

GEOG 2060a – World Cities Course Outline: Section 001 Fall 2022

1. Course Information



	Delivery Mode	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	In person	Tuesdays, 2:30-4:30	SSC-2028

*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 6

Classes Start	Fall Reading Week	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
Sept. 8	Oct. 31 to Nov. 6	Dec. 8	Dec. 9	Dec 10-22

September 16, 2022: Last day to add a first-term half course

November 12, 2022: Last day to drop a first term half course without penalty



Course Instructor	Contact Information	Office Hours
Rebecca Ellis	Rellis25@uwo.ca	TBA

Teaching Assistant(s)	Contact Information	Office Hours
TBA	TBA	



Students will be able to drop into office hours or to request virtual meetings.

2. Calendar Description

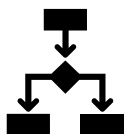
A global perspective on urbanism. In each session a selected city is used to emphasize a particular urban problem, urban spatial structure or world region.

2 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

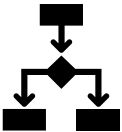


All resources will be posted in OWL. Course resources will include chapters of books, academic journal articles, and podcasts with urban researchers and activists.

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, urbanization, urban social movements, 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 the struggles, complexities, challenges, and transformations of world cities.

Attendance is required



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



- 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 develop an understanding about the ways in which class, race, gender, and sexuality affect urban design and people's everyday experiences in cities.
- You will gain research and writing skills by exploring an urban-based social movement.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Week	Dates	Topic	City Case Study
1	Sept. 13	Urbanization: colonialism and capitalism	Dubai/Lagos
2	Sept. 20	Urban Form and Design	Singapore
3	Sept. 27	Right to the City	Tokyo
4	Oct. 4	Green Cities	Chennai/Copenhagen
5	Oct. 11	Urban Natures	Istanbul
6	Oct. 18	Suburbanization	Melbourne
7	Oct 25	Race, class and gentrification	New York City
8	Nov. 1	Reading Week	N/A
9	Nov. 8	Housing and Poverty	London, ON
10	Nov. 15	Feminist City	Buenos Aires
12	Nov. 22	Tourism and migration: whose city?	Barcelona
13	Nov. 29	Policing, public space, and protest	Mexico City
13	Dec. 6	Towards the future: uncertainty, crisis, and the urban commons	Cape Town



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) and teaching assistant(s) 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 his/her 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 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	Weighting	Due Date
Critical reflection on “your” city	5%	September 20
Film Reflection	10%	October 4
Photo Assignment: Exclusion and Belong	15%	November 8
Essay: Urban Transformations	35%	November 29
Final Exam	30%	During exam period
Participation	5%	

Critical Reflection (5%)

Choosing the city in which you are **most familiar**, students will write a short reflection and the positive and negative aspects of that city with a global and critical lens. Detailed instructions for will be provided separately.

Photo Assignments (15%)

For this assignment, students will be required to venture into the city of London and take a photo based on the theme of exclusion and on the theme of belonging. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.



Film Reflection (10%)

Students will be required to watch two episodes of the documentary series *The Life-sized City* and write a reflection that explores and contrasts the initiatives and issues examined in the episodes. Detailed instructions for will be provided separately.

Urban Transformations Assignment (35%)

In the *Urban Transformations* assignment, students will choose a world city and examine an urban-based social movement or initiative that has occurred within that city, while engaging with the main themes of the course. Detailed instructions will be provided separately.

Final Assessment (30%)

The final assessment, held during the December exam period, will be an in-person exam. It will be a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

Participation (5%)

The participation grade is based on class attendance and participation in class discussions. You should come to class prepared to actively participate.

Students are responsible for material covered in the lectures as well as the assigned course materials.

- 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

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 assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 2%/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 48 hours of submission of the last illness self-report

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

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](#).

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.

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 tests and examinations.

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. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively.



4. Connect with others. Try forming a study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
5. 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).

13. Continuity of Education Plan (in-person class pivoting to online learning)

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the university to direct courses move away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

14. Information on COVID-19

Course Absences due to Daily COVID Screening Questionnaire

Missed assessments (e.g., presentations, essays, quizzes, tests, midterms, etc.) require formal academic considerations (typically academic counselling).

Students should be aware that some learning outcomes cannot be easily made up and may need to be completed in a subsequent year. Your instructor will provide you with further information as to how this applies within this course.

15. 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>).

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. Support Services

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

19. Important Dates

September 8: Classes resume

September 16: Last day to add a second term half course

October 10: Thanksgiving – Department Office Closed

October 31-November 6: Fall Reading Week (No classes; Department Office open)

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

December 8: Classes end

December 9: Study days

December 10-22: Examination Period