TBA
E-mail: lriley3@uwo.ca
Office hours: Tuesday 12:30-1:30 pm
Contact by email or during office hours is preferred. Allow 48 hours for responses to emails, excluding weekends and holidays.

TA: TBA

Course Description

This course provides a global perspective on urbanism. The concept of ‘World Cities’ is critically assessed and global urban issues related to poverty are explored. In each session the history, form, and function of selected cities are used to emphasize a particular urban problem and to illustrate the diversity of cities.

Course Learning Objectives

The aim of the course is to provide an overview of the concept of ‘World Cities’ and critical insights into global urban issues.

By the end of the course the student will:

- Be familiar with the geographical location of many important cities;
- Understand the origins, context, and limitations of the concept of ‘World Cities’;
- Be able to draw on examples of events, processes, people, and places to demonstrate the complexity of identifying a ‘typical’ urbanism in the twenty-first century;
- Command a broad knowledge of contemporary urban issues applicable to multiple scales of analysis.

Description of Class Methods

The course will be based on lectures, readings, and in-class media presentations. Students are expected to read the assigned chapters **before class**. Material from lectures, readings, and media presentations will be included on the mid-term and final examinations. Attendance in class is strongly encouraged.

Course Materials

The readings are compiled in a course pack available from the Western bookstore. Additional materials pertaining to city case studies will be distributed via OWL.

Method of Evaluation

The course evaluation consists of two in-class quizzes, an in-class midterm exam, and a final exam scheduled by the university. The quizzes will consist of questions (multiple choice, fill in the blanks, plot on a map, true/false, and/or matching questions) related to identifying and locating cities around the world. The midterm and final exams will consist of short answer and essay-style questions related to concepts covered in class.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

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.

Quiz 1	30 minutes in class January 28	15%
Quiz 2	30 minutes in class March 18	15%
Midterm exam	2 hours in class February 25	30%
Final exam	To be scheduled by the university.	40%

Tentative schedule of classes

Date	Topic	Testing	<i>Tentative Cities of Focus</i>	Readings
Jan 7	Introduction to the Course	---	---	---
Part 1: Conceptualizing Urbanism				
Jan 14	The Urban Scale	---	Selection of early urban forms	Herod, 90-126
Jan 21	Urban Space as Modern Space	---	Selection of modern urban forms & planned cities	Scott, pp. 103-146
Part 2: 'World Cities' From the Point of View of Globalization				
Jan 28	Globalization and Urbanization	Quiz 1	Tokyo	Lim, pp. 13-28; Sorensen, pp. 225-238
Feb 4	Global Cities	---	New York, Los Angeles, Chicago	Friedman, pp. 301-307; Abu-Lughod, pp. 129-146
Feb 11	Challenging the 'World Cities' Concept	---	London & Johannesburg	Robinson, pp. 93-115
Feb 18 Reading Week				
Feb 25	---	Midterm	---	---
Part 3: 'World Cities' From the Point of View of Global Poverty				
Mar 4	Informality and Poverty in World Cities	---	Kinshasa	Pieterse, pp. 108-129
Mar 11	Gender and Urban Poverty in the Developing World	---	Manila	Momsen, pp. 176-195
Mar 18	Daily Violence in World Cities	Quiz 2	Mexico City	Moser and McIlwaine, pp. 40-64
Part 4: Re-shaping Cities				
Mar 25	Building Sustainable World Cities	---	Copenhagen	Beall and Fox, pp. 137-170
Apr 1	Popular Resistance to Globalization in Cities of the Global South	---	Kolkata	Roy, pp. 259-278
Apr 8	Conclusion: Reflections on Canadian Cities as World Cities & Exam Review	---	Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver	---

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

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/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Mental Health

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

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

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

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