

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Dr Ben A GERLOFS

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 60 %	COURSEWORK 40 %
• 2 hours	• 10 individual weekly reflections • 1 individual exercise

OBJECTIVES:

More than half of the world's population resides in cities. Each city can be treated as a system, and cities together form another system. A primary objective of this course is to provide the students basic understandings city as a system and systems of cities. In addition, students will learn about the history of urbanization, internal structure of cities and relationships between cities. Issues and problems related to cities and urbanization will be addressed. Knowledge learned from this course serve as the foundations of urban and social planning, business location decision and other socioeconomic analyses.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

Human beings and their activities are increasingly concentrated in cities. A holistic examination of the city involves understanding its role, internal physical and social structure, and systems of activities. This is a basic course on urban geography. It covers basic topics including the history and forces of urbanization, economic development and evolution of cities, internal structure of cities, and cities as a system with functional relations. New urban phenomena such as the emergence of world-global cities and extended metropolitan regions are discussed. The course provides a basic understanding of city and related urban issues and problems.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Foundations and History of Urbanization
- Systems of Cities
- Internal Structure of Cities
- Cities across the Globe
- Overview of Census Geographies (U.S.) and the use of GIS
- The Dynamics and Makings of Neighbourhoods
- Selected Urban Problems

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Knox, P.L. and L. McCarthy. 2011. Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography (3rd edition), Pearson.
- Greene, R. P. and J. B. Pick. 2011. Exploring the Urban Community: A GIS Approach (2nd edition), Pearson.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) After completing this course, students would be able to:		Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)*						Course Assessment Methods
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	develop an understanding of urbanization as a major development process	✓						Weekly reflections, exercise & exam
2	develop an awareness of models describing internal structure of cities		✓					Weekly reflections, exercise & exam
3	acquire a knowledge in economic and spatial relationships between cities		✓					Weekly reflections, exercise & exam
4	acquire a knowledge in urban growth and associated urban problems		✓					Weekly reflections, exercise & exam
5	acquire skills in quantitative methods to analyze urban phenomena			✓				Weekly reflections, exercise & exam
6	acquire skill in a systems approach			✓				Weekly reflections, exercise & exam
7	acquire skill in a cross-disciplinary approach						✓	Weekly reflections, exercise & exam

*Geography Major Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

In order to meet the demands and challenges in this dynamic and ever-changing world, the Department has designed a series of well-structured and contemporary courses to cater to the different interests of students. Its courses are designed to align with the University's educational aims which hope to nurture future generations not only with a critical and intellectual mindset, but also with a passion to contribute to society in general.

After completing the programme, Geography Major students should be able to:

- PLO1** critically analyse the geographical aspects of the relationship between people and the natural environment;
- PLO2** demonstrate and develop an understanding of how these relationships have changed with space and over time;
- PLO3** identify, collect and utilize primary and secondary data to investigate and analyse the issues and problems facing people, places and society;
- PLO4** integrate, evaluate and communicate information from a variety of geographical and other sources;
- PLO5** participate in promoting social, economic and environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global scales; and
- PLO6** effectively apply a range of transferable skills in academic, professional and social settings.

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