

HIST 415/515: Global Cities

Instructor: Prof. Arafaat A. Valiani

Office location: McKenzie 369

Email: valiani@uoregon.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 11:30a-1:00pm and by appointment.

This course will examine the economic, technological, environmental and social dimensions of cities globally. The course draws on perspectives and methodologies from economic, organizational and urban sociology, and South Asian Studies. We begin the course by exploring the economic, environmental and social effects of urban planning on cities. We examine the role of businesses of various size in shaping the economic and cultural life of North American, Asian, Latin American and African cities. A course that focuses on cities cannot be complete without an examination of globalization. Therefore will analyze cultural, technological and economic linkages between cities.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of term you should be able to:

- Historically understand how cities have changed over time in societies globally.
- Understand business, environmental and economic connections between cities.
- Analyze and interpret “primary” source data.
- Identify an author’s argument or thesis.
- Write an analytical essay and develop your own argument supported by evidence and data.

Requirements: active participation in class discussions (includes weekly questions on the reading), class presentation(s), a weekly journal and two papers.

Grade Distribution

1. Participation	20 %
2. In class presentations	20 %
3. Two papers	60 %*

* In consultation with the professor graduate students may choose a research topic that is aligned with their research topics though the same deadlines apply to them.

Required Texts:

Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper*

All required texts are on reserve, in multiple copies, in the Knight Library. All other required readings will be provided on Canvas.

Course Schedule (this may be adjusted as we move through the term, I will announce these changes in advance).

Week 1 Concepts in the Study of Cities

Meeting 1: Introduction

Part 1. Introduction to the course and its goals, class members.

Meeting 2: Urban Concepts in a Global and Comparative Perspective

Thomas F. Gieryn, 'A space for place in sociology' (article)

Week 2 Cities and Global Economic Linkages

Meeting 3: Saskia Sassen, *The Global City* (conceptualizing the urban and global)

Meeting 4: Molotch, Harvey. 1976. "The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place." *American Journal of Sociology* 82(2): 309-331.

Week 3 Cities and Consumption

Meeting 5

Setha Low, "Spatializing Culture: The Social Production and Social Construction of Public Space"

Meeting 6: Achille Mbembe, "Fantasies of the Metropolis".

Week 4 The Physical Environment and Infrastructure

Meeting 6: Greenbelts and City Planning (case study: Islamabad)

Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper* (Introduction, Chapters 1-2)

Meeting 7 Discussion of paper topics in class.

Week 5 The Physical Environment and Infrastructure (Continued)

Meeting 8: and Cities (case study: Islamabad)

Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper* (Chapters 3-5)

Meeting 9: James Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, "Taming Nature: An Agriculture of Legibility"

Week 6 Migration and Cities

Meeting 10: Dubai:

"Sheik Mohammed and the Making of 'Dubai, Inc.'", Anthony Mayo, Nitin Nohria, Umamah Mendhro, Johnathan Cromwell, Harvard Business School, August 2010, Study 9-410-063.

Meeting 11: Singapore

"Sikhs and the City: Sikh history and diasporic practice in Singapore" by Gerard McCann, *Modern Asian Studies*, Volume 45, Issue 06, November 2011, pp. 1465-1498.

Week 7 Global Economic Linkages

Meeting 12: Technological Markets, United States to India

Dinesh Sharma, *The Outsourcer: The Story of India's IT Revolution*, Chapter 3 and 4.

Meeting 13: Outsourcing

Dinesh Sharma, *The Outsourcer: The Story of India's IT Revolution*, Chapter 5-7

Week 8 Culture, 'Nature' and Entrepreneurship

Meeting 14: Reclaiming 'Nature' and Food: Artisanal Markets of Cities

Read Hayagreeva Rao, "Evangelists and the Renaissance of Microbrewing, pp. 43-68.

Meeting 15: Risk and Nature

Cheris Shun-ching Chan, "Creating a Market in the Presence of Cultural Resistance: the case of Life Insurance in China" (article)

Week 9

Meeting 16: Preliminary paper

draft discussions this week, individually and in my office, no class.

Meeting 17: To Be Announced

Week 10

Paper/case study Presentations (both meetings)