Welcome to GEOG/URPL 305. Although cities have existed for over five thousand years, only in the past decade has the majority of the world’s population begun to reside in urban areas. This fundamental shift in settlement patterns worldwide means that right now is an important and exciting time to study urban geography. This course will provide an overview of the field of urban geography by first tracing the history of urbanization around the world and then by engaging with contemporary urban issues in Europe and North America as well as in the Global South. We will approach cities by thinking about the various cultural, political, and economic processes that have produced contemporary cities and are still changing urban environments today. We will consider both similarities and differences between cities, across time and space, and patterns within particular individual cities. In doing so, this course will emphasize the role cities play as important nodes in the processes of capitalism and globalization.

Course Structure:

A four-week intensive summer course provides us with some interesting opportunities and challenges. The opportunities come from the amount of time we will be able to spend each day thinking about urban issues. Given this, I have organized the course into three units, which are spread over the first three weeks of class. The first week of the course will consist mostly of lectures as I provide an introduction to the field of urban geography. We will also think about the history of urbanization and the role of capitalism and globalization in this process. The second week of the course will focus exclusively on urban issues in the United States and Western Europe. Although I will give several short lectures, most of the class time during the second week will be devoted to discussions, debates, guest speakers, and films. We will then spend the entire third week of the course on non-Western urbanism because that is where the most rapid contemporary urbanization is occurring. This week will follow the same format as the previous week on Europe and North America with short lectures interspersed with discussions and films. The final week of the course has been reserved for student presentations and a review of the substantive material presented during the first three weeks. This format will allow us to gain a broad overview of urban geography and urbanization processes while delving specifically into a few selected issues in contemporary cities.

The challenges of the four week format come from the accelerated pace. I implore you not to treat this class as you would a normal semester long course. Instead, it should occupy the same amount of time per day as all five of your courses together during a
regular semester. I realize, however, that is not productive to overload you with readings and assignments. Instead, I ask you to keep up with the informative, but relatively light, readings assigned for each day of class. Falling behind should not be an option because it will be almost impossible to catch back up given the intensive nature of the course.

Course Requirements:

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<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Important date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term quiz</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Thursday June 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>City profile paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Thursday June 15th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Monday June 19th</td>
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<td>or Tuesday 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Thursday June 22nd</td>
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**Participation** (15 points): In this course there will be a mix of lectures and open class discussions. Consequently, a significant portion of the course grade will be determined by your participation in the class. Although I will not take attendance, since this is a small class, I will certainly notice if you are absent. Additionally, due to the intensive nature of the class in the summer, missing a single day is the equivalent of missing an entire week during a regular semester. Therefore, please try to attend every day, and if you have to miss a class, send me an email letting me know ahead of time.

**Mid-term Quiz** (20 points): A mid-term quiz will be given at the end of the second week of the course. It will cover all of the material presented in class and in the readings to that point.

**City Profile Paper** (25 points): Each student will write a 5-page, double-spaced, city report on a non-American city. A list of potential cities is attached to this syllabus. In class, each student will select a city from the list in order to ensure that everyone is working on a different city. However, if you would prefer to work on a city not on the list please email me today and explain your choice. These reports should follow the format of the city profiles that run regularly in the academic journal, Cities. This journal is available electronically through the UW library website. Recent profiles of Luanda, Angola; Dubai, UAE; and La Paz, Bolivia will be provided via email as examples. The paper will be due in class on Thursday, June 15th.

**Class Presentation** (15 points): During the last week of class each student will give a 10-15 minute presentation to the rest of the class on their city. In the presentation you should begin by detailing basic demographic facts and outlining important events in the history of your city. Then you should provide further information that situates your city in its national, regional, and global context. You should be particularly mindful of the role your city plays in political, cultural, and economic processes at these different scales. These presentations will occur in class on Monday, June 19th and Tuesday, June 20th.
**Final Exam** (25 points): The final exam will be given in class on Thursday, June 22\textsuperscript{nd}. It will cover all of the readings, lectures, and discussions from the entire course. The day before the final we will devote a full class period to an overview of the course and exam review.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Distribution</th>
<th>Points:</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
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<td>AB</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59</td>
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**Course Texts:**

There is one required text for this course, which is available for purchase at the Rainbow Bookstore (426 W. Gilman, just off of State Street):


Although there is a copy available in the geography library, I strongly recommend that you purchase this book because there will be readings from it for almost every class. Any additional reading materials will be distributed either in class or via email.
Course Schedule and Readings:

**Week 1 (May 30-31, June 1): Introduction to Urban Geography**

*Tuesday:* Course Introduction

*Wednesday:* Key concepts in urban geography, early history of urbanization

Read chapters 1, 2, and 3 (pp. 39-50).

*Thursday:* Capitalism and the city, globalization, local-global processes

Read chapters 3 (pp. 51-69) and chapter 4 (pp. 71-79).

**Week 2 (June 5-8): Urbanization in Europe and North America**

*Monday:* Contemporary European and North American cities

Read chapters 4 (pp. 79-93) and 5 (pp. 96-102; 105-112).

*Tuesday:* Representations of Paris


*Wednesday:* Public housing, gentrification, urban entrepreneurship in Chicago

*Guest Speaker:* Maureen McLachlan

Read Chapter 10 (pp. 207-218), Chapter 11 (pp. 228-238), and Lloyd, R. and Clark, T. 2001. ‘The city as an entertainment machine’ *Critical Perspectives on Urban Redevelopment* 6 (pp. 357-378).

*Thursday:* Mid-term quiz; Walking field trip through Madison
Week 3 (June 12-15): Urbanization in the ‘Global South’

Monday: Globalization and non-Western urbanism
Read chapter 5 (pp. 102-105; 112-121) and Chapter 21.

Tuesday: Rural-urban migration and slums
Read chapter 23; Davis, M. 2004. ‘Planet of Slums’ New Left Review 26: 5-34.

Wednesday: Postcolonial urban planning; Brasília

Thursday: Urban children in Bombay
Film – Salaam, Bombay! (1987)

**City profile paper due in class**

Week 4 (June 19-22): Cities of the World

Monday: Presentations of city reports

Tuesday: Presentations of city reports

Wednesday: Course overview and final review

Thursday: Final exam

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