

Spring 2019
Planetary Hall 124, Wednesdays 4:30-7:10pm
Office Hours: Mon 12-2pm, Wed. 1-2pm,
or by appointment.

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GLOA 400-02: Global Crises: Cities and Urbanization

Tentative Syllabus

How are cities around the world in crisis? A crisis for whom? In this course, we will explore the challenges facing global cities, megacities, (post-)socialist cities, and cities right at our doorstep. Some of these challenges involve world-wide gentrification, segregation, and displacement; modern architecture and urban informality; deepening inequality; and urban revolution. As a capstone course, we focus on the cities and crises in order to synthesize, compare, and consolidate the various approaches and theories explored in studies of globalization, global affairs, and transnationalism. The course will have lectures and discussion, including discussions of relevant videos. The course is open to all Mason students and fulfills the Mason Core 'Synthesis' requirement (for any major).

Course schedule and readings

Required Texts

There is one required book – Saskia Sassen's *Cities in a World Economy*, which must be purchased in **printed** form and is available at the Fairfax campus bookstore – and other required readings available on Blackboard, <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>. While Sassen book is required in printed form, the other texts can be read in advance of each class and you can bring your detailed notes on the texts, instead of the printed text, to class for discussion. Completing all the required readings is only a minimal requirement for a capstone. Our class discussions will be about these readings.

This is the first time I have not required printed texts in class (except the Sassen book has to be in printed form because it is quite difficult and complex, as well as rewarding). You may use electronics as long as you do not distract yourself, me, or your classmates. Using YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, online shopping sites, email, etc. is not appropriate use of electronics in class and if this occurs we will adopt a "no electronics" rule for everyone. So, please make this a great experience for everyone, including me. Read ahead of time and come to class ready to listen and engage in lively discussions of the course texts.

Course Schedule

Week 1 / Wed., Jan. 23 / Introduction: What is a city? What crisis?

- Discussion of the *Origins of the Urban Crisis* and other crises.
- Video in class: "Welcome to Lagos."

Week 2 / Wed., Jan. 30 / Why are some cities global?

- Sassen, ch. 1, "Place and Production in the Global Economy."
- Sassen, ch. 2, "The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization"

Week 3 / Wed., Feb. 6 / Why are some cities global?

- Sassen, ch. 3, "National and Transnational Urban Systems."
- Sassen, ch. 7, "Global Cities and Global Survival Circuits."

Week 4 / Wed., Feb. 13 / Why are some cities global?

- Sassen, ch. 4, "The New Urban Economy."
- Looser, Tom. 2012. "The Global University, Area Studies, and the World Citizen: Neoliberal Geography's Redistribution of the "World."" *Cultural Anthropology* 27(1): 97-117.

Week 5 / Wed., Feb. 20 / What is gentrification?

- Sassen, ch. 6, "The New Inequalities within Cities."
- Smith, Neil. 2002. "New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy." *Antipode* 34(3): 427-450.
- Video in class: "Gentrification Explainer Video" and "There Goes the Neighborhood: I Didn't Want to Evict You."

Week 6 / Wed., Feb. 27 / What is gentrification?

- Caldeira, Teresa. 1996. "Fortified Enclaves: The New Urban Segregation." *Public Culture* 8: 303-328.
- Ghertner, D. Asher. 2011. "Rule by aesthetics: world-class city making in Delhi." In Ananya Roy & Aihwa Ong (eds), *Worlding Cities: Asian Experiments and the Art of Being Global*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Video in class: Ashley Dawson on climate change and cities.

Week 7 / Wed., March 6 / Is Lagos global? Is Lagos gentrifying?

- Sassen, ch. 9, "A New Geography of Centers and Margins."
- Myambo, Melissa Tandiwe. 2017. "Africa's Global City? The Hipsterization of Johannesburg." *New Left Review* 108.
- Due: Capstone paper proposal in class.

March 11-17: Spring Break

Week 8 / Wed., March 20 / Urban Governance and Informality

- Levy, David. 1989. Book review of Hernando de Soto's *The Other Path: The Invisible Revolution in the Third World*. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis website.
- Huchzermeyer, Marie. 2011. "Urban competitiveness or improving poor people's lives: why 'Cities Without Slums'?" Pp. 47-68 in *Cities with "Slums": From Informal Settlement Eradication to a Right to the City in Africa*. Claremont, South Africa: UCT Press.

Week 9 / Wed., March 27 / Urban Citizenship

- Bayat, Asef. 2010. "The Quiet Encroachment of the Ordinary." In *Life as Politics: How Ordinary People Changed the Middle East*, pp. 33-55.
- Miraftab, Faranak. 2012. "Right to the City and the Quiet Appropriations of Local Space in the Heartland." In Michael Peter Smith and Michael McQuarrie (eds), *Remaking Urban Citizenship: Organizations, Institutions, and the Right to the City*.
- Due: Annotated Bibliography in class.

Week 10 / Wed., April 3 / Urban Governance

- Sassen, ch. 8, "The Urbanizing of Global Governance Challenges."
- Dawson, Ashley. 2019. *Extreme Cities: The Peril and Promise of Urban Life in the Age of Climate Change*. [details TBA]

Week 11 / Wed., April 10 / Urban Citizenship

- Fredericks, Rosalind. 2014. "'The Old Man is Dead': Hip Hop and the Arts of Citizenship of Senegalese Youth." *Antipode* 46(1): 130-148.
- Levenson-Estrada, Deborah. 2003. "The Life That Makes Us Die/The Death That Makes Us Live: Facing Terrorism in Guatemala City." *Radical History Review* 85: 94-104.

Week 12 / Wed., April 17 / What is urban revolution?

- Lefebvre, Henri. [1970] 2003. *The Urban Revolution*. [details TBA]

Week 13 / Wed., April 24 / Richard Florida's global urban crisis

- Florida, Richard. 2017. "The Crisis of Global Urbanization." Pp. 167-184 in *The New Urban Crisis*.
- Due: Capstone paper draft in class.

Week 14 / Wed., May 1 / Exam

Wed., May 8 at 7:15pm / Capstone final paper due through SafeAssign in Blackboard.

Course Requirements

Class participation	10%
Presentation	5%
Capstone paper proposal	5%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Capstone paper draft	15%
Capstone final paper	40%
Exam	20%

Grading scale

A	95	over 93
A-	92	90-92
B+	88	87-89
B	85	83-86
B-	82	80-82
C+	78	77-79
C	75	73-76
C-	72	70-72
D	65	60-69
F	0	0-59

Class participation: Participation includes attendance, being on time, bringing the reading or your detailed notes, asking questions, and, especially, participating in discussion. The weekly readings will be used extensively during class discussion.

Presentation

In each class, one or two students will each make 8-minute presentations on a current event relevant to globalization in a city chosen by the student. The presentation should contain: 1) an explanation as to why the specific event deserves our attention, 2) a description of the event and the main actors involved, and 3) discuss how this event relates to globalization. These presentations must be done on or before April 17. A sign-up sheet will be available in the first day of class.

Capstone paper proposal

For your capstone paper, choose a city that really interests you. It should be a relatively well-known city anywhere in the world because you want to have access to scholarly literature on the city. For this project, you will ask one (or more) of the questions in the syllabus: is X city global? is X city gentrifying? How are X city's informal areas related to globalization? Does X city have a right to the city movement and how does it relate to our class? Other questions are possible too. The goal is to synthesize what you have learned about globalization – for example, economic, political, cultural, environmental, conflict aspects of globalization – over your years at Mason.

This proposal is a short assignment (no more than two pages double spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font) that sets out a plan for the capstone final paper. The proposal should have your name, project title, and page numbers at the bottom of the page. The proposal should briefly discuss the city you have chosen, your research question, two readings from our class that relate to your research question, why you have chosen this topic, why others should care about this research, and which data sources you think you need to use (official statistics, newspapers, interviews, etc.). Formal citations are not needed at this stage.

Annotated bibliography

An annotated bibliography is a list of 10 peer-reviewed scholarly sources (articles, books, edited volumes) to be used in your paper, with a summary and evaluation of each source. Please do not use newspaper articles, reports from the World Bank or other organization, book reviews, etc. Please adhere to one of the standard formal citation styles. Chicago, APA, or ASA are preferred (author-year, parenthesis in-text citation). For more info on annotated bibliographies, see <https://bethelks.libguides.com/c.php?g=11567&p=61198>.

Capstone paper draft

Submit a draft of your research paper that should be at least a half-finished paper (not an outline) and ideally a full draft of your research paper. It should have the elements required in the final paper below. Please adhere to one of the standard formal citation styles. Chicago, APA, or ASA are preferred (author-year, parenthesis in-text citation).

Capstone final paper

This final paper is the centerpiece of this capstone course. The paper should be 2,500 words (or slightly more like 2,700 if necessary; the bibliography is not included in this count). The paper needs your name, title, page numbers, 1) Introduction to the city, research question, sources used, and answer/argument, 2) Literature review (including two class texts), 3) Findings, 4) Conclusion, 5) Bibliography (with at least 10 scholarly texts, 2 class texts, and sources used for the analysis and findings).

Exam

This exam will take the form of an essay (one of the questions from the syllabus and class discussion), a couple of short answer questions, and several multiple-choice questions. In preparation, carefully read the Florida article.

Extra Credit

A 1% extra credit is awarded if you attend an event on campus on cities and/or globalization and a 4-5 sentence discussion of the event and how it relates to our class. Here are some potential events:

- “Revisiting South-South/BRICs/Emerging Powers Investment and Development Aid,” Thurs, Jan. 31 1-5pm. Details: <https://globalaffairs.gmu.edu/events/8470>.
- “Cities and Globalization Revisited,” Mon., Feb. 18 1:30-3pm. Details: <https://globalaffairs.gmu.edu/events/8732>.
- Ashley Dawson, “Just Urban Futures,” Thurs, Feb. 28 4:30-7pm, JC A.

I have placed a regularly updated list in BB Course Contents of new potential events.

Late Policy

For each day that any written work is late that grade will be reduced by a step (e.g., an A paper will become an A- paper one day after the due date, a B+ paper two days after the due date, etc).

Academic Integrity: The integrity of the University community is affected by the individual choices made by each of us. Mason has an Honor Code with clear guidelines regarding academic integrity. Three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct. Plagiarism means using the words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. Paraphrased material must also be cited, using MLA or APA format. A simple listing of books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot be tolerated in the academic setting. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me.

Disability Accommodations: Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474.

Other useful campus resources:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), 703.993.2380, <https://caps.gmu.edu>

University Libraries "Ask a Librarian," <https://library.gmu.edu/ask>

Writing Center: Robinson Hall B213, 703.993.1200, <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu>