

GEOG2078 Urban Geography I: Growth, Functions and Pattern of Cities (6 credits)

Course Teacher: Dr. Zhu Pengyu

Objectives

More than half of the world's population resides in cities. Each city can be treated as a system, and cities together form another system. A primary objective of this course is to provide the students basic understandings city as a system and systems of cities. In addition, students will learn about the history of urbanization, internal structure of cities and relationships between cities. Issues and problems related to cities and urbanization will be addressed. Knowledge learned from this course serve as the foundations of urban and social planning, business location decision and other socioeconomic analyses.

Course Synopsis

Human beings and their activities are increasingly concentrated in cities. A holistic examination of the city involves understanding its role, internal physical and social structure, and systems of activities. This is a basic course on urban geography. It covers basic topics including the history and forces of urbanization, economic development and evolution of cities, internal structure of cities, and cities as a system with functional relations. New urban phenomena such as the emergence of world-global cities and extended metropolitan regions are discussed. The course provides a basic understanding of city and related urban issues and problems.

Lecture Topics

- Foundations and History of Urbanization
- Systems of Cities
- Internal Structure of Cities
- Cities across the Globe
- Overview of Census Geographies (U.S.) and the use of GIS
- The Dynamics and Makings of Neighbourhoods
- Selected Urban Problems

Assessment

Examination (two hours) 60%; coursework 40% (consists of 2 exercises and 2 essays)

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Develop an understanding of urbanization as a major development process
- Develop an awareness of models describing internal structure of cities
- Acquire a knowledge in economic and spatial relationships between cities
- Acquire a knowledge in urban growth and associated urban problems

Skills

- Acquire skills in quantitative methods to analyze urban phenomena
- Acquire skill in a systems approach
- Acquire skill in a cross-disciplinary approach

Recommended Reading List

Knox, P.L. and L. McCarthy. 2005. *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography* (3rd edition). Pearson.

Greene, R. P. and J. B. Pick. 2011. *Exploring the Urban Community: A GIS Approach* (2nd edition), Pearson.