GEOG2078  Urban Geography: Growth, Function and Pattern of Cities

**TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT:** Annual; 1st Semester

**CREDITS:** 6

**TIME:** Tuesday 10:30 am - 12:20 pm

**VENUE:** CPD-LG.63

**COURSE TEACHER(S):** Dr Ben A GERLOFS

**ASSESSMENT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXAMINATION 60 %</th>
<th>COURSEWORK 40 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 2 hours</td>
<td>• Policy Brief Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Class Participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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:**

- Cities & Urban Life
- Centrality & Marginality
- Urbanization & Suburbanization
- Segregation & Discrimination
- Peripheral Urbanization, Enclave Urbanism, & Slums
- Gentrification & Neighborhood Change
- Planetary Urbanization

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST:**


---

### Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

After completing this course, students would be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)</th>
<th>Alignment with Programme Learning Outcomes (PLOs)</th>
<th>Course Assessment Methods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. identify and explain contemporary urbanization patterns</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
<td>Exam &amp; class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. identify and explain factors influencing urban change</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
<td>Exam &amp; class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. comparatively assess contemporary cities from an international perspective</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
<td>Exam, policy brief assignment &amp; class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. critically assess contemporary urbanization processes</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
<td>Exam &amp; class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. analyze distinct layers of historical and contemporary urban development</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
<td>Exam &amp; class participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. generate novel solutions to urban problems in real-world scenarios</td>
<td>✔ ✔ ✔ ✔ ✔</td>
<td>Exam, policy brief assignment &amp; class participation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.