URBS V3565 Cities in Developing Countries: Problems and Prospects

Course Description
This is a limited enrollment course. Priority is given to declared Urban Studies majors: seniors, juniors, then sophomores. Remaining spots are reserved for seniors and juniors in related majors. This course will examine different facets of urban planning in cities of developing countries. We will begin by studying common problems in developing urban regions gaining an understanding of common settlement patterns and urban systems by region. We will also focus on specific issues in representative cities of the regions studied. Specific issues will include water and sanitation, health, transportation and infrastructure, historic preservation, disaster risk reduction and housing initiatives. Our cases will include representative cities from Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Students will be asked to analyze a particular urban problem in a developing city as a semester-long research project, culminating in a final research paper.

Course requirements
- Weekly response paper - Each week, students are required to submit a one-page critical response to the required readings by Sunday evening 5pm via the class Courseworks site. 25%
- Student-led discussions - In pairs, students will present a city profile, class readings, and prepare five questions for class discussion. 20%
- Term research paper (20-25 pages) - Students will focus on a particular urban issue in a city of their choosing not covered in the course readings. Introduction to topic, research question, and detailed outline of the proposed research paper must be submitted for approval on February 17th.
  o As the midterm assignment, students will write half of the research paper and present preliminary research in class on March 10th. 20%
  o Final presentations on the research papers will begin April 22nd. Students will submit their final papers on May 5th 30%
- Class participation 5%

Required reading
Required reading assignments due the following week will be available via the class courseworks site under Files.

Student Learning Objectives
Students who successfully complete this course will achieve the following student learning objectives:
1. Apply basic skills of empirical reasoning to an urban problem.
2. Articulate a well-defined research question, conduct independent research using primary sources and a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches, and write a substantive research paper.
3. Communicate ideas effectively in written and oral form.

Course schedule
January 27: Course Introduction
February 3: World Urban Development
February 10: Middle America & Caribbean, Air pollution in Mexico City
February 17: South America, TransMilenio Bogota
February 24: South America, Favelas in Rio de Janeiro Research topic, question, outline due
March 3: Greater Middle East, Disaster Resistant Istanbul
March 10: Midterm presentations, half paper due
March 17: Spring Recess
March 24: South Asia, Economic Development in Bengaluru
March 31: Sub-Saharan Africa, Water and Sanitation in Dakar
April 7: Southeast Asia, Historic Preservation in Hue
April 14: East Asia, Planning for Growth in Urban China
April 21: Trip to United Nations
April 28: Final Presentations
May 5: Final Presentations Final paper due
Weekly readings for Cities in Developing Countries

**Bangalore:**

**Bogotá:**

**Huế:**

**İstanbul:**


**México, D. F.:**

**Sénégal:**


**China:**