URBS 100- INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY

SPRING Semester, 2009

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Supplementary Reading:


Introduction:

Presently, there is a general tendency of people living in cities. It is estimated that about 50 per cent of the world population are living in cities. This poses several challenges and special difficulties for urban governments.

Urbanization is one of the main development phenomenon in the world today. In 2005 there were only three mega cities, each with population of 10million and over in the world but now there are 20 mega cities; out of which 16 are in developing countries, specifically in eastern Asia.

This phenomenon raises several challenging issues on how cities grow so rapidly and the issue of their management, for that matter. Students in Urban Studies program should be made aware of this process and its management.

Goal:

The goal of the course is to analyze the process of urban growth and management of cities which are major development issues in both developed and developing countries.
**Objectives:**

i) To help students to analyze the growth processes in cities, where many people live.

ii) To introduce them to the processes of city governance and management.

iii) To discuss challenges in cities with both developed and developing countries.

**Outcome:**

Students should be familiar with the appropriate solutions to the present development challenges facing cities based on achieving both the goal and specific objectives specified above.

**Methodology:**

The process of learning would be learner-centered as the students are considered as adults. In this context the instructor would play the role of a facilitator. Some of the specific learning tools will be lectures, open discussions, peer learning, field studies (project) for self learning and team work and presentation of reports in class for peer review, among others.

**Evaluation:**

The methods of assessing the students’ capacity to acquire knowledge and skills will be in two phases.

Part One: This covers continuous assessment of individual exercises and group reports and a mid-semester test. This constitutes 70 per cent of the final semester mark.

Part Two: Finally, there will be end of semester examination. This test constitutes 30 per cent of the total semester mark.

The percentage scores for each phase will be based on the following formula:

\[
\text{Student Score} = \left( \frac{\text{Total Points}}{\text{Total Points Expected}} \right)
\]

The letter grades will be based on the sum of student’s scores for parts one and two on the following percentage points:

- 90-100 A
- 80-89 B
- 70-79 C
- 60-69 D
- Less than 60 F

**General Policies:**

All assignments are due on the assigned date. Students or groups who submit reports late would lose some points, unless other arrangements have been made in advance.

All assignments are expected to be free of grammatical, spelling and content errors. They should be submitted in typewritten, standard formats (APA, MLA, URSI Style Sheets).
Students should familiarize themselves with the University’s Academic Honesty Policy. Students could draw on the ideas of others, but they should know when to do so. Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic behavior and will result in a heavy penalty. Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please contact the MSU Disability Services Office at (507) 389-2825 or 1-800-627-3529 and report to the professor.

**Course Assessment:**

The course will be assessed by the students with questionnaire from MSU Assessment Office and analyzed by the same office.
URBS- 100   INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY

Week 1:  INTRODUCTION
   i)   General Orientation to the course
   ii)  Development of cities: Past and Present (Video Presentation)
   iii) Guided group discussions on city growth (Exercise)

Week 2:  SPATIAL ORGANIZATION AND CITIES
   i)   No Classes
   ii)  Spatial organization and growth of cites.
   iii) Growth of cites, and population relocation

Week 3:  CHARACTERISTICS OF POPULATION OF CITIES
   i)   Analysis of population in cities
   ii)  Structure of population in cities
   iii) Implication of structure of city population (Exercise on Population)

Week 4:  TYPE OF CITY DESIGNS AND CHALLENGES
   i)   Monocentric Design and Downtowns
   ii)  Polycentric Design and its implications
   iii) Spatial Organization and Land Value in Cities

Week 5:  THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN CITIES
   i)   The Relevance of City Infrastructure
   ii)  Transportation System in Cities
   iii) Public Infrastructure and cost implications

Week 6:  HOUSING IN CITIES
   i)   Demand and Supply of Housing units in cities
   ii)  Housing in African c
   iii) Down and Up town Discussions (Project Presentation)

Week 7:  PUBLIC HOUSING POLICY AND EQUITY
   i)   Housing Policy and Equity
   ii)  Equity and Low income Households
   iii) Low income Households and public support

Week 8:   MID-SEMESTER TEST

Week 9:   SPRING BREAK
Week 10: CITY PLANNING
   i) Relevance of City Planning
   ii) Comprehensive Planning
   iii) Planning Process

Week 11: GOAL SETTING
   i) Stakeholders and Goal Setting
   ii) Operational Goals (Exercise)
   i) Action Plan

Week 12: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
   i) Implementation Plan
   ii) Monitoring
   iii) Evaluation

Week 13: THE CITY ECONOMY
   i) The Structure of the Economy
   ii) Export and Non Export Sectors
   iii) The process of Growth of City Economy

Week 14: GOVERNING CITIES
   i) The Governance System
   ii) The management of cities (Mankato and Kumasi, Ghana)
   iii) Innovations in city management

Week 15: FINANCING CITIES
   i) The Structure of Urban Finance
   ii) The Nature of Revenue Instruments
   iii) Grants

Week 16: FINAL EXAMINATION
   i) Course Revision
   ii) Assessment of Course
   iii) Final Examination