

GEO 260 Urban Geography

Shadow Cities



DETAILS

Spring 2019
Mondays & Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:45
Building D Room 104

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The best way to contact me is to email me.
Title your email GEO 260

DESCRIPTION

We are in the midst of an urban revolution. For the first time in history, the majority of the human population lives in urban areas. However, the vast majority of this urbanized population resides in cityscapes that are likely wholly unfamiliar to someone reading this course description. Most of Earth's urban residents do not live in cities with traffic lights, sidewalks, subway systems, or even sewage systems. One in five people live in what are characterized as slum conditions. By 2050 it is estimated to be one in three. Much of the urban world is anarchic. Informal urbanization is by definition urban growth without land use codes, zoning codes, building codes, business codes, licensing authorities, sanitation authorities, or real estate boards. As the twenty first century marches on, billions of independent land use decisions, and real estate transactions are remaking Earth into a

planet of slums. This course surveys this phenomenon. The first half of the semester outlines the cultural and structural underpinnings of informal development patterns. The second half of the semester contextualizes these theoretical underpinnings in the lived experiences of slum dwellers of the Global South.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Have learned fundamental geographical concepts and theories.
2. Have improved their reading comprehension skills.
3. Be comfortable using geographical terminology in written and verbal discourse.
4. Be able to think, write, and argue critically about informal development.
5. Have gained insight into how urban slums are coproduced by political systems, economic systems, and cultural complexes.
6. Have learned to recognize the relationships between formal planning and informal development.
7. Have gained and appreciation for the everyday trials and tribulations along with the extraordinary successes and failures of the urban poor.

READING

Required Book

Katherine Boo (2012) *Behind the Beautiful Forevers - Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity*

Additional Readings

Mike Davis (2007) *Planet of Slums*

I will post on AIMS readings selected from my library.

ASSESSMENT

Reading/Multimedia Quizzes	30
Seminar Papers	20
Seminar Participation	10
Midterm Exam	20
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Points Possible	100

Reading/Multimedia Quizzes

In order to encourage a collective and deep engagement with the assignments throughout the semester and to facilitate robust seminar discussions to which each student contributes, I will post a study guide on AIMS each week. Each week there will be an in-class quiz that will assess both comprehension and critical thinking. Reading/multimedia responses comprise nearly one third of a student's final grade. Therefore keeping current with the assignments is essential to earning high marks in this class.

Seminar Papers

The presentation of seminar papers will form the basis of seminar sessions. To help students craft seminar papers, I will provide each student with a RAFT (Role, Audience, Format, Task). In other words, I will indicate what Role I want you to assume as the author. I will indicate

the Audience to which I would like you to address your essay. I will remind you of the Format I expect. And I will give you a Task to accomplish with your paper.

On days their seminar papers are due, students will also be responsible for presenting their paper to the class. The presentation style is open and therefore may include mini-lectures, projected slides, handouts, group work, among other means of communicating and wrestling with ideas. At least two discussion questions, posed to the rest of the class are required of all presentations.

Seminar papers and presentations will be graded in accordance with the grading rubric posted on AIMS.

Seminar Participation

The consistent attendance and engaged participation of each student is essential to the success of seminars.

I will maintain a log detailing each student's engagement in each seminar.

Midterm Exam

The midterm will cover material presented in lectures and in the reading assignments. It will cover *terms, concepts, and theories* as well as *regional specifics* presented during the first part of the semester. It will comprise multiple-choice, short answer, true/false and essay questions. Aside from an exceptional situation as outlined in the Student Handbook, There will be no chance to make up the midterm exam.

Final Exam

The final will cover material presented in lectures and in the reading assignments during the entire semester. It will cover *terms, concepts and theories* covered during the entire semester and *regional specifics* presented during the second part of the semester. It will comprise multiple-choice, short answer, true/false and essay questions. Aside from an exceptional situation as outlined in the Student Handbook, there will be no chance to make up the final exam.

ASSESSMENT POLICIES

Format Requirements

All written assignments must include the following in the upper left corner of the first page: Student's name, student ID number, assignment name, and due date. All assignments must be formatted in the following manner: double spaced, font size of 11 or 12 point, standard margins, and an indented first line for each paragraph.

Submission Requirements

Unless otherwise instructed, students are expected to submit written assignments on the AIMS platform. I will only accept PDF (.pdf) documents. I expect assignments to be submitted on time. Assignments due in class must be turned in at the beginning of class. I reserve the right to deduct points for late submissions and I reserve the right to determine the percentage to be deducted.

Makeup Work

Aside from *exceptional situations*, there will be no chance to make up missed exams or quizzes or turn assignments in past their due day/time. Proof of an exceptional situation must be submitted to me in writing and signed by the appropriate authority within 24 hours of the

due date. I reserve the right to define an exceptional situation and furthermore to make all final decisions relating to amending, redoing, or making up late, or incomplete work.

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in the academic dishonesty other others. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated.

In accord with AIU policies and good practices in higher education, acts of academic dishonesty will result in the failure of the course at a minimum. An act of academic dishonesty during the final examination or assignment in lieu of the final examination will result in failure of all courses registered in the relevant academic term. Cases of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs for relevant action.

Attendance

Learning is an ongoing process; one that builds upon previously acquired insights and skills. Consistent and engaged attendance is vital for success in this course. I reserve the right to deal with exceptional or extended absences on a case-by-case basis.

Special Needs

If you require accommodations, please alert me of your needs on the first day of class so that I can work with the administration to meet them.

Civility & Classroom Decorum

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc., during class. Speaking on cell phones, texting, or using electronic equipment in any way that is not directly related to class is strictly prohibited.

Collaboratively and critically engaging with ideas is a powerful pedagogical tool that may lead to disagreement. Colleagues must learn to disagree *and* maintain respect for each other. I insist that students strive to learn from the differences that manifest while debating the merit of theoretical and empirical evidence by maintaining an atmosphere of civility during lectures and discussions.

SCHEDULE

Week 1	Reconsidering Slums
April 8	NO CLASS
April 10	Lecture - Shadow Cities, Anarchic Communities & System D
Week 2	Reconsidering Slums
April 15	Lecture - Fire, Hearth & Community
April 17	Lecture - Spatializing Slums
Film	https://www.kcet.org/shows/earth-focus/city-planning-freetown
Week 3	Possession & Property
April 22	Lecture - Liberalism, Socialism, Anarchism
April 24	Lecture - Property & Squatting
Reading	Boo - Behind the Beautiful Forevers

Week 4 April 29 May 1	Golden Week NO CLASS NO CLASS
Week 5 May 6 May 8 Reading	Informal Urbanization Lecture - A Global Survey of Squatting Seminar Boo - Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Week 6 May 13 May 15 Reading	Informal Urbanization Lecture - A Global Survey of Squatting Seminar Boo - Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Week 7 May 20 May 22 Reading	Formal Economy & System D Lecture - Ties That Bind Seminar Boo - Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Week 8 May 27 May 29 Reading	Slum Policy Lecture - Repair or (Re)break Seminar Boo - Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Week 9 June 3 June 5	Slum Policy Lecture - Repair or (Re)break MIDTERM EXAM
Week 10 June 10 June 12 Reading	Colonialism & Neocolonialism Lecture - Primate Cities & Structural Adjustment Seminar Boo - Behind the Beautiful Forevers
Week 11 June 17 June 19 Podcast	Lagos Lecture - Decentralized Problems & Centralized Solutions Seminar Afropop: Lagos and the Rise of Afrobeats
Week 12 June 24 June 26 Podcast	Cape Town Lecture - Apartheid's Continuing Legacy Seminar Afropop: No Accounting for Taste
Week 13 July 1 July 3 Podcast	Luanda Lecture - Lusitania, Luanda & Semba Seminar Hip Deep in Angola
Week 14 July 8 July 10 Reading	Hong Kong Lecture - City of Darkness: Perceptions & Realities Seminar https://cityofdarkness.co.uk/category/popular_culture/

Week 15

July 15

July 17

Reading

Hong Kong

Lecture - City of Darkness: Perceptions & Realities

Seminar

https://cityofdarkness.co.uk/category/popular_culture/

Week 16

July 22

Finals Week

FINAL EXAM (Room D104 10:30-11:45)