



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer, 2010

URS1006: World Cities-Quality of Life

Monday and Wednesday: 5:00:00-6:40 p.m.

Professor: Dr. Olmedo J. Varela, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Text:

Brunn, Stanley D, Jack F. Williams, and Donald J. Zeigler; Editors. 2008. *Cities of the World: world regional urban development*. Fourth Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., New York

Course Description and Objectives:

This course examines the complexities of urban development, including the world urban system; concepts and definitions of world urbanism; past trends of world urbanization; city functions and urban economics; theories related to the internal spatial structure of cities; and urban problems. The course incorporates discussion and comparison of patterns related to these concepts in the different regions of the world, with reference to specific great cities.

The combination of subjects addressed during the course will provide students with a framework that will help them analyze and understand urban society's social structure and problems from a scientific perspective. Upon completion of the course, students will have a better understanding of world regional urban development and the way in which urban scientists foresee the solutions for urban problems. The course ends with a discussion of individual cases studies undertaken by students on urban problems and potential solutions.

Grading Policies:

2 assignments 20%

3 partial examinations 30%

Final examination 50%

Indicative Class Schedule: (12 weeks)

Week 1	Introduction to the course • Sustainable Urban Development • Capital Investments and the Common Good
Week 2	World Urban Development • The world urban system • World urbanism: concepts and definitions
Week 3	Review and Partial Exam 1, Pages 1-25 • Review, May 24 • Partial Exam, May 26
Week 4	World Urbanization: past trends
Week 5	City Functions and Urban Economics





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Week 6	Theories on the Internal Spatial Structure of Cities
Week 7	Urban Challenges
Week 8	Presentation by students substantiating selection of case study; Review of material for partial examination 2 and Partial Exam 2, Pages 26-49 • Presentations and Review, June 28 • Partial Exam, June 30
Week 9	Cities of Middle America and the Caribbean
Week 10	Review and Partial Exam 3, Pages 103-141 • Review, July 12 • Partial Exam 4, July 14
Week 11	Cities of the Future
Week 12	Presentation of case studies
Final Exam	August 2, 3:30-6:00PM • Section I: Pages 565-611 • Section II: Essay (see details below)

Section II, Final Exam

Consult Pages 37-49 and 565-611

The assignment consists of a five pages single space essay, including pictures and other graphic representations. An addendum could be added to the five pages essay, with additional graphic representations, including videos and other types of animated representations.

- I. Identify a quality of life problem or challenge in a neighborhood
 - a. Provide a graphic representation describing the location of the neighborhood.
 - b. Explain how the location of the neighborhood may have an impact in the neighborhood's quality of life
 - c. Explain how the specific urban issue you attempt to analyze affects quality of life in the neighborhood
- II. Describe the problem using pictures, videos, statistics and other sources of information
- III. Identify what you consider are the sources of the problem
- IV. Identify a potential solution
- V. Propose a campaign to promote awareness and specific actions people can take to help solve the problem in the analyzed neighborhood.
- VI. Deliver and submit a Power Point presentation of your case study, including a sample of your campaign using pictures, videos, etc.