

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 2nd Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Dr Ben A GERLOFS

ASSESSMENT:

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Paper 1• Research Paper 2• Midterm Test

OBJECTIVES:

This course aims to introduce students to the distinctive patterns, urbanization processes, and major cultural resonances of the Western Hemisphere’s most paradigmatic cities, and equip students to critically assess these in comparative fashion.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

This course will introduce students to contemporary and recent (twentieth century) urbanization patterns in North and South America. Particular emphasis will be placed on paradigmatic cities and the ‘urban experience’ and prominent academic or cultural frameworks associated with each, including: the ‘Chicago School’ of urban ecology, the ‘Los Angeles School’ of postmodern urbanism, the urban political ecology of ‘resource wars’ of Cochabamba, and the spectacularity of modern Brazilian festivals. Case material will be drawn from: New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Montreal, Mexico City, Lima, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Bogotá, and Cochabamba.

LECTURE TOPICS:

- Introduction to comparative urbanism in the Western Hemisphere
- New York City: neighborhood, gentrification, and policing
- Chicago: human ecologies
- Los Angeles: postmodern urbanism
- Montreal: Francophone urban planning
- Mexico City: urban politics and citizenship
- Lima: urban explosion and autoconstruction
- São Paulo: spectacle, security, citizenship
- Buenos Aires: migration, sexuality, and space
- Cochabamba: resource wars
- Bogotá: Spanish urban planning and contemporary narco-states

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Beauregard, Robert (2018). Cities in the Urban Age: A Dissent. The University of Chicago Press.
- Davis, Mike (1994). City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles. Verso.

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	understand the distinctive spatial patterns, urbanization processes, and major cultural resonances of the Western Hemisphere's most paradigmatic cities	✓	✓		✓			Research paper 1, research paper 2, midterm test & exam
2	identify the morphologies and major distinctive cultural features of major representative cities of the Western Hemisphere	✓	✓		✓			Research paper 1 & research paper 2
3	analyse the cities of the region in comparative fashion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Research paper 1, research paper 2, midterm test & exam
4	recognize the similarities and differences between the morphologies of the region's cities, as well as convergence and divergence from normative frameworks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Research paper 1 & research paper 2
5	demonstrate understanding of major trends in the urban Western Hemisphere		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Research paper 1, research paper 2, midterm test & exam
6	effectively apply course themes and analytical perspectives to the study of particular cases	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Midterm test & 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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