

# **GEOG 2165 Patterns of World Urbanization, Fall 2019**

## **Course logistics**

Meeting time MWF, 1:25 – 2:15 pm, McEniry 123  
Instructor Minrui Zheng, [mzheng2@uncc.edu](mailto:mzheng2@uncc.edu), McEniry 306  
Office hours Wednesday and Friday 2:30 – 4:00 pm or by appointment  
Prerequisites No prerequisites for this course

## **Introduction**

GEOG 2165. *Patterns of World Urbanization. Introduction to cities of the world including examination of cities within different culture areas as well as the internal structure of different cities within the context of traditional and innovation theories of development.*

Humanity passed a major milestone in its history with more than half the world's population now living in cities. Cities are not only places where the majority of us live, but also exert profound influence on socioeconomic, cultural, political, and environmental dimensions of global development at various geographical scales. Understanding cities and urbanization therefore becomes crucial for coping with globalization and environmental changes as well as achieving sustainable development.

This course will introduce basic concepts about world urbanization, discuss similarities and differences of urban settlements in different parts of the world, and illustrate benefits/issues associated with cities and urbanization. We will discuss urban patterns at various geographical scales, ranging from external relationships between cities to internal structure within cities.

This course takes an integrated global, regional, systematic approach, by which some of the most recognized cities in the U.S. and other parts of the world will be used as case studies to illustrate urban issues and challenges against global trends.

## **Materials**

### **Required Textbook**

S.D. Brunn, M. Hays-Mitchell & D.J. Ziegler, 2016. *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers: Toronto. ISBN-13: 978-1442249165. You can buy this book from Amazon or book stores.

### **Other readings**

Additional reading may be assigned through Canvas (<https://canvas.uncc.edu/>).

## **Course Objectives**

### **Knowledge competencies**

This course aims to provide an analytical framework for understanding cities. Upon successful completion of this course, you will demonstrate knowledge of:

- Concepts about cities and global development

- Geographic locations and characteristics of major urban settlements
- Major similarities and differences of cities in each world region
- Common urban issues as well as their potential solutions

### **Speaking competencies**

This course is designed as an Oral Communication course, and students will develop their skills in making public presentations. Upon successful completion of this course, you will demonstrate the ability to:

- Organize information in a logical manner
- Plan an outline that clearly and concisely describes their presentation
- Know the flow of an oral presentation
- Formulate presentations that engage the audience
- Provide constructive feedback through interpersonal skills
- Adapt to difficult situations

### **Assessment and Grades**

A total of 100 points will be possible for this class. In order to earn the maximum number of points, you will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Activity	Total points	Grade scale
I. Attendance	15	A = 90 – 100
II. In-class activities	15	B = 80 – 89
III. Presentation	50	C = 70 – 79
IV. Midterm progress report	20	D = 60 - 69

### **How will my grade be calculated?**

#### **I. Attendance and Participation – maximum 15 points**

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is allowed to miss three classes for any reason. For each additional unexcused absence, 2 points will be taken off the grade. Participation is different from the attendance, it is about the quality of your contribution to our learning community.

#### **II. In-class activities – maximum 15 points**

In-class activities include quizzes and discussions. These quizzes will be very short and will test on topics covered during the previous class time. They will also serve as a proof of presence, so be on time, don't miss the quiz! Discussions include case study discussions and group discussions.

#### **III. Presentation – maximum 50 points**

1. Each of you will have four assignments that build off each other to create a polished final presentation. The criteria for the presentations will be discussed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> class. You are required to select your top two choices for cities on the 4<sup>th</sup> class. If a choice is not made by the deadline, you will be assigned a random city among those available. The date will be the one listed in the tentative schedule and depends on the region where your city is located.

The goal of this course is to help create a process for making presentations. Unfortunately, creating interesting presentations is not a spectator sport. In order to make presentations that keep the audiences' attention, you must practice. Therefore, you will be provided multiple opportunities to refine the presentation skills before standing in front of the class.

## 2. Presentation tasks

<i>Presentation Task</i>	<i>Total points</i>
<i>Group Practice</i>	10
<i>2 Individual Classroom Presentations (15 mins)</i>	30
<i>Presentation Critique</i>	10
<i>Total Points</i>	50

### 2.1. Group Practice

For an effective individual presentation, a rehearsal presentation is important. The instructor will assign students to different presentation groups (4 students per group). Each group member has an opportunity to practice his/her presentation. Other three group members will offer a review of his/her presentation.

### 2.2. Two Individual Classroom Presentations

- Each presentation will be 10 minutes (+/- 1 minute), followed by 5 minutes for Q&As.
- Please prepare and practice to present in a smooth manner and within your allocated time. Prewriting down and then reading your entire presentation are not recommended in this class. Please use visual aids and do not read from your PowerPoint slides.
- You are expected to conduct limited research to feed into your presentation, and discuss materials beyond the textbook. It is highly recommended that you could use other professional sources (e.g., research papers, and government summary reports) as your presentation references.
- Your presentation should be supported with sound research. Your presentation must include at least 10 references. Web searches (e.g., Wikipedia and About.com) may be useful in identifying most updated facts and illustrations, but **web searches alone do not count as academic references**.
- You should curb the temptation to include too many materials, and try to focus on getting your main points across, i.e., the take-home messages.
- As a rule of thumb, a 10-minute talk should use about 10-15 slides. However, this may vary, as some slides require 2-3 minutes to elaborate while others may take only 20-30 seconds.

Your presentation and related research should cover **MOST** of the following aspects.

(1) Background socioeconomic, cultural, environmental, and political features of your city. These include: a. site and situation; b. population dynamics: growth rates, source of change; c. economic sectors, d. environmental conditions.

(2) How is your city representative of the world region in which it locates? Identify major commonality and differences.

You are encouraged to creatively weave these basic features into your take on the

following questions, rather than presenting them in a separate section in the presentation. Your presentation should also address **ONE** of the three following questions:

(1) What is your city's position within the national, regional, and global urban systems?

You should at least address the following sub-questions: How does your city rank nationally, regionally, and globally in terms of GDP, population, livability or other metrics? What are its major connections to other cities? Is the city fully integrated into the global urban system or staying as the "backwaters" of intercity connections?

You are encouraged to consider the antecedences and consequences of these internal urban structures; such as why does this city obtain its position in the urban system, and how do external intercity relationships affect the development as well as internal structure of your city?

(2) What are the characteristics of your city's internal structure?

You should at least discuss (1) the city's (internal) morphological structure (e.g., house types, building lots, and street layout; environment), (2) social-cultural structure (e.g., ethnic distributions, social well beings), and (3) economic structure (e.g., economic sectors; location of different economic activities and other urban functions).

You are encouraged to think through the antecedences and consequences of these internal urban structures, as well as the interactions between morphological, social-cultural, and economic structures.

(3) For your city, what are the major issues/challenges in the near future?

You should at least (1) identify the origin, development, and current status of the selected issue (e.g., public health, education, crime, waste and utilities, and employment); (2) summarize how the selected issue/challenge is different from similar issue/challenge faced by other cities in the same cultural region; (3) identify possible solutions.

### 2.3. Presentation Critique

Each presenter will be assigned with one classmate (appointed by the instructor; i.e., reviewer hereafter) who will offer a review of his/her presentation. The presenter will be required to send the slides to his/her reviewer and to the instructor at least two days before the presentation.

The reviewer should ask two questions based on the contents of the presentation and submit a one-page critique of the presentation **no later than 2 days** after the presentation day. The critique should contain an analysis of the important contexts and themes of the presentation and any sort of aspects that should have been discussed in greater detail. The reviewer must be present during the speech and submit the critique on time to earn full points for this part. Reviewers are encouraged to posit constructive feedbacks and questions in order to earn the full 5 points.

3. The cities on which you may present are as follows:

- North America: New York City, Vancouver, New Orleans, and Montreal
- Europe: Barcelona, Paris, Vienna, Rome, and Moscow

- East Asia: Taipei, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Seoul, and Tokyo
- Latin America: Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Havana, and Buenos Aires
- South Asia: Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, and Karachi
- Southeast Asia & Australia: Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, Melbourne, and Sydney.

**IV. Midterm progress report – Maximum 20 points**

You are required to write and submit one midterm progress report during the semester. In this report, you need to write:

- the city name of your final presentation
- brief description of your final presentation
- the timeline for work plan
- difficulties or problems that you are experiencing (if you have)
- draft/outline of your final presentation
- academic references you will use (**web searches alone do not count as academic references**)

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity**

All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity (<http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407>), and The Code of Student Responsibility (<http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-406>). Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code.

**University’s Policy on Accommodations**

UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office in Fretwell 230.

**Changes to the Syllabus**

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by the announcement in class or through Canvas.

**Tentative Schedule**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Reading</b>
Introduction	Course overview	Chapter 1
	Introduction to World Urbanization	
	Basic concepts and definitions	
	Key urban issues and challenges	

	Oral presentation guidelines	
Cities of North America	Background	Chapter 2
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Case study and discussion	
	Presentation 1	
Cities of Latin America	Background	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Case study and discussion/ Invited talk	
	Presentation 2	
Cities of Europe	Background	Chapter 5
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Case study and discussion	
	Presentation 3	
Cities of Russia	Background	Chapter 6
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Discussion/Invited talk	
	Presentation 4	
Cities of East Asia	Background	Chapter 11
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Case study and discussion	
	Presentation 5	
Cities of South Asia	Background	Chapter 9
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Discussion/Invited talk	
	Presentation 6	
Cities of Southeast Asia Cities of Australia and Pacific Island	Background	Chapter 10
	Models of urban structure	Chapter 12
	Urban challenges	
	Case study and discussion	
	Presentation 7	
Cities of Sub-Saharan Africa	Background	Chapter 8
	Models of urban structure	
	Urban challenges	
	Discussion/Invited talk	
	Presentation 8	



Tentative Presentation Grading Rubric

City:

Presenter:

Reviewer:

Time length:

<b>Delivery (30%)</b>			
	Exemplary (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Unsatisfactory (1)
<b>Engagement</b> – is delivery (eye contact, posture, volume, pace) appropriate?			
<b>Articulation</b> – are ideas/key points clearly expressed?			
<b>Handling of questions</b> – are properly handle Q&A?			
<b>Timing</b> – Do you demonstrate time management skills and finish within the limit?			
<b>Organization (30%)</b>			
<b>Structure</b> – does the presentation have a clear and logical structure, such as opening, main body, and conclusion			
<b>Graphics/Visual aids</b> – are visual aids relevant and effective?			
<b>Citations/References</b> – is the information appropriately sourced?			
<b>Content (40%)</b>			
<b>Representation</b> – how accurately is your city portrayed?			
<b>City features</b> – how are site, situation, and urbanization creatively incorporated in the presentation?			
<b>Challenge</b> – how do you present your city’s challenge and offer potential solutions?			



