

GEOG 2060A – World Cities

Course Outline: Section 001 – Fall 2019/2020

1. Course Information

1.1. Classroom Location:

SEB-2202, Thursdays 2:30 - 4:30pm

1.2. Contact Information:

Instructor: Dr. Gabor Sass

Office: SSC 2221

Office Hours: Mondays 1-2pm (or by appointment)

Phone: 661-2111 x82829

Email: gabor.sass@uwo.ca

2. Calendar Description

2.1. Course 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.

Extra Information: 2 lecture hours, 0.5 course.

Antirequisite(s): none

Prerequisite(s): none

(Prerequisite checking is the student's responsibility.)

2.2. Senate Regulations

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 and Electronic devices

3.1. Required text

Brunn S.D., J.K. Graybill, M. Hays-Mitchell, and D. J. Zeigler (eds.). 2016. *Cities of the World: Regional Patterns and Urban Development*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield [6th Edition].

- Available at Western University's Bookstore and also through multiple online sources
- Available also as an EBook through Western's library system
 - <https://alpha.lib.uwo.ca/search~S20?/tcities+of+the+world+/tcities+of+the+world/1%2C8%2C19%2CB/public&FF=tcities+of+the+world+regional+patterns+and+urban+environments&1%2C1%2C/indexsort=->
- Available as a 2-hour loan at Weldon Library [HT151.C569 2016; 2 copies available]

Lecture notes and other additional material will be placed on OWL in a timely fashion, available for downloading.

3.2. *iClicker* Application

This course requires that you have and bring an electronic device that can connect to the internet to class. You will use this device to download the *iClicker* app for activities such as attendance checking and answering questions assigned during class time. To download the app visit: <https://www.iclicker.com/>.

Please note: this software is free for all western students.

4. Course Objectives

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: (1) given lots of active learning opportunities; (2) allowed to experience different cultures and; (3) be challenged to imagine themselves as active participants in the vast global network of urbanized humanity.

5. Learning Outcomes

- 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.

6. Evaluation

Evaluation Components	Percentage of Course Grade	Assignment Schedule
Attendance & Participation	10%	Weekly
Weekly quizzes	10%	Weekly (starting Sep 17 th)
Mini-assignment	10%	Variable for each student
Research assignment – case study of a world city	20%	By December 3 rd
Mid-term exam	20%	October 15 th (in-class)
Final exam	30%	TBA

6.1. Attendance & Participation

Participation is a fundamental part of the learning environment. You will need to be present in all lectures as well as be ready to participate actively in the communal learning. There will be lots of emphasis on active learning and critical thinking. Students will get the most out of lectures by reading the material ahead of time. An individual attendance and participation grade will be awarded based on your attendance, readiness, discussion during class activities, and *iclicker* as well as other electronic forms of participation. (10%)

6.2. Weekly quizzes

In order to adequately prepare students for class and exams, a short quiz will be administered before each class starting the second week (September 17th) of classes. Students will be expected to read the relevant readings and answer 5 multiple-choice questions. Final grade will be based on the average of 10 quizzes. (10%)

6.3. Mini-assignment

Students will actively collaborate in course content creation by compiling the following for a world city region assigned by the instructor: 2 photographs with short descriptions of what they are showing and 4 exam questions/answers based on the course textbook for that particular world city region. (10%)

6.4. Research assignment

In mid-September you will be asked to choose a world city to research for the individual research assignment. You will select either one strength or one challenge for that world city and make the case for it. For example, here is one title based on a city's strength: "Ethnic and racial diversity makes Toronto one of the world's greatest cities". Select between 5-10 sources to back your claim which you should lay out in a 5-page article that will also include your references, 2-3 figures (may include pictures, maps, tables or graphics). I will be happy to go over your assignment with you at any stage of preparation. (20%)

6.5. Exams

There will be one two-hour mid-term exam (20%) and a three-hour final examination (30%) in Geography 2060. The mid-term will be held on October 15th in class. The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during the December examination period. The examinations will include questions from material covered in lectures, discussions, assigned readings, and documentaries. The final examination will include material from the entire term but more weight placed on the second part of the term. The format of the examinations will be a combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and visual questions. No electronic devices (e.g. laptop computers, cell phones, etc.) will be allowed during an examination.

6.6. Topics Covered

Date	Topic	Readings & Due dates
Sep 10	Introduction to the course: What are World Cities?	Chapter 1 (2-38)
Sep 17	Conceptual Foundations: City function and structure; terms and definitions	Chapter 1 (38-46); Quiz #1
Sep 24	City Futures: Sustainability and Resilience	Chapter 13 (536-569); Quiz #2
Oct 1	Cities of the Greater Middle East	Chapter 7 (276-318); Quiz #3
Oct 8	Cities of Europe	Chapter 5 (186-233); Quiz #4
Oct 15	Mid-term Exam (in class, 2 hours)	Chapters 1, 5, 7, 13
Oct 22	Cities of East Asia	Chapter 11 (456-499); Quiz #5
Oct 29	Cities of South & South-East Asia	Chapter 9 (368-409); Quiz #6
Nov 5	Reading Week (no class)	Read ahead!
Nov 12	Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 8 (322-365); Quiz #7
Nov 19	Cities of Middle & South-America	Chapter 4 (136-185); Quiz #8
Nov 26	Cities of North-America	Chapter 2 (48-95); Quiz #9
Dec 3	Cities Wrap: Review	Quiz #10; Research paper due

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned chapters in the text.

6.7. Not meeting course deadlines:

With the exception of documented illness or family death (see below), late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% per day of lateness. Upon presentation of legitimate documentation, a student can hand in the assignment within 2 weeks without late penalty or the mark value for the assignment will be added to the mid-term and final examinations in an equitable manner. Missed exams will result in a grade of zero unless academic accommodation is approved by Academic Counselling (see below).

Missed exams, tutorials, and assignment due dates because of illness or family death:

For Western's NEW [Policy on Accommodation for Illnesses](#) please refer to the Academic Calendar' section on [Academic Rights and Responsibilities](#).

Requesting Academic Consideration

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration in order to be eligible for academic consideration. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Counselling unit to clarify what documentation is appropriate.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (upset stomach) or upsets (argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence.

Academic consideration is not normally intended for the following circumstances:

- **Students who require academic accommodation based on an ongoing physical or mental illness (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability.** Students with an ongoing physical illness or mental disorder (recurring or chronic) or an existing disability are responsible, in consultation with their doctors or other health professionals, to determine if they are capable of pursuing their studies and, if so, with what accommodations. Students are expected to seek and arrange reasonable accommodations with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible in accordance with the Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disability. Students with pre-existing accessibility plans arranged through SAS may not need to provide additional documentation when seeking academic consideration where such request for consideration relates to their disability and where their accessibility plans allow for coursework deferral or deadline extensions.
- **Students who experience high levels of stress related to academic performance** (including completing assignments, taking part in presentations, or writing tests or examinations). Students with academic or exam stress should access supports through Student Health and Wellness and Learning Skills Services in order to deal with this stress in a proactive and constructive manner.

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.

7. 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.

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

8. Use of Electronic Devices

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

Internet enabled devices are allowed during lecture but their use should be limited to signing the *iclicker* attendance, answering *iclicker* questions, taking notes, using an internet search engine during small group work and any other instructor assigned online work.

9. 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>).

10. Western's Commitment to Accessibility

The Department of Geography 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.

11. 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.

12. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Student Development Centre](#)

13. Important Dates

September 5: Classes resume

September 13: Last day to add a first term half course

October 14: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 4 to November 10: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

November 12: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty

November 30: Last day to drop a full course without penalty

December 5: Classes end

December 6 and 7: Study days

December 8-19: Examination Period