


GEOG 2060A – World Cities

Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2020



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

Recommended technical specifications are available at:

<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/timetables.html>

2. Course Information



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
Online	Asynchronous delivery	na

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 9	November 2 - 8	December 9	December 10	December 11 - 22

* September 17, 2020: Last day to add a first-term half course

** November 12, 2020: Last day to drop a first-term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Dr. Gabor Sass	gabor.sass@uwo.ca	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 – 11:00 am

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
Elmond Bandauko	ebandauk@uwo.ca	TBA
Braden Dyce	bdyce@uwo.ca	TBA



- Office hours will be held by the course instructor remotely using Zoom every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am
[<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/98658011151>]
- Students will be able to sign up for an appointment (outside of office hours) by sending the course instructor an email using OWL “messages”
- Group office hours before the exams will be held, recorded, and posted for everyone to view

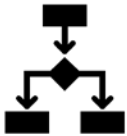
3. Calendar Description

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.

Extra Information: 2 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.”

4. Textbook

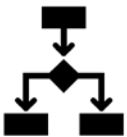


- All resources will be posted in OWL
- Required textbook:
 - Brunn S.D., J.K. Graybill, M. Hays-Mitchell, and D. J. Zeigler (eds.). 2016. Cities of the World: Regional Patterns and Urban Development. New York: Rowman & Littlefield [6th Edition]. (HT151.C569 2016 available as e-book at Western libraries)
- Additional recommended resources:
 - David, M. 2006. The Planet of Slums. New York: Verso [HV4028.D38 2006]
 - Girardet, H. 2014. Creating Regenerative Cities. Routledge.

5. 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: (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.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Virtual asynchronous	Eight days a week ;o)	2-5 hours	weekly



Asynchronous weekly work (e.g. quiz, handouts) must be completed by a given deadline each week

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](#). 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.

6. 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.

7. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	What's due?
1	Sep 15	Introduction to the course: What are World Cities?	Chapter 1 (2-38)	Handout #1
2	Sep 22	Conceptual Foundations: City function and structure; terms and definitions	Chapter 1 (38-46)	Quiz #1; Handout #2
3	Sep 29	City Futures: Sustainability and Resilience	Chapter 13 (536- 569)	Quiz #2; Handout #3; Assignment #1
4	Oct 6	Cities of the Greater Middle East	Chapter 7 (276-318)	Quiz #3; Handout #4 *
5	Oct 13	Cities of Europe	Chapter 5 (186-233)	Quiz #4; Handout #5 *
6	Oct 20	Mid-term Exam	Chapters 1, 5, 7, 13	
7	Oct 27	Cities of East Asia	Chapter 11 (456- 499)	Quiz #5; Handout #6; Research assignment (Part 1) *
8	Nov 3	Reading Week (no class)	Read ahead!	
9	Nov 10	Cities of South & South-East Asia	Chapter 9 (368-409)	Quiz #6; Handout #7 *
10	Nov 17	Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa	Chapter 8 (322-365)	Quiz #7; Handout #8 *
11	Nov 24	Cities of Middle & South-America	Chapter 4 (136-185)	Quiz #8; Handout #9 *
12	Dec 1	Cities of North-America	Chapter 2 (48-95)	Quiz #9; Handout #10 *
13	Dec 8	Cities Wrap: Review		Research assignment (Part 2)

*Assignment #2 has a variable due date (from week 4 to Week 12), depends on which group each student has been assigned.



8. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students are expected to participate in the OWL “forums” with their peers, instructor and TAs at a few times each week

9. 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 and teaching assistant using OWL “messages”
- For any other communication, the centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).
- Emails on OWL “messages” will be monitored daily; students will receive a response in 24 – 48 hours
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily by instructor or teaching assistants

10. Evaluation

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

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due Date
Attendance & Participation	OWL “Forums” OWL “Assignments” – Word Document	10%	Weekly
Weekly quizzes	OWL “Tests & Quizzes”	10%	Weekly
Mini-assignments	OWL “Assignments” – Word Document	10%	Variable for each student
Research assignment – case study of a world city	OWL “Assignments” – Word Document	25%	Part 1 – Oct 27 Part 2 – Dec 8
Mid-term exam	OWL “Tests & Quizzes”	15%	October 20
Final exam	OWL “Tests & Quizzes”	30%	TBA



Students are responsible for material covered in the synchronous lectures, posted voice-over powerpoint lectures, the assigned chapters/sections in the text and assigned videos.

- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- 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
- It is imperative that students read through the detailed expectation documents for the different assessment components listed above (see OWL “resources” or “lessons” [Week1])

Given our new on-line environment, it will be critical that you develop a weekly routine to complete your courses. Since the entire course content will be delivered asynchronously, the onus will be on you to set aside the required time to complete the course readings & video viewings as well as to complete the handouts, assignments, quizzes and exams. I will do my best to facilitate your learning.

Asynchronous work (3-5 hours every week): Every week you will be assigned to read 1 chapter from the course textbook. I will create voice-over powerpoints for all major topics covered which will have embedded video links for you to view. You will have to complete a weekly quiz and upload your weekly handout by 11:55pm EST each Tuesday as indicated on the schedule. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday you will have some more work to do on that week’s topic by commenting on the online OWL “forums”. The individual project will also be completed asynchronously over the course of the term.

10.1. Attendance & Participation (10%):

Participation is a fundamental part of the learning environment. You will need to participate every week on OWL “forums” and post substantial responses to the questions being asked. be ready to participate actively in the communal learning. Students are asked to follow the ABC of commenting, Acknowledge what was said before, Build on it and Conclude. The weekly handouts will also constitute part of your participation grade.

10.2. Quizzes (10%):

In order to help you assess your mastery of each week’s course content, you will have to complete a short quiz (using OWL) of a few questions by Tuesday evening each week. The questions will be structured to test your basic comprehension of the course content. Some of the questions from the quizzes may make it onto the mid-term and final exams. For each week, course materials will be announced well in advance and you will have 24 hrs prior to the deadline to answer the questions. Final grade will be based on the average of 9 quizzes.

10.3. Mini-Assignment (10%):

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%)

10.4. Research assignment (25%):

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. Part 1 of the research assignment is due October 27th and will consist of an annotated bibliography for your research topic along with a statement of your research topic. Part 2 of the research assignment is the completion of the research paper.

10.5. Exams (45%):

There will be one mid-term exam (worth 15%) and a final examination (30%). The mid-term will be held on October 20th. The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during the December examination period. The examinations will consist of a mixed format questions including multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, short answer and long answer. The long answer question(s) will be provided well in advance of the exam. The exams will be conducted on OWL “Tests & Quizzes” and be timed. You will have 2 hours to finish the mid-term and 3 hours to finish the final exam in a 24-hour window. Both exams will be based on material covered in lectures, assigned readings, exercises and videos. The final examination will include material from the entire term.

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 (for exams please see point 12 below):

- 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.

11. 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

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

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](#).

12. Make-up Examinations

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. Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only and only for the final exam. Any student who misses the mid-term with documentation will have their final exam account for 40% of the final mark.

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

13. Use of Electronic Devices

This course requires that you have an electronic device, ideally a desktop or laptop, that can connect to the internet. Given that this is an online course, you will be using this device to perform most class activities.

14. 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 forums or contact your instructor and or teaching assistant.
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.



15. Statements concerning Online Etiquette

Some components of this course will involve online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.

- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment. “Flaming” is never appropriate.
- Be professional and scholarly in all online postings. Cite the ideas of others appropriately.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type is unacceptable.

16. 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>).

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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. Support Services

Western’s Support Services
Student Development Centre

20. Important Dates

September 9: Classes resume

September 17: Last day to add a first term half course

October 12: Thanksgiving Holiday – Department Office Closed

November 2 to November 8: 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 9: Classes end

December 10: Study day

December 11-22: Examination Period