

**School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP)
University of British Columbia
DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE**

Course Number	PLAN 509
Course Credit(s)	2.0
Course Title	Urbanism as a Global Way of Life
Term	2018-2019 Winter Term 2
Dates	January 28th to April 8, 2019
Day/Time	Monday

Instructor	Neal LaMontagne
Office	
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Office Hours	

Short Course Description

This course is structured around the intersection of two essential themes that shape the theory and practice of planning in our world today: the shift to an increasingly urban world, and the expansion of interconnectivities between places, referred to as globalization, which has had such an important influence on the nature of urbanism around the world.

Course Format

The course is structured as a lecture course supplemented with facilitated discussion, group work, and presentations by students.

Course Overview, Content and Objectives

Study of the city has long been an important component of a planning education, since the city is both the object of and context for so much of planning practice. Yet how we look at and understand cities has shifted considerably over the years. Even though Louis Wirth in his seminal essay, *Urbanism as a Way of Life* (1938), asserted that urbanism – i.e. the condition of urban existence and the intrinsic qualities of urban society – was no longer specifically bound to the city itself, it is only in recent years that the expansion of the urban beyond the city has now come to be understood as a fundamental characteristic of our “urban age.” Such an interpretation of the urban is reflective as well of the increasing interconnectivities through advanced globalization and the continuing, though uneven, urban transitions being experienced by societies throughout the world.

This course fulfills the Structure and Function of Human Settlements knowledge component as established and required for program accreditation by the Canadian planning accreditation body, the Professional Standards Board (PSB). The course also fulfills overall academic objectives of the MCRP program by ensuring that students understand the history and consequences of the shift in human settlements towards greater global urbanization; the effects of this shift on community, regional, and global sustainability; and the complexities of the contemporary interrelationship of human communities with their historical, social, political, economic, and environmental contexts in a rapidly globalizing world.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student will be:

Familiar with basic concepts of urban theory, particularly historical and contemporary interpretations of the city and the nature of urban life, as well as current thinking regarding urban transitions and their societal implications.

Knowledgeable of debates and perspectives on globalization and its implications for understanding urbanization and urban planning practice.

Aware of the importance of the interconnectivities that define the urban (including linkages to hinterlands, long-distance trade, network relationships, etc.), with a sense of the influence these have on planning practice.

Knowledgeable and critical of the articulation of difference in global urban society and of current attempts at resolving dichotomies (between, for example, the global north and the global south),

Engaged in forward thinking that gets to the idea that future urbanism could be something quite different from what we have experienced in the past, and therefore requires the establishment of new approaches to planning practice.

Attendance

Attendance is required in all classes at UBC and in group work with other students.

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

Term assignments will consist of:

- A group project on urban trends assessment, utilizing data from the World Urbanization Prospects Data Set (<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/>) and other sources.
- An individual assignment to write a 1,500-2,000 word review of a book chosen from a list of classic and recent books dealing with urbanization and urban theory.

Group project

Each group will undertake an analysis of historic and contemporary growth patterns for two or more cities in different world regions, including demographic, spatial and economic analysis, among other indicators of urbanization and development, and based on a series of common scenarios, develop projections for future change in these cities.

Evaluation of this assignment will be based on:

- The quality of data analysis
- Thoroughness with which the scenarios are examined
- Feasibility of policy recommendations derived from the analysis
- Quality of the group presentation

Individual assignment/book review

Evaluation will be based on:

- The student's insight in understanding and explaining their chosen book
- How well they are able to link the materials in the book to particular substantive themes of the course
- The quality of their writing

In addition, students are required to attend all classes and are expected to participate in and contribute to class discussions.

Grading criteria

Class participation:	5%
Group project:	50%
Book review:	45%
Total:	100%

Required Readings

- Amin, A and Graham, S. (1997) 'The Ordinary City', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 22: 411-429
- Angel, Shlomo, "An Arterial Grid of Dirt Roads," *Cities*, 25, 2008, pp. 146-162.
- Baross, Paul, "Sequencing Land Development: The Price Implications of Legal and Illegal Settlement Growth," in Baross, P. and van der Linden, J., *The Transformation of Land Supply Systems in Third World Cities*, Aldershot: Gower Publishing, 1990, pp. 57-82.
- Butler, T. and Lees, L. (2006) 'Supergentrification in Barnsbury, London: globalization and gentrifying global elites at the neighbourhood level', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 31: 467-487.
- Friedmann, John, 2010, "Place and Place-Making in Cities: A Global Perspective," *Planning Theory & Practice*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 149–165, June 2010.
- Gandy, Matthew, "Planning, Anti-planning and the Infrastructure Crisis Facing Metropolitan Lagos," *Urban Studies*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (February 2006), pp. 371-396.
- Harris, A. (2008) 'From London to Mumbai and Back again: Gentrification and public policy in comparative context', *Urban Studies* 45: 2407-2428.
- Krätke, S. (2014) 'Cities in Contemporary Capitalism', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 38: 1660-1677.
- McDowell, L. (2015) 'The Lives of Others: body work, the production of difference, and labor geographies', *Economic Geography* 91: 1-23.
- McGranahan, Gordon, "Urban Transitions and the Spatial Displacement of Environmental Burdens," in Marcotullio, Peter J and Gordon McGranahan (eds), *Scaling Urban Environmental Challenges: From Local to Global and Back*, London: Earthscan, 2007, pp. 18-44.
- McRobbie, A. (1997) 'Bridging the Gap: feminism, fashion and consumption', *Feminist Review* 55: 73-89.
- Pratt, A.C. and Hutton, T.A. (2013) 'Reconceptualising the Relationship between the Cultural Economy and the City', *Cities* 33: 86-95.
- Robinson, Jennifer, "Global and World Cities: A View from off the Map," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 26, 3, 2002, pp. 531-54.
- Roy, Ananya, 2005, "Urban Informality: Toward an Epistemology of Planning," *Journal of the American Planning Association*; Spring 2005; 71, 2; pg. 147-158.
- Scott, A.J. (1997) 'The Cultural Economy of Cities', *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 21: 323-339.
- Shatkin Gavin, 2008, "The city and the bottom line: urban megaprojects and the privatization of planning in Southeast Asia," *Environment and Planning A*, 40 (2), 383-401.

Smith, N. (2002) 'New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as global urban strategy', *Antipode* 34: 427-450.

Williams, C. (2015) 'Informal Economies', Chapter 8 in: Ronan Paddison and Tom Hutton (eds.), *Cities and Economic Change: Restructuring and dislocations in the global metropolis*. London and Thousand oaks, CA [pp. 108-123]

Wirth, Louis, 1938, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," *The American Journal of Sociology*, 44, no. 1, pp. 1-24.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Intro: Contextualizing the Urban in Time and Space

Week 2: Connectivities: the City as an Ecosystem and a Social System

Week 3: Globalization, Transnationalism and Gentrification

Week 4: Land and the Spatiality of the Urban

Week 5: The Urban Economy: Restructuring and Change

Week 6: Urban Livelihoods and Labour Markets

Week 7: Governance, Place ... and Informality

Week 8: Group Project Presentations

Special Needs

Please inform the Instructors as soon as possible if you have special needs and require accommodation of any kind. Please visit <http://www.students.ubc.ca/access/> for more information on campus resources.

UBC has numerous research, pedagogical and health resources available to students. These include the Koerner and Main Libraries' Resource Desks, Centre for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, the UBC Writing Centre, Student Health Services, UBC Access and Diversity (Brock Hall), Graduate Student Society (GSS), Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies (FGPS) and UBC Student Counselling Services. Please make use of these resources or contact the instructor if you have any questions. Students new to UBC are especially encouraged to become familiar with the [broad spectrum of resources](#) that UBC provides.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred to the President's Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Careful records are

kept in order to monitor and prevent recurrences. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University's policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at <http://calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>.