

**TIMETABLE ARRANGEMENT:** Annual; 2nd Semester

**CREDITS:** 6

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

**ASSESSMENT:**

EXAMINATION 40 %	COURSEWORK 60 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 hours</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading Comprehension Exercises</li><li>• Term Paper</li><li>• Class Participation</li></ul>

**OBJECTIVES:**

Through this course, students will develop a reasonably comprehensive understanding the contemporary geographies of urban social justice around the world, refine and apply frameworks of urban social justice for the analysis of urban problems, and create and propose solutions for more just and harmonious urban futures. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to: 1) Identify and explain a variety of contemporary social justice issues in urban contexts across the globe; 2) Decipher and critically assess the merits of varying approaches to urban social justice; 3) Evaluate actions, programs, and policies aimed at ensuring social justice in a variety of cities across the globe; 4) Articulate a unique foundation for urban social justice in both theoretical and practical terms; 5) Design, perform, and present case-study analysis; and 6) Generate novel solutions to urban problems in real-world scenarios.

**COURSE SYNOPSIS:**

This course is driven by two fundamental realities: 1) Our increasingly urbanized world is plagued by systemic social injustices; and 2) We have at our disposal a wealth of competing frameworks for understanding and responding to these injustices. In this course, we will use both time-honored and cutting-edge social theory and evidence and analysis from contemporary cities around the world to develop answers to the variety of important questions that arise from these two realities, such as: Why are contemporary cities so full of injustice, and what can we do about it? What does social justice mean, and how and why might its meanings change over time and space? Who gets to decide what social justice means, and how it should be promoted and practiced? Which urban issues are important enough to receive our attention, and why? What do we do when theories, practices, or priorities of urban social justice conflict with one another? How can a geographical perspective and the tools of critical spatial and social analysis help us to better understand and mitigate the particular challenges of specific cities and communities and also improve the general conditions of urban life across the globe?

**LECTURE TOPICS:**

- Critical Geography & Urban Social Justice
- Theories & Paradigms of Urban Social Justice
- Consumption & Urban Landscapes
- Race & Racism
- Homelessness
- Capitalism & Capitalist Urbanization
- Social Difference & Social Harmony
- Urban Governance & the Dangers of Democracy
- Queer Space & Normativity
- Urban Social Movements

**RECOMMENDED READING LIST:**

- Roy, Ananya & Aihwa Ong (eds) (2011). *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*. Malden: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Young, Iris Marion (1990). *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Fainstein, Susan (2010). *The Just City*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Mann, Geoff (2013). *Disassembly Required: A Field Guide to Actually Existing Capitalism*. Edinburgh: AK Press.
- Mbembe, Achille (2017). *Critique of Black Reason*. Durham: Duke University Press.

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 a variety of contemporary social justice issues in urban contexts across the globe	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, term paper, reading comprehension exercises & class participation
2	decipher and critically assess the merits of varying approaches to urban social justice			✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, term paper, reading comprehension exercises & class participation
3	evaluate actions, programs, and policies aimed at ensuring social justice in a variety of cities across the globe		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, term paper, reading comprehension exercises & class participation
4	articulate a unique foundation for urban social justice in both theoretical and practical terms	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, term paper & class participation
5	design, perform, and present case-study analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam & term paper
6	generate novel solutions to urban problems in real-world scenarios	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Exam, term paper & 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.