GEOG 3UW3 - Draft outline

CITIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

School of Geography and Earth Sciences,
McMaster University, fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Richard Harris (harrir@mcmaster.ca) Ext. 27216
Meetings (GSB 216) by appt.
TAs: t.b.a.
Lecture Hours: Fridays: 2:30-4:20 Location: CNH B107
Tutorials: t.b.a.

This course is concerned with cities in the developing world. Given the number and diversity of such cities, and to illustrate general themes and issues, particular attention will be paid to urbanisation and urban settlements in China, India, and South Africa.

Purposes

(i) To describe, explain, and interpret the significance of what is happening in cities in the developing world
(ii) To reflect on how we should think about the subject.

Instruction

This course consists of one, two-hour lecture a week (Fridays), together with tutorials that will be devoted primarily to student presentations. Each week, students are expected to attend the lectures, which will emphasize general concepts, issues, and questions, as well as the presentations in the tutorials. Lectures will be available on Avenue to Learn, where current news items will also be posted.

Readings

There is no conventional textbook or course pack for this course. There are two required books: Katherine Boo, Behind the Beautiful Forevers (2012) and Mike Davis, Planet of Slums (2006). They are the basis for the two assignments. Chapters from Davis’s book will also be assigned, as appropriate. A short list of other required readings, all available online and/or through the library website, will be posted separately.
Lecture Schedule

Date      Week / Topic

Sept.7    Introduction #1: Purpose; tutorials, presentations; quiz

I. HOW WE THINK ABOUT CITIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Sept.14   Quiz results; India, Mumbai, and Katherine Boo – [first assignment discussed]
          The language of ‘development’
Sept.21   Us and them – ‘slumming’ (history) and slum tourism (current)

II. WHY URBANISATION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD MATTERS

Sept.28   Why care about urbanisation in the developing world?
          Why cities matter: social and cultural aspects
Oct.5     Why cities matter: Economic and Political aspects

--------------------------------------------- MIDTERM RECESS -----------------------------------------

Oct.19    Midterm test; lecture t.b.a.

III. THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Oct.26    Midterm returned; second assignment discussed: Mike Davis and confirmation bias.
          What is ‘development’, anyway?
Nov.2     Reasons for variations in development: general & colonialism
Nov.9     Case studies: South Africa & China

III. URBANISATION IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Nov.16    Urbanisation: patterns and trends; distinctive characteristics
Nov.23    Living conditions: poverty, inequality, slums, densities, health
Nov.30    Land development: squatting, irregular settlements; housing policies
Evaluation and grading

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignment # 1 Boo/slum tourism</td>
<td>Oct.15</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignment # 2 Davis/Confirmation bias</td>
<td>Nov.26</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Assignments due that day in lecture, OR in departmental dropbox (GSB 2nd. Floor) by 4:30 p.m.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Handout + Presentation</td>
<td>various/t.b.a.</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial attendance</td>
<td></td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm test</td>
<td>Oct.19</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Exam period</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Late Penalties & Extensions

Extensions on assignment due dates will only be granted in exceptional circumstances (illness, etc.). If you are ill, or have another serious personal or family emergency that has affected/ will affect your ability to complete your work on time, you must get documentation which states the nature of your absence, the duration (in days), and your expected date of return to school. You must then take this documentation immediately to the office of your faculty (e.g. Social Science). If the absence is approved, your faculty office will then notify your instructor(s). It is then your responsibility, as the student, to set up an appointment or visit the designated instructor during their set office hours to agree upon what accommodations will be made. Please note that even with valid documentation, your instructor(s) reserve the right not to accommodate your absence (e.g. if it is deemed that you had ample opportunity to complete the assignment prior to the onset of the illness).

Plan ahead. A bout of the flu, just before an assignment is due, will not necessarily warrant an extension. It is your responsibility to manage your time and to get work in on time. Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day - weekends count as two days, with no exceptions except as noted above.

A fuller description of guidelines for handing in assignments, and for communication, will be handed out separately.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may receive accommodations to assist them in the completion of their assignments and exams. Please contact the Centre for Student Development (MUSC Lower Level) and the Instructor as soon as possible if you require assistance.
Policy Regarding Academic Dishonesty

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.

2. Improper collaboration in group work.

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Special notice -- in the event of labour disruption, flu pandemic … or the end of the world.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given, with explanation, and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.