SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage: Spring 2019
Discipline: Geography
Course Number and Title: GR 330 Urban Geography
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: M. Troy Burnett
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: One (1) introductory geography course

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to urban geography as it can be observed in the era of globalization. It uses a geographic perspective to understand cities, and the economic, political, social and cultural processes that shape them. The class addresses two major areas. First, the historical development, internal structures, basic urban functions, and a range of contemporary issues such as suburbanization, inequality, housing, gentrification, and homelessness in North American and European cities. Second, the notion of ‘global cities’ and the transformations that the relationship between urbanization and globalization has brought to cities around the world.

Most of the cities we shall study are destinations on our SAS voyage in Spring 2019. For each of the cities in the syllabus, a combination of readings, lectures, and field trips are designed to explore specific cities and the regions and countries in which they are located. We shall be asking a series of questions as we travel, including:

How has the city evolved through time?
How is it organized spatially and what plans have emerged to shape its future?
How do its residents make a living, and what problems do they regularly encounter?
How and how well is the city integrated into the global economy?
What are the prospects for enhancing its economic status in the regional and global economy?

We shall pay particular attention to the way each city has (or does not have) a specific and unique ‘sense of place’ that makes it immune to the homogenizing forces of cultural and economic globalization. We shall look closely at geographical and social inequalities: how they begin, why they persist over time, and what can be done to redistribute wealth more equitably. In particular we shall be focusing on the role that urbanization has to play in the reduction of poverty and inequality in each city and region we visit, investigating the fine line that exists between the ‘benefits’ and ‘costs’ of rapid urbanization. One of the ‘costs’ we shall be looking at, for example, involves the environmental impacts of rapid urban growth, measured in terms of ecological degradation, as well as the implications for human health and safety. Finally, and crucially, we shall be immersing ourselves into some of the methods and tactics used by urban residents – acting as individuals and in social movements – who
are trying to resist and adapt to the powerful and often irreversible forces of economic and political globalization.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe and interpret critically the theories and research practices of urban geography;
- Identify what it is that makes a specific city unique in the face of economic, political, and cultural globalization forces;
- Evaluate the ‘costs’ and ‘benefits’ that occur as a result of rapid urbanization;
- Appreciate the workings of the global economy and the way different cities respond to and manage the demands of an increasingly inter-connected world
- Understand the extent to which individuals and groups in specific cities are able to resist the dominant forces of economic and cultural globalization, i.e. how cities maintain and express their uniqueness

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Knox, Paul L. and McCarthy, Linda M.
TITLE: Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography
PUBLISHER: Pearson
DATE/EDITION: 2012 / 3rd Edition

Supplemental Readings provided on the ship intranet


East Asia.


Solomon, Jonathan D. 2012. *It Makes a Village—Hong Kong’s Podium Shopping Malls as Global Villages*, in Gregory Bracken Aspects of Urbanization in China—Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guagzhou. Amsterdam University Press


**South Asia**


**Africa**

Pieterse, Edgar and Sue Parnell. 2014. *Africa’s Urban Revolution*


TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

B1—January 8:
Course Overview
Geography, Urban Geography, and Urbanization

Readings:
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 1—Urbanization and Urban Geography

B2—January 10:
Foundations and History of Urbanization
The Origins and Growth of Cities and Urban Life

Readings:
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 2—The Origins and Growth of Cities and Urban Life

B3—January 13:
Foundations: The U.S. Urban System and its Cities

Primer: Urban Geography of Oahu, Hawaii

Readings:
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 3—Foundations—The U.S. Urban System and its Cities
Spencer, James H. The Indigenous City? Reconciling an Old Timers’ Honolulu with a Global Society, in Globalization and Urbanization

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

B4—January 15:
Urban Systems and Cities in Transition

Readings:
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 4—Urban Systems and Cities in Transition
January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

**B5—January 18:**
Urbanization in Less Developed Countries

**Readings:**
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 5—Urbanization in the Less Developed Countries

**Study Day (No Class) — January 19**

**B6—January 21:**
Urban Form and Land Use in the Less Developed Countries

**Readings:**
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 6—Urban Form and Land Use in the Less Developed Countries

**B7—January 23:**
Urban Problems and Responses in the Less Developed Countries

**Readings:**
Knox and McCarthy: Ch. 7 Urban Problems and Responses in the Less Developed Countries

Primer: Urban Geography of Japan—Kobe

**Kobe, Japan — January 24-28**

Assignment #1—Kobe, Japan

**B8—January 30:**
China’s Urban Challenges (I)
Primer: Urban Geography of China—Shanghai

**Readings**


**Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1**

Assignment #2—Shanghai, China
In-Transit — February 2-3
China’s Urban Challenges (II)

Primer: Urban Geography of Hong Kong

**Readings**
Solomon, Jonathan D. 2012. *It Makes a Village—Hong Kong’s Podium Shopping Malls as Global Villages*, in Gregory Bracken *Aspects of Urbanization in China—Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guagzhou*. Amsterdam University Press

**Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5**

Assignment #3—Hong Kong, China

**B9—February 7:**
Rural/Urban Transformation of Vietnam
Primer: Urban Geography of Vietnam—Ho Chi Minh City

**Readings:**

**Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13**

Assignment #4—Ho Chi Minh City

**B10—February 15:**
Processes of Urban Change; the urban development process

**Readings:**
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 8—The Urban Development Process

**Community Programming (No Class) — February 16**

**B11—February 18:**
Process of Urban Change; How neighborhoods changes

Primer: Urban Geography of Myanmar—Yangon

**Readings:**
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 9—How Neighborhoods Change
(Yangon and Hanoi), in Gregory Bracken, Asian Cities: Colonial to Global, Amsterdam University Press.

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

Assignment #5—Yangon, Myanmar

B12—February 25:
The Politics of Change: Urbanization and Urban Governance; Urban Policy and Planning

Primer: Urban Geography of India—Cochin

Readings:
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 10—The Politics of Change

B13—February 27:

Exam I

Readings.
Adelheid Fischer. 2013. What Falls to Hand, Places, the Journal of Public Scholarship on Architecture, Landscape, and Urbanism,

Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5

Assignment #6—Cochin, India

B14—March 8:
People and Places; The Residential Kaleidoscope

Readings:
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 11—Urban Policy and Planning
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 12—The Residential Kaleidoscope

Community Programming (No Class) — March 7

B15—March 10:
The City as Text—Architecture and Urban Design

Primer: Urban Geography of Mauritius

Readings:
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 13—The City as Text

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

B16—March 13:
Urbanization, urban life, and urban spaces
Problems of urbanization

Readings:
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 14—Urbanization, urban life, and urban spaces
McCarthy and Knox. Ch 15—Problems of Urbanization

B17—March 15:
Urban Ecology

Readings:

B18—March 17:
Africa’s Urban Revolution
Conflict and transition
Three forms of conflict and their implications for urban areas
Cities and sovereignty

Primer: Urban Geography of South Africa—Cape Town

Readings:
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 1—Africa’s urban revolution in context
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 2—Conflict and post-war transition in African Cities

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

Assignment #7—Cape Town, South Africa

B19—March 25:
Urbanization and development
The role of geography and urbanization
The Resource Curse

**Readings:**
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 4—Linking urbanization and development in Africa’s economic revival

**B20—March 27:**
Sub-Saharan Africa urbanization and global environmental change

**Readings:**
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 3—urbanization and global environmental change

**B21—March 29:**
The challenge of feeding African cities; transportation pressures

Primer: Urban Geography of Ghana—Tema; Takoradi

**Readings**
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 6—Feeding African cities, the growing challenge of urban food insecurity
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 7—Transport pressures in urban Africa

**Takoradi, Ghana — March 30 - April 1**

**Tema, Ghana — April 2-3**

Assignment #8—Tema/Takoradi Ghana

**B22—April 5:**
An agenda for tackling African urbanization
Building blocks of a new urban practice
National urban strategies

Primer: Urban Geography of Morocco—Casablanca

**Readings:**
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 11—Filing the void: an agenda for tackling African urbanization
Pieterse and Parnall: Ch 13—National Urbanization and urban strategies

**B23—April 7:**
Study Day (No Class) — April 8
B24— April 10:

Exam II

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-15

Assignment #9—Casablanca, Morocco

B25—April 18: Final Exam

Student presentations

Arrive Amsterdam, Netherlands — April 21

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

A. Field Class & Assignment (20%)

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class.

The field class for this course is on January 24th, in Kobe, Japan: Excursion to the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, the Kobe Disaster Memorial Park, and the Arima Historical Retreat and Spa.

In January 1995 the city of Kobe, Japan was hit by one of the most destructive earthquakes in modern Japanese history. Ironically, at the time the city was considered one of the world’s most “earthquake proof.” However, liquefaction of the soil amplified the shaking and dramatically increased the amount of destruction. The earthquake resulted from fault movement caused by the subduction of the Pacific Tectonic Plate beneath Japan. The purpose of this field experience is to give students a firsthand look and experience with the power of the Earth and the forces of related to plate tectonics. In addition, students will be able to talk with survivors, gaining powerful insights into the reality of a natural disaster. At the same time, students will also be able to see the beneficial side of Earth’s processes, while also having the traditional culture experience of using a Japanese hot spring.
Objectives: During this field experience students will visit, first, the Disaster Reduction and Human Renovation Institution, otherwise known as the Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum, where they will see exhibits and experience realistic, multimedia recreations of the earthquake, as well as meet survivors of the earthquake. Second, the students will visit the Kobe Disaster Memorial Park, a preserved section of the city showing damage that occurred along the waterfront of Kobe. After discussing and observing the dangerous and negative destruction caused by plate tectonics activity, the day will end with a visit to the hot springs at the Arima Historical Retreat and Spa. This is one of the oldest, continually used hot springs in Japan. The hot springs result from magmatic activity that heats the local groundwater and enriches it with minerals.

Assignment (Due January 30th)
Students will keep a field notebook in which they will record their observations and thoughts on the Great Hanshin Earthquake, paying special attention to the processes that caused the earthquake and the comments and stories of survivors. After the field excursion, students will prepare a synthesis report of their observations by answering the following questions:

1. What were the processes that led to the Great Hanshin Earthquake?
2. What was the reason that such an “earthquake-proof city” wasn’t?
3. Is there anything that could have been done to mitigate the damage and number of deaths?
4. What stories and/or experiences of the earthquake survivors stood out to you?
5. What has the city of Kobe done since the Earthquake to mitigate future disasters?
6. How are the hot springs at Arima Onsen related to the processes that produced the Hanshin Earthquake?
7. Would you choose to live in this area? Why or why not?

Students will be graded on their participation, thoroughness of their field notes, and how well they tie their observations into a coherent whole.

B. Independent Field Assignments (35%)

Navigating the City/Discovering the Urban Mosaic

Among the many wonderful opportunities of this voyage, you the student have the chance to directly experience the cities on which you are being lectured. That is to say, you actually get to wander the streets as a nascent geographer and record what you see, hear, feel….experience.

In the spirit of a ‘scavenger hunt’, for 5 cities on our voyage itinerary, you will be tasked with finding your way to 5 of 10 possible locations (sites provided by professor) with the goal being to gain a deeper sense of urban space and connectivity.

For each city and the visited sites (5 cities, 5 places), you will need to answer the following:

1) prior to visiting the city, what is your expectation(s)? (do this before disembarking)
2) how did you make your way to the 5 sites, and what was the experience like (time, ease of access, etc.)?
3) briefly describe the site (where it is and its physical and human geographic elements—i.e. how the place was/is made?
4) what was your experience of the place (sense of place)?
5) if possible, ask someone who is there about their experience of the place.
And, upon returning to the ship
6) how does your sense of place of the city compare with your original expectations?

Each Independent Field Assignment is worth 7% of your grade

**Choose 5 of the following cities to ‘explore’**
#1—Kobe, Japan
#2—Shanghai, China
#3—Hong Kong, China
#4—Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
#5—Yangon, Myanmar
#6—Cochin, India
#7—Capetown, South Africa
#8—Ghana. Tema/Takoradi
#9—Casablanca, Morocco

**METHODS OF EVALUATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Class Written Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Field Assignments</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING SCALE**

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>97-100%: A+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>93-96%: A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90-92%: A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>87-89%: B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83-86%: B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80-82%: B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory/Poor</td>
<td>77-79%: C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>70-76%: C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-69%: D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failing</td>
<td>Less than 60%: F</td>
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**ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable
students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor’s supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Edgar Pieterse and Sue Parnell
TITLE: Africa’s Urban Revolution
PUBLISHER: Zed Books
ISBN #: 9781780325224
DATE/EDITION: 2014

FILM REQUEST


ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS


**East Asia**


Solomon, Jonathan D. 2012. *It Makes a Village—Hong Kong’s Podium Shopping Malls as Global Villages*, in Gregory Bracken Aspects of Urbanization in China—Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guagzhou. Amsterdam University Press


**South Asia**


**Africa**


ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Internet resources
https://placesjournal.org/
https://nextcity.org/