



Syllabus

Geography of World Urbanization (GEOG 261), Fall 2022

MWF 9:40-10:40 in CARN 06A

Contact

Professor: **Jesse McClelland** *he/him* ... You can call me "Jesse"

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1-4 pm and by appointment
Office location: CARN 106
Email: jmcclell@macalester.edu



Teaching Assistant: **Catherine Driver** *she/they*
Office Hours: Thursdays from 6-8 pm or by appointment
Office location: Geography Department (CARN 104)
Email: cdriver@macalester.edu

Course Description

According to the UN, 56% of the world's people now live in cities. This scale of urbanization binds city living with many of the greatest challenges facing human and more-than-human life. At the same time, the causes and consequences of urbanization vary greatly across regions, countries, cultures and economies. In this course, we'll embrace this dynamism and complexity by comparing and contrasting urban situations around the world. We will apply theories and methods that make urban studies so fascinating in a global age.

4 credits. Counts toward Geography, Urban Studies and INTL designation.

Attendance required on first day of class (W 8/31).

Student Learning Outcomes

In this course, we'll be reading, writing, speaking, listening, analyzing, and otherwise investigating the urban scenes around us in order to...

- Identify, compare and contrast major urban development patterns today across world regions
- Define socio-economic, ethical, political, and environmental dimensions of key urban processes
- Describe key contributions of geographic thought to the study of urbanization and globalization

- Analyze urban development agendas from critical geographic perspective

Course Materials

No required textbook. Course materials available through Moodle

Articles, book chapters, web links, slide presentations, etc.

Course policies, values and expectations

- **Respect**

Let us found our learning community on respect – for each other, for our guests, for communities on and off campus, for the more-than-human beings around us, and the land on which we work.

Welcoming a diverse range of human perspectives, experiences and lifeways into scholarship is a vital part of the human geographic approach.

- **Active learning**

Each of us is unfinished. I expect thoughtful discussion, curiosity and intellectual risk-taking. I expect serious questions and challenges of texts and my own framings of issues and materials. You have a right in this class to feel how you feel, to change your mind, to be unsure, to make mistakes, to revisit assumptions, and to explore beliefs and perspectives that may be new.

- **Engagement**

I recognize that we live in busy and complex times and that sustained attention to detail can be a challenge. Find ways to make yourself available to learning, in and out of the classroom. When you clear your own path for successful learning, you help strengthen the engagement of others as well.

- **Classroom Culture**

Feel free to circulate and take a bathroom break. Cell phones off. Drinks allowed. Since we are following masking protocols (and these may change), please do not eat when we are together indoors. Share any special concerns beyond these with Jesse.

- **Absences**

I am not going to be too concerned about absences if I count up to 4 absences from regular class meetings. Absences can also be excused. If you can foresee an absence, please let me know. Excused absences might be because of an approved college activity, illness/personal emergency, caretaking emergencies, a funeral, a religious observance, or sometimes as part of DS accommodations. Unexcused absences might include vacations or problems with travel to campus, celebrations like weddings and graduations, having a bad day, or work shifts.

- **Regular study**

Syllabus of *Geography of World Urbanization* (GEOG 261), Fall 2022

Expect to spend about 2-3 hours of work for each credit hour for the course (i.e. 8-12 hours a week). Use your calendar and make study or writing or reading or research “dates” with yourself. Then stick to them as you would a work obligation or professional meeting.

- **Turning in Work**

All assignments should be turned in on Moodle. Typically, one workweek day late will mean a 10% grade reduction (i.e. turning in an assignment due on a Friday on a Monday would typically result in a 10% grade reduction.) Assignment prompts may go into further detail.

- **Academic integrity**

As in every course at the College, you will be expected to follow [college policies on academic honesty/integrity](#). Recall that “Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty in their college work. Forgery, cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and students found guilty of any form of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary action.” As your Professor, I am obligated to report academic dishonesty. Please ask me (or the MAX Center) to help sort out related questions.

- **Student responsibilities**

- Be on time. This ongoing commitment clarifies purpose and shows respect to others.
- Be prepared to discuss relevant assigned materials and coursework.
- Complete work on time; if necessary, approach Jesse for extensions well before due date.
- Always cite sources properly

- **Professor and TA responsibilities**

- I will produce and help us to maintain a respectful, productive, inclusive, and thought-provoking learning environment.
- I will be on-time and prepared to teach. The Professor and the TAs will be available to meet during regular office hours or by appointment.
- We will provide accessible, timely grading and feedback to enhance your learning.

- **Disability Services**

I am committed to ensuring access to course content for all students, including those with disabilities. If you have a disability, please consider meeting with me early in the semester to discuss your accommodation plan. If you have not yet obtained a plan or if you are unsure if you have a disability that requires accommodation, please email disabilityservices@macalester.edu, or call 651-696-6275.

Assignments, Grades and Grading Policies

- **Calendar of assignments and point values**

DUE DATE	COURSE COMPONENT	POINTS
<i>Ongoing</i>	In-class Participation	40

Syllabus of *Geography of World Urbanization* (GEOG 261), Fall 2022

M 9/12	Essay: Sensing the City	20
M 9/26	Analyzing Urban Regions (Take-home Quiz)	30
M 10/17	Field Trip Reflection	20
M 11/14	Group Project on Global Urban Policy	
M 11/21	Part 1 (Topic Proposal)	10
M 11/21	Part 2 (Annotations)	10
MWorF, Week 15	Part 3 (Group Presentation)	50
W 12/14	Reflection	20
	TOTAL	200 Possible Points

- **Grading Scale**

Go to [Moodle](#) for grades and comments on your work. Cut the raw grade of up to 200 *Possible Points* in half for a maximum 100 percentage points, and find the corresponding letter grades here.

A (93-100%)	A- (90-92.99%)	B+ (87-89.99%)	B (83-86.99%)	B- (80-82.99%)
C+ (77-79.99%)	C (73-76.99%)	C- (70-72.99%)	D+ (67-69.99%)	D (63-66.99%)
D- (60-62.99%)	F (0-59.99%)			

Taking the course pass/fail is also an option and while you can discuss that possibility with me, you do not need to disclose your preference to me. It will make no difference in evaluation.

You have a right to have your questions answered when grading and feedback seem unclear. Beyond this, if you ever feel you have been graded unfairly, you should approach Jesse in the following way. Wait 24 or 48 hours after receiving a grade that you think is unjustifiable. Revisit grade and comments with a view to the Assignment Prompt and this Syllabus. Write a short email detailing your concern and share a range of times to meet.

Weekly Calendar & Reading Schedule

Syllabus of *Geography of World Urbanization* (GEOG 261), Fall 2022

Week 1	Course Introduction / Encountering Cities	Wed 8/31: Personal Introductions & Course Introduction. Read: Syllabus. Fri 9/2: Degen (2014) "The Everyday City of the Senses"
Week 2 Week 3	Urban Forms and Models	<i>M 9/5: No class meeting (Labor Day)</i> Wed 9/7: Park & Burgess (1925) "The Growth of the City," from <i>The City</i> Fri 9/9: Berry (1961) "City Size Distributions and Economic Development" Mon 9/12: Soja (1989) "Taking Los Angeles Apart: Towards a Postmodern Geography," from <i>Postmodern Geographies</i> <i>DUE: Essay on Sensing the City (10%)</i> Wed 9/14: Derudder et al. (2017) Global City, World City Fri 9/16: Gandy (2014) Where Does the City End?
Week 4	Drawing the Line	Mon 9/19 and Wed 9/21: Jacobs (1961 [rep. 1992]) "Visual Order: its limitations and possibilities" from <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i> Fri 9/23: Çelik (2008) "Transforming Urban Fabrics" from <i>Empire, Architecture, and the City: French-Ottoman Encounters, 1830-1914</i> .
Week 5	Verticality and social class	Mon 9/26 Graham and Hewitt (2012) Getting off the ground: On the politics of urban verticality <i>DUE: Analyzing Urban Regions (Take-Home Quiz) (15%)</i> Wed 9/28 Weeks (2007) "Can we spot a neighborhood from the air? Defining neighborhood structure in Accra, Ghana" Fri 9/30 99% <i>Invisible Podcast</i> (2021) "Beneath the Skyway"
Week 6	Informalities	Mon 10/3: Personal narrative of Gentile Yarusso <i>Other readings TBD</i> Wed 10/5: Field Trip to Payne / Phalen neighborhood, Saint Paul Fri 10/7: Wacquant et al. (2014) Territorial Stigmatization in Action

Syllabus of *Geography of World Urbanization* (GEOG 261), Fall 2022

<p>Week 13</p>		<p>Mon 11/21 Group Project: Workshop mode</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Due: Part 2 of Group Project (5pm)</p> <p><i>Wed 11/23 and Fri 11/25: No class (Thanksgiving Break)</i></p>
<p>Week 14</p>		<p>Mon 11/28 Group Project: Workshop mode</p> <p>Wed 11/30 Group Project: Workshop mode</p> <p>Fri 12/2 Group Project: Workshop mode</p>
<p>Week 15</p>		<p>Mon 12/5 Group Project: Presentations</p> <p>Wed 12/7 Group Project: Presentations</p> <p>Fri 12/9 Group Project: Presentations</p>
<p>Finals Week</p>		<p>Sat 12/10 - Mon 12/12: Study Days</p> <p>Tue 12/13 - Fri 12/16: Final Exam Period</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W 12/14 Due: Reflection</p>