

Fall 2016

**GEOG 261**  
**Geography of World Urbanization**

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:50-11:50am  
Class Meeting Location: Main 009

Instructor: I-Chun Catherine Chang  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 pm & Fridays, 12-1 pm, or by appointment  
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TA: Angelina Malagodi  
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Office Hours & Location: TBA

**Course Introduction**

We now live in a world where the majority of the population already lives in cities. And yet every year, hundreds of millions of people continue to move into cities to pursue a better future. The contemporary social, economic, and political changes are intrinsically linked to divergent urban processes across the world. This paramount shift poses important theoretical and empirical questions to our age. This course uses the critical perspective of “global urbanism” to both contextualize and connect different urban experiences across places. We will introduce various urban settings and demonstrate how complex relations between urbanization, globalization, and economic development produce spatial unevenness and social inequality. We will study the dominant paradigm of world and global cities, which prioritizes development trajectories of cities in the global North, and discuss contesting views focusing on “ordinary cities” from the global South. Drawing on case studies in the developed and less-developed world, we will also learn how to apply the relational comparative urbanism approach as well as regionally based theoretical perspectives to comprehend the diverse urban landscapes around the globe.

**Learning Objectives**

By the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Describe the major urban development patterns in different world regions;
- Apply geographical approaches and concepts to urban issues;
- Comprehend different theoretical paradigms and their approaches to understand the development of cities in the global North and the global South;
- Explore how globalization interacts with social, economic and political issues in cities;

- Identify the pros and cons of capitalist (re)development on cities and lives of the residents;
- Understand the interests of different urban actors, and compare their different visions about urbanization;
- Critically reflect on urban economic, social, and political problems, and analytically assess the merits of proposed solutions.

### Attendance

*Regular attendance at lectures is required.* The midterm exam, final exam, and assignments will test you not only on the assigned course readings but also on lecture materials that will be frequently supplementary to the readings. In-class activities are also essential to enhancing your capacity for applying what you learn in lectures and readings in real life situations. Lecture slides will be posted on our Moodle site; they will NOT be circulated via email. *If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up with the course materials.* Handouts will be distributed from time to time in class. *The instructor is not responsible for providing handouts for students who are absent from class.*

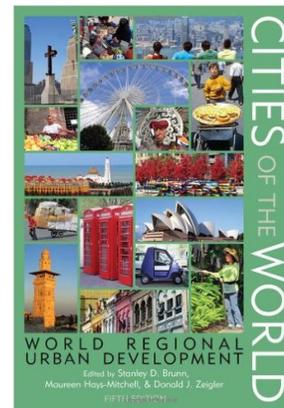
### Required Readings

The lectures and activities will make most sense if each week's readings are completed *before* the relevant lectures and activities. You are responsible for everything covered in the lectures, activities, text and the readings. It will be almost impossible to cover and understand the required readings if you leave them to the last minute, right before exams. This makes it strongly advisable that you not only attend all lectures but also stay on top of each week's readings, making it easier to follow lectures and asking questions on an ongoing basis, rather than succumbing to last-minute anxiety.

There is a required text for this course:

Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M. and Zeigler, D. (eds). 2012. *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development*, 5th edition, Rowman & Littlefield.

Other required readings and supplement materials will be posted on the course Moodle site. You should print out each week's readings in advance of, and read them prior to, their assigned date in the syllabus and bring them with you to class in order to facilitate your full class participation. Unless otherwise stated, audio or video clips used in class will also be available on the course Moodle site.



### Producing a Positive Learning Environment

To give students the opportunity to think about cities in new ways, we will have to work together to create a positive learning environment. For this to happen, I expect your cooperation in at least three ways:

1. Respect the rights of other students to learn.
2. To acknowledge and respect the diversity of participants in this class. Discussion of controversial issues is encouraged. Even if you don't agree with the points of view of others, as citizens of this class we all share a responsibility for respecting all individuals as fair-minded persons. Diversity is a strength in our society at large and here at Macalester College. In this class you will be asked to maintain an open mind to the differences around you, and place positive value on that diversity.
3. Attendance and participation. You are expected to fully participate in class from the beginning to the end. You are asked to turn off your cell phone before entering the classroom and not to use electronic devices for activities not related to the course. Your course attendance and participation will affect your grade.

In return, I promise to be on time, to address your questions and concerns, to give you feedback on your performance, and to return graded materials in a timely manner. You can expect the TAs and myself reply your emails in 48 hours, and you are encouraged to meet with me and the TAs to discuss your questions and concerns during the office hours.

*Students with special needs:* All of us learn in different ways and with varying degrees of success. If you know of any factors in your life that may hinder your abilities to learn up to your potential in this course, please notify me at once. You should also contact the Disability Services of Student Affairs (119 Weyerhaeuser Hall; Phone: 651-696-6220; Email: [studentaffairs@macalester.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@macalester.edu)), who have more expertise than I in determining what special steps need to be taken to enable you to participate fully.

### Academic Honesty

Unfortunately, it is necessary to remind everyone that academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Honesty and integrity is expected at all times. Cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to the College's guidelines. You are responsible for learning about these policies (<http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/academicintegrity/>), so that you can meet this responsibility. By participating in this course, *you agree to submit your assignments in digital form if requested*, enabling the instructor to ensure they are not plagiarized from other materials available on the Internet and elsewhere.

### Grading

Students taking the course on an A-F basis will be graded as follows:

- A – achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B – achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C – achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D – achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- S – achievement that is satisfactory (equivalent to a letter grade of at least C-).
- F – signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit (e.g., academic dishonesty, above), or (2) is incomplete, with no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an “I”.

I – Incompletes. A grade of incomplete may be awarded at the discretion of the instructor, if requested by the student, under the following conditions: 1) at least three-quarters of the required work for the course has been completed, 2) unforeseen circumstances beyond the student's control (usually restricted to illness or family emergency) preclude completion of the remaining work for the course by the semester deadline, 3) the student is not on strict academic probation. Note that poor planning or having a lot of work to complete at the end of the term are not, in fairness to other students, considered circumstances beyond a student's control.

Grades for the course will be assigned based on the following scale:

A 93-100%	B+ 87-89.9%	C+ 77-79.9%	D+ 67-69.9%	F 0-59%
A- 90-92.9%	B 83-86.9%	C 73-76.9%	D 60-66.9%	
	B- 80-82.9%	C- 70-72.9%		

### Assignments

In this course, you will be expected to submit three written assignments. Detailed instructions for the assignments will be handed out and discussed in class. All written assignments must be printed out and turned prior to class; no electronic submission will be accepted. It is your responsibility to ensure all the assignments are submitted on time.

### Grade Allocation and Deadlines

Class participation	8%	Attendance and in-class activities
Practicum 1: Urban experience	5%	Due 09/12 in class
Reflection Paper	2%	Due 10/05 in class
Practicum 2: Analysis of urban structures	10%	Due 10/10 in class
Mid-term exam	20%	10/12 in class
Practicum 3: Write about a city		
Presentation	10%	See course schedule for due dates
Paper	25%	Due 12/09 in class
Final exam	20%	12/13 in class

*These dates and deadlines are non-negotiable with the exception of extraordinary circumstances such as a personal or family medical emergency (in which case official documentation to the effect must be provided). Should you have any concerns regarding academic disputes, scholastic misconduct, or sexual harassment, you may contact the Office of Student Affairs located at 119 Weyerhaeuser Hall (Phone: 651-696-6220; Email: [studentaffairs@macalester.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@macalester.edu)), and the Academic Programs Office at 215 Weyerhaeuser Hall (Phone: 651-696-6036). The Office of Student Affairs and the Academic Programs Office websites, with the College's policies on these issues, are at*

<https://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/>

<http://www.macalester.edu/academicprograms/academicpolicies/>.

*See next page for course schedule.*

## Course Schedule

*Any suggestions that will enhance the learning are welcome.  
Please also note that the class schedule and readings may be subject to change.  
It is your responsibility to keep up with any changes.*

### 08/31: Course overview

No assigned reading.

### Topic 1: What is city?

### 09/02: Urban experience

Practicum 1: what is your urban experience?

### 09/05: Labor day; no class.

### 09/07, 09/09, 09/12 & 09/14: Urbanism, urbanization and urban issues

Wirth, L. 1938. Urbanism as a way of life, *American Journal of Sociology*, 44(1): 1-24.

Kleniewski, N. and Thomas, A. 2011. Examining urban issues, in *Cities, Changes and Conflicts*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 3-10.

Zeigler, D., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Brunn, S. 2012. World Urban Development, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 3-49. (chapter 1)

In-class documentary: Urbanized.

**[Practicum 1 due on 09/12 in class]**

### Topic 2: Urban theories

### 09/16, 09/19 & 09/21: Overview of Anglo-American urban theories and the world city hypothesis

Kleniewski, N. and Thomas, A. 2011. Theoretical perspectives on the city, in *Cities, Changes and Conflicts*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 21-46.

Friedmann, J. and Wolf, G. 2006. World city formation: an agenda for research and action, in Brenner, N. and Keil, R. (eds) *The Global City Reader*, Routledge, 57-66.

Friedmann J. 2006. The world city hypothesis, in Brenner, N. and Keil, R. (eds) *The Global City Reader*, Routledge, 67-71.

### 09/23 & 09/26: Applying urban theories

Practicum 2: Analysis of urban structures

### 09/28, 9/30 & 10/03: Mainstream views on global cities and third world cities

Sassen, S. 2005. The Global City: Introducing a Concept, *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, XI(2): 27-43.

Kleniewski, N. and Thomas, A. 2011. Cities in the developing world, in *Cities, Changes and Conflicts*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 143-164.

**[09/30: International round table: not meeting in class]**

10/05, 10/07 & 10/10: Critical approaches to comparative urban studies in the Global South

Robinson, J. 2002. Global and world Cities: A view from off the map, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 26: 531-554.

Roy, A. 2009. The 21st-Century metropolis: New geographies of theory, *Regional Studies*, 43(6): 819-830.

**[International roundtable reflection paper due on 10/05 in class]**

**[Practicum 2 due on 10/10 in class]**

**10/12: Mid-term exam**

Topic 2: Urbanization Patterns in different world regions

10/14 & 10/17: The convergence and divergence of global urbanization patterns: new theories, new methods?

Robinson, J. 2011. Cities in a world of cities: the comparative gesture, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(1): 1-23.

Sheppard, E., Leitner, H., and Maringanti, A. 2013. *Provincializing global urbanism: a manifesto*, *Urban Geography*, 34(7), 893-900.

10/19: Applying theories into practice

Introducing practicum 3: Write about a city

10/21: Fall break; no class

10/24 & 10/26: Research day

Each group will meet with Catherine separately in her office.

10/28, 10/31 & 11/02: Urban development and morphologies in the North America

Kleniewski, N. and Thomas, A. 2011. Urban development in the United States, in *Cities, Changes and Conflicts*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning: 71-93.

Kleniewski, N. and Thomas, A. 2011. Cities, suburbs and metropolitan areas, in *Cities, Changes and Conflicts*, Wadsworth Cengage Learning: 94-117.

Harvey, D. 1989. From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: The transformation in urban governance in late capitalism, *Geografiska Annaler, Series B, Human Geography*, 71(1): 3-17.

In-class documentary: Reinventing the City

11/04 & 11/07: Urban development in Europe

McCarthy, L. and Johnson, C. 2012. Cities of Europe, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 189-236. (chapter 5)

**[Practicum 3 presentations (European cities) on 11/02]**

11/09, 11/11 & 11/14: Urban development in Central, Caribbean and South America

Scarpaci, J., Escamilla, I. and Brothers, T. 2012. Cities of Middle America and the Caribbean, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 101-136. (chapter 3)

Hays-Mitchell, M. and Godfrey, B. 2012. Cities of South America, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 137-188. (chapter 4)

**[Practicum 3 presentations (Central and South American cities) on 11/09]**

11/16 & 11/18: Urban development in Africa

Myers, G., Owusu, F. and Subulwa, A. 2012. Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 331-380. (chapter 8)

**[Practicum 3 presentations (African cities) on 11/16]**

11/21, 11/28 & 11/30: Urban development in South and Southeast Asia

**[11/23 & 10/25: Thanksgiving break: no class]**

Chatterjee, I., Pomeroy, G. and Dutt, A. 2012. Cities of South Asia, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 381-424. (chapter 9)

Tyner, J. and Ortega, A. 2012. Cities of Southeast Asia, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 425-470. (chapter 10)

**[Practicum 3 presentations (South and Southeast Asian cities) on 11/30]**

12/02, 12/05 & 12/07: Urban development in East Asia

Chan, K. W. and Boland, A. 2012. Cities of East Asia, in Brunn, S., Hays-Mitchell, M., and Ziegler, D. (eds) *Cities of the World*, Rowman & Littlefield Education, 471-522 (chapter 11)

**[Practicum 3 presentations (East Asian cities) on 12/07]**

12/09: Concluding the course

Revisiting the following literatures:

Sheppard, E., Leitner, H., and Maringanti, A. 2013. *Provincializing global urbanism: a manifesto*, *Urban Geography*, 34(7), 893-900.

Robinson, J. 2011. Cities in a world of cities: the comparative gesture, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 35(1): 1-23.

Robinson, J. 2002. Global and world Cities: A view from off the map, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 26: 531-554.

Roy, A. 2009. The 21st-Century metropolis: New geographies of theory, *Regional Studies*, 43(6): 819-830.

**[Practicum 3 due on 12/09 in class]**

**12/13: Final exam**

10:30-12:30 am Main 009

(see details here: <http://www.macalester.edu/registrar/schedules/2016fall/finalexams/>)