

TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT: Annual; 1st Semester

CREDITS: 6

COURSE TEACHER(S): Professor Ben A GERLOFS

**ASSESSMENT:**

EXAMINATION 50 %	COURSEWORK 50 %
• 2 hours	• Policy Brief Assignment • Critical Response Essays • Class Participation

**OBJECTIVES:**

Through this course, students will develop a broad-based, global understanding of urban geography, including a wide variety of abstract, concrete, academic, and practical aspects. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to: 1) Identify and explain contemporary urbanization patterns; 2) Identify and explain factors influencing urban change; 3) Comparatively assess contemporary cities from an international perspective; 4) Critically assess contemporary urbanization patterns; 5) Analyze distinct layers of historical and contemporary urban development; 6) Generate novel solutions to urban problems in real-world scenarios.

**COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

This course provides an introduction to the field of urban geography from a global perspective. We live on an increasingly urbanized planet, with more than half of us now living in cities and accelerating trends of urban population growth and rural population decline only expected to continue in the decades to come. In this course, we will explore the spatial patterns and social processes of contemporary urban life, from the models we use to understand cities and plan for better urban futures to the tensions and triumphs of urban communities, and the governance structures and policy interventions we develop to negotiate and direct the uneven progress of urban development and change. We'll also take a close look at how everyday people experience and interact with cities around the world, drawing on news reporting, academic research, popular culture, blogs, film, music, magazines, and much more, from Jakarta to Johannesburg, from London to Lagos, and from Chicago to Shanghai. Students who successfully complete this course will be well prepared to excel in more advanced courses in human geography (especially urban geography), urban governance, urban planning, and urban studies, among other fields.

**LECTURE TOPICS:**

- Cities and the urban palimpsest
- Three views of 'the urban'
- Centers and margins
- Suburbanization
- Segregation and discrimination
- Urban margins I: life on the peripheries
- Urban margins II: race and class on the peripheries
- Urban margins III: enclave urbanism and the global slum
- Gentrification and displacement in global perspective
- Dimensions of planetary urbanization

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST:**

- Beauregard, Robert (2018). Cities in the Urban Age: A Dissent. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
- Wirth, Louis (1938). "Urbanism as a Way of Life." American Journal of Sociology 44(1): 1-24
- Jacobs, Jane (1961). The Death and Life of Great American Cities. New York: Modern Library
- Harvey, David (1978). "The Urban Process Under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis." International Journal of Urban and Regional Research 2(1-3): 101-131

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	identify and explain contemporary urbanization patterns	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Exam, critical response essays & class participation
2	identify and explain factors influencing urban change	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, critical response essays & class participation
3	comparatively assess contemporary cities from an international perspective		✓		✓	✓	✓	Exam, policy brief assignment, critical response essays & class participation
4	critically assess contemporary urbanization processes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, critical response essays & class participation
5	analyze distinct layers of historical and contemporary urban development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Exam, critical response essays & class participation
6	generate novel solutions to urban problems in real-world scenarios	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, policy brief assignment, critical response essays & class participation

### **\*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.