HIST 415/515: Global Cities

Instructor: Prof. Arafat 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)  

**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:  
**Meeting 11:** Singapore  
Week 7 Global Economic Linkages  
**Meeting 12: Technological Markets, United States to India**  
**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**  

**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)