



Geography 204 Cities of the World

Fall 2016
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign



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Course description:

This is a lower-division geography class designed to broaden your knowledge and understanding of global urbanization and urban form. The class will cover eleven different major world regions, exploring the significant urban patterns and processes, built and natural environments, and social, economic, and cultural landscapes of each.

Course objectives:

- To understand cities as systems within systems of cities;
- To compare urban development among cities in the developed and developing worlds;
- To understand and explain urban spatial processes in a variety of contexts;
- To come to know a particular city in detail and present that knowledge to peers; and
- To appreciate the problems and opportunities facing urban dwellers around the world.

Required materials:

There is one required textbook available at the campus bookstore: [Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development](#) by Brunn, Hays-Mitchell, and Zeigler, 6th edition, new in 2016. Previous editions do *not* have the same information: use them at your own risk. A copy of the textbook is on reserve at the Undergraduate Library. Additional required readings are available on Compass, one for each world region. I expect you to do the readings *in advance* for the class for which they are listed on the schedule. There are reading guides for each chapter on Compass as well. In-class activities (see below) will regularly include questions based on these reading guides. I-Clickers are required for the these questions and to enhance class interaction.

Grading:

Grading will be based on in-class activities, take-home assignments, and tests. All of these assignments will help you achieve the course objectives and integrate material from different parts of the course.

The **in-class activities** will be something along the order of a small group discussion, answering questions about the readings via i-clicker, or completing a worksheet. Their purpose is both to check attendance and to give me an idea of how well you're learning

the material. Each activity is worth 4 points, and you can achieve a maximum of 120 points. There will be 38 activities in class, meaning you can miss eight without penalty.

In-class activities *cannot* be made up no matter your reason for absence; this is why the lowest eight will be dropped.

The **take-home assignments** will be explained as we go along. The first involves critiquing and editing an existing Wikipedia article on a specific city or some aspect of a city. The second has to do with ranking cities by various economic, social, and environmental measures. For the third assignment, you'll create a visual representation of a city of your choice and share it in our class showcase at the end of the term. Each of these assignments is worth around 60 points and is due at the *start of class* on the day assigned.

Late assignments will lose 5 points for each class day (or portion of a day) they are late, barring a significant illness or other event that we've discussed in advance.

There will be three **exams**: two midterms each covering part of the course and one final, comprehensive exam. The tests will be a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions and will cover material from lecture (including videos shown in class), the textbook, and additional readings. Study guides will be provided in advance.

If you are going to miss a test, you **must** notify me at least one week ahead of time. Otherwise, you will need a legitimate written excuse (doctor's note, etc.) in order to make up the test. (Events such as job interviews that can be scheduled ahead of time are *not* legitimate.) Exams **cannot** be made up once they have been graded and handed back.

Points will be awarded as follows:

Assignment	Points
In-class activities	120 total (22%)
Take-home assignments	180 (3 ass'ts, averaging 60 points each) (33%)
Exams	240 (2 midterms @ 60 points each, 1 final exam @ 120 points) (44%)
Total	540

Final grades are curved but are generally based on the following scale: 99-100%=A+, 93-98.9=A, 90-92.9=A-, 87-89.9=B+, 83-86.7=B, 80-82.9=B-, 77-79.9=C+, 73-76.9=C, 70-72.9=C-, 67-69.9=D+, 63-66.9=D, 60-62.9=D-, below 60=F.

Expectations:

I expect you to be to class on time, ready to listen, with your cell phones silent and put away. I expect you to ask questions if you have them, and especially to offer your comments and ideas. If you want to use a laptop in class, **you must sit in the laptop zone**.

On a less pleasant but necessary note: cheating or plagiarism will result in a 0 for the assignment and possibly for the entire course. See the student code for more information on your rights and responsibilities: http://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1_part4_1-402.html.

Any student who may need extra assistance with regards to meeting the requirements of this course (e.g., learning or physical disability) is requested to speak to me as soon as possible so we can discuss how to ensure you get the most out of the class. Thanks!

Course schedule

Reading assignments are in italics
Assignments due are in bold

Week 1

August 22: Introduction

No reading

August 24: North America I

Chapter 1 (World Urban Development): pp. 1-11, 17-20, 38-46

Chapter 2 (Cities of the U.S. and Canada): pp. 49-59 (boxes optional)

August 26: North America II

Chapter 1 (World Urban Development): pp. 20-26

Chapter 2 (Cities of the U.S. and Canada): pp. 66-69, 73-74

Week 2

August 29: North America III

Chapter 2 (Cities of the U.S. and Canada): pp. 75-79 (incl. Box 2.3), 84-93

August 31: North America IV

Article: Milwaukee and the "creative class"

September 2: Middle America I

Chapter 3 (Cities of Middle America & the Carib.): pp. 97-111 (incl. Box 3.1, 3.3)

Week 3

September 5: NO CLASS (Labor Day)

September 7: Middle America II

Chapter 3 (Cities of Middle America and the Caribbean): pp. 115-119, 124-125, 128-131

September 9: South America I

Chapter 4 (Cities of South America): pp. 137-154

Week 4

September 12: South America II

Ass't 1 stage 1 due

Chapter 4 (Cities of South America): pp. 155-164, 174-181 (incl. Box 4.3)

September 14: South America III

Article: Santiago and gentrification

September 16: Middle East I

Chapter 7 (Cities of the Greater Middle East): pp. 277-289

Week 5

September 19: Middle East II

Chapter 7 (Cities of the Greater Mid. East): pp. 295-300, 306-313 (incl. Box 7.3), Box 7.4

September 21: Middle East III

Article: Women in Kurdish cities

September 23: **MIDTERM I**

Week 6

September 26: Russia I

Chapter 6 (Cities of Russia): pp. 235-248 (incl. Box 6.1)

September 28: Russia II

Chapter 6 (Cities of Russia): pp. 250-258 (incl. Box 6.2), 265-267, 271-274

September 30: Russia III

Article: Greening Astana and Ashgabat

Ass't 1 due

Week 7

October 3: Europe I

Chapter 5 (Cities of Europe): pp. 187-198

October 5: Europe II

Chapter 5 (Cities of Europe): pp. 204-212 (incl. Box 5.1), 216-221

October 7: Europe III

Chapter 5 (Cities of Europe): pp. 221-229 (incl. Box 5.4)

Week 8

October 10: Europe IV

Article: Tirana and neighborliness

October 12: Africa I

Chapter 8 (Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa): pp. 323-336 (incl. Box 8.2)

October 14: Africa II

Chapter 8 (Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa): pp. 340-351 (incl. Box 8.4)

Ass't 2 stage 1 due

Week 9

October 17: Africa III

Chapter 8 (Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa): pp. 354-359, 363-365

October 19: Africa IV

Article: Dakar and hip-hop

October 21: Southeast Asia I

Chapter 10 (Cities of Southeast Asia): pp. 413-430

Week 10

October 24: Southeast Asia II

Chapter 10 (Cities of Southeast Asia): pp. 430-442 (incl. Box 10.3), Box 10.4

October 26: Southeast Asia III

Article: Singapore and "smellscapes"

October 28: **MIDTERM II**

Week 11

October 31: South Asia I

Chapter 9 (Cities of South Asia): pp. 369-383

November 2: South Asia II

Chapter 9 (Cities of South Asia): pp. 384-393

Ass't 3 stage 1 due

November 4: South Asia III

Chapter 9 (Cities of South Asia): pp. 400-407 (incl. box 9.5)

Week 12

November 7: South Asia IV

Article: Kolkata and housing in a global city

November 9: East Asia I

Ass't 2 due

Chapter 11 (Cities of East Asia): pp. 457-465

November 11: East Asia II

Chapter 11 (Cities of East Asia): pp. 466-470, 476-483 (incl. Box 11.1, 11.2)

Week 13

November 14: East Asia III

Chapter 11 (Cities of East Asia): pp. 488-499 (incl. Box 11.4)

November 16: East Asia IV

Article: Niigata and the arts

November 18: NO CLASS

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 14

November 28: Oceania I

Chapter 12 (Cities of Australia and the Pacific): pp. 503-510, 512-520 (incl. Box 12.2)

November 30: Oceania II

Chapter 12 (Cities of Australia and the Pacific): pp. 520-531

December 2: MEET IN ILLINI UNION

Ass't 3 due

No reading

Week 15

December 5: Oceania III

Article: Melbourne and music

December 7: Future Cities

Chapter 13 (Cities of the Future): pp. 537-561, Box 13.4

FINAL EXAM

Thursday, December 15

8:00 A.M.
