

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY
MAXINE GOODMAN LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS
UNDERGRADUATE URBAN STUDIES PROGRAM

FALL SEMESTER, 2006

UST 301 - URBAN SPATIAL STRUCTURE

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Virginia Benson

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COURSE MEETING TIMES: Monday, Wednesday, 1:30 p.m.- 2:35 p.m., Fridays the class will not meet, it is a Library Day

COURSE LOCATION: UR 107

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The notion of urban spatial structure has become very important to understanding urbanization and society at the beginning of the twenty-first century. The urban systems model aids in comprehending the interactive nature of the physical urban landscape as well as interpreting the social institutions that operate within the city. Employing the systems concept as well as other theoretical frameworks will improve the ability to predict and plan for the future. This course is designed to give the student an overview of the various systems operating within the urban and regional structure and to apply these models to urbanism around the globe.

COURSE GRADING

In addition to the course text, the student will be assigned outside readings or receive handouts in the class. All information disseminated in class, through lectures by the instructor or visiting speakers, films and assigned readings will form the basis for the exams.

Grades will be determined by the midterm exam (26%), short essay papers (3 pts per paper= 39%) and the final exam (35%). The class discussion will allow the instructor the opportunity to determine what students have learned in the first half so it is important to participate especially in the review period. For this reason, class attendance is expected unless excused for sufficient reason.

COURSE TEXT:

Fu-Chen Lo and Yue-Man Yeung (ed.) Globalization and the World of Large Cities, 2d Edition
New York: United Nations University Press, 2003.

Handouts may be provided by the instructor.

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COURSE OUTLINE

Each of the 15 weeks of the course will focus on a particular urban system and a particular region of the world.

Week One: Introduction, Framework for Study
Chapter 1

Week Two: Globalization and World Cities: Migration, Settlement Systems, Chapters 2, 3
World City Regions in Europe

Week Four: North American Cities, Chap. 4 : Models of Urban Spatial Structure

Week Five: Chapter 5 in Text, Transportation Lecture

Week Six: Chaps. 6 and 7. Globalization in Pacific Asia.

Week Seven: Chaps. 8 and 9, Latin American City System.

MIDTERM

Week Eight: Chap. 10, Islamic Cities as a Reflection of a Culture.

Week Nine: Chap. 11, Cairo as a World City. Guest Speaker: Prof. Sy Murray

Week Ten: Chap. 12, Sub-Saharan African Cities.

Week Eleven: Chap. 13, Johannesburg.

Week Twelve: Chap. 14, New Technologies

Week Thirteen: Chap. 15, World Cities as financial centers

Week Fourteen: Chapter 16, 17 and 18. The Developing World Cities: Problems, Prospects.

Week Fifteen: Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam.

COURSE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

This class **will not meet** on Fridays but students will be expected to go to the Library and research a

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topic and write a short (2-3 pp.) essay on one of the topics designated below for each week of the session (a total of 14 such essays). These essays will be handed in on Mondays and will be graded and returned to the student on Wednesdays. The papers must be typed and all research materials should be completely cited at the end of the paper. Internet sources may be used but must be completely cited. The essay paper topics are listed below.

Week One - No paper due

Week Two - The Canal Era in the United States (the first paper will be due Wed., the 6th, due to the Labor Day holiday)

Week Three - The Transportation System in Mexico

Week Four - The English School System

Week Five - The Criminal Justice System in Poland

Week Six- The Health Care System in Canada

Week Seven - Environmental Threats in Latin America

Midterm Break – no paper due for Week Eight

Week Nine -The Hospital System in Egypt

Week Ten - The Media in South Africa

Week Eleven - Religious Practice in Australia

Week Twelve - Camping Out in Japan

Week Thirteen - Political Leadership in the Former Soviet Union

Week Fourteen – The Agricultural System of India

Week Fifteen – Futuristic Housing Ideas