URBS 100 INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY
Fall Semester, 2008

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Introduction:
Urbanization has become one of the main emerging trends in the world today. It is estimated that about 50% of the world’s population are now living in urban areas. This is considered as a significant phenomenon because as early as 1975 only 37% of the world’s population was urbanized. The world has about 20 mega cities presently out of which 15 are in developing countries specifically in the Eastern part of Asia. This phenomenon raises several challenging issues on how our settlement grows so rapidly and their management, for that matter. Students in a planning program should be made aware of this phenomenon and its challenges to their profession. This course is therefore designed to open the eyes of the first year planning students to this process. Certainly some of the issues that would be raised now will be revisited in detail in course of their studies in senior classes; hence not much detail would be provided now. This is a major assumption for this course.

Goal:
The goal of the course is to expose students to one of the major development trends in the world’s development process which is of major concern to the planner- that is urbanization.

Objectives:
The specific objectives are:
1) To assist students to understand the urbanization phenomenon.
2) To help students be able to analyze the challenges in cities.
3) To introduce them to the process of city management.
4) To compare urbanization in the North and South, especially Africa.

The course outcome would be based on achieving both the goal and objectives, especially by both students and facilitators.
**Methodology:**
The process of learning would be learner-centered as majority of the students are assumed to be adults. The instructor would just be a facilitator. Some of the specific learning tools they will use are open discussions, peer learning, field studies for promoting self learning, team work and presentation of reports in class, among others.

**Evaluation:**
The method of assessing the students’ capacity to acquire knowledge and skills would be many and varied. Individual students would present short essays on specific issues for grading. Groups would be expected to work together on a project and present their reports in class for peer review. There will be a mid-semester examination. Finally, there will be an end of semester examination.

The grade for a student will be based on the formula below:

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\text{Grade} = \frac{\text{Total Points Acquired}}{\text{Total Points Expected}}
\]

The letter grades will be based on the following percentage points:

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

**Course Assessment:**
The course will be assessed by the students on several counts including identification of irrelevant topics that must be eliminated from the course outline, issues that could be considered as parts of the course, preparedness of the Professor for lectures and atmosphere in class. This will be done with a questionare and later analyzed. The Professor will do self assessment and reports to the URSI Department Chair.

**General Policies:**
All Assignments are due on the assigned date. Partial credit may be given for assignments that are less than one week late, 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).

You must familiarize yourself with the University’s Academic Honesty Policy. It is encouraged to draw on the ideas of others, but you must identify when to do so. Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic behavior and will result in an F for the course.

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.
INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY

Week 1: INTRODUCTION
8/25 General Orientation to the course
8/27 Planning and Urbanization from around the Globe
8/29 Economic Development, Urban Growth and challenge from a Global perspective

Week 2: NATURE OF CITIES
9/1 No Class
9/3 The Emergence of Cities in Africa from historical context
9/5 The City as a System

Week 3: THE CITY LAOUT AND ACTIVITIES
9/8 Introduction to “Look and See”
9/10 Field Studies
9/12 Analysis of Field Data for Presentation

Week 4: CITY MANAGEMENT AND CHALLENGE
9/15 Presentation of “Look and See” Reports
9/17 Institutional Management of Cities in Africa
9/19 Challenges of Cities in Developing Countries

Week 5: POPULATION OF CITIES
9/22 The City Population: an Important Element of Growth
9/24 Analysis of the population of Mankato
9/26 Presentation of Population Reports

Week 6: THE URBAN SPACE
9/29 Understanding Spatial Organization Processes
10/1 Urbanization and Value of Land
10/3 Poverty and Peri Urban Areas in African Cities

Week 7: INFRASTRUCTURE
10/6 The Relevance of City Infrastructure
10/8 Housing in African Cities
10/10 Transportation, the Growth of Cities

Week 8: MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION
10/13 Personal Consultations
10/15 Personal Consultations
10/17 MID-SEMESTER EXAM

Week 9: CITY PLANNING
10/20 Planning and it’s Development Relevance
10/22 Planning as a Process and Goal Setting
10/24 No Class
Week 10: COMPARTMENTS OF THE CITY PLAN
10/27 The Land Use Plan
10/29 The Social Sector Plan
10/31 The Economic Sector Plan

Week 11: GOVERNANCE OF CITIES
11/3 The Governance System
11/5 The City Government Structure and Hierarchy: Mankato and Kumasi, Ghana
11/7 The Government and Governed- partnership for sustainability

Week 12: FINANCING THE CITY
11/10 The Structure of Urban Finance
11/12 The Nature of Revenue Instruments
11/13 Bridging the Gap between City Income and Expenditure

Week 13: FINANCING AFRICAN CITIES
11/17 The Local Revenue Trap: A Challenge
11/19 The Nature of the Local Budget
11/21 The Problem of Revenue Administration and Performance Assessment

Week 14: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
11/24 Defining Strategies
11/26 Implementation Process
11/28 No Class

Week 15: PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (continued) and FINAL ASSESSMENT
12/1 Monitoring and Evaluation of Plans
12/3 Course Assessment
12/5 Revision of Course

Week 16: EXAMINATION WEEK
FINAL EXAM