We live in the age of the city. At some point in the last decade, the majority of the world’s population became urban. The bulk of all growth in the future is expected to occur in the global South—a vast geographical and conceptual space where some of the world’s most ancient cities continue to thrive. Urbanization patterns and urban life has become more diverse with rising inequality amidst rapid economic change in some parts of the world, while other parts experience ongoing political strife and a variety of stresses. Cities are not just nodes on transaction networks, or physical collections of built form specific to a context and global movements, or a mix of cultures over time. They are political assemblages in which formal and informal institutions of governance are forged and continue to be shaped as polities change and morph over time. Various processes impacting societies shape cities, ranging from changing migration patterns and large-scale population movements to changes in geo-political power and the technologies of infrastructure, communication and manufacturing.

This course seeks to introduce you to a body of work on the cities of the global South, their diversity, growth and change starting in the early twentieth century. Drawing on a large interdisciplinary literature, we will consider the different ways in which scholars and researchers have sought to conceptualize and understand processes of city-building in the global South. Students are expected to be active contributors to the discussions and to research urban issues in a part of the world more fully as we work our way through different topics every week. In the process of reading, writing and doing research for this class, I also hope that you will continue to develop your critical thinking skills. For those of you who are interested in urban planning, this will be an opportunity to deepen your understanding of the challenges of planning in the cities of the global South.

Seminar Requirements

- **Active participation** in class. The weekly class sessions will combine short lectures to introduce basic concepts with assigned readings and self-conducted research on a region of your choice (the same region through the semester). I’d like you to think through three questions as you prepare for each class session: first, is there a central core idea related to the week’s topic that you find compelling, intriguing or that you did not fully understand; second, can you think through a critique of an argument that you do not find quite persuasive; and third, how does the urban experience of the region you are researching relate to the ideas and trends we are exploring that week? I expect that you will engage in class discussions with the aim of moving the conversation forward and building on comments that were made before you.

- **Written assignments**
  - **Weekly response paper** (maximum 1 page, can be shorter) to be posted on the Blackboard site by 10pm on Monday, the day before class.
  - **Weekly research task** – These tasks will involve preparing profiles on selected issues for your case region/city. A short summary/fieldnote summarizing your key findings is to be posted on the Blackboard site by 10pm on Monday, the day before class.
  - **Four short papers (no more than 4-5 pages each, the fourth will be no longer then ten pages)** to be posted on the Blackboard site by the due date. The parameters for these papers will be posted on Blackboard as well. The papers will require you to integrate class readings, discussions, and research findings from your weekly tasks. Three of the papers are related to particular groups of topics. The fourth paper will be broader in scope and is in lieu of a final exam. We will decide a due date together. Oral presentation schedules will be decided based on class enrollment. Please try and bring your learning from each paper into class discussions as well.
All submitted papers will be available to everyone in the class. Please note that late assignments will be graded down. Also, do follow the following file naming convention for all electronic submissions for this class:

- yourlastname_week#_Response Paper
- yourlastname_week#_Task #
- yourlastname_Paper #

If you need any help with writing The John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines provides seminars and other assistance, including a walk-in service on six locations across campus. For details on this service and the Knight Institute go to [http://www.arts.cornell.edu/knight_institute/walkin/walkin.htm].

Please remember that plagiarism is a serious offence. Cornell’s Code of Academic Integrity is found at [http://www.theuniversityfaculty.cornell.edu/AcadInteg/code.html]. It gives all details as related to student responsibilities, and procedures that will be followed if a violation should occur.

**Grading**
Weekly response papers and research tasks: 50% of semester grade
Short papers: 40% of semester grade
Class participation: 10% of semester grade
All writing will be evaluated for clarity of argument and writing style.

**Course Readings**
Assigned readings are noted in the syllabus; please find, buy, borrow, download, and/or print as needed. There is one book that you need to buy (used and new copies available on the web; also available to rent on kindle)


Additional readings will be available on the Blackboard site set up for students enrolled in the class. Announcements and notices relevant to the class will also be posted there.

**Learning Outcomes**
This course is designed to introduce you to the study of cities in the global South though a spatial perspective. We also seek to understand how the lives of urban residents are shaped. Through lectures, assigned course readings and rigorous discussion, as well as individual research in areas of your choosing, the course aims to provide you with

- a global perspective on processes of urbanization
- an understanding of the historical, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental forces that shape cities, their growth, and urban life within them
- an introduction to key terms and ideas in urbanization and development to understand the range of issues and challenges faced by planners in the cities of the global South
- an opportunity to further develop your critical thinking, research and writing skills

**Contacting Me**
If you wish to see me please sign up for an appointment on the sign-up sheets posted outside my office. Regular office hours are on Thursday mornings 9:30am-noon. But this is subject to change. The other way is to make an appointment via email (not the telephone), but do be aware that an immediate response is not always possible due to email volume.

Note: if you need special accommodations for either short-term or long-term disabilities, please contact Cornell’s Student Disability Services (SDS) as soon as possible to make the necessary arrangements. For information on how to do so please go to [http://sds.cornell.edu/]. After you have contacted them, you will need to see me.
# Course at a Glance (a more detailed outline follows)

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<th>Introduction</th>
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<td>Week 2 – 9/01</td>
<td>Making the “Third World” City: History, Colonialism, and Development</td>
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<td>Task 1: Pick a region/country to work on through the semester and prepare a preliminary listing of sources on the city experienced.</td>
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<td>Week 3 – 9/08</td>
<td>Migration and Urbanization</td>
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<td>Task 2: Research major historical events and underpinnings of urban growth for your case city/region/country</td>
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<td>Week 4 – 9/15</td>
<td>Urban Economies</td>
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<td>Task 3: Prepare migration profile including details on remittances for your case city/region/country</td>
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<td>Week 5 – 9/22</td>
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<td>Paper 1 due</td>
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<td>Week 6 – 9/29</td>
<td>Basic Urban Services</td>
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<td>Task 4: Prepare brief urban economy and housing profile for your case city/region</td>
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<td>Week 7 – 10/06</td>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Task 5: Prepare basic urban services and infrastructure profile for your case city/region. Also revisit task 1.</td>
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<td>Week 8 – 10/13</td>
<td>FALL BREAK, no class</td>
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<td>Week 9 – 10/20</td>
<td>Megaprojects</td>
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<td>Week 10 – 10/27</td>
<td>Cities and Risk I: Violence and War</td>
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<td>Task 6: Profile major megaprojects</td>
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<td>Week 11 – 11/03</td>
<td>Cities and Risk II: Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change</td>
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<td>Task 7: Profile major risk drivers and their urban effects</td>
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<td>Week 12 – 11/10</td>
<td>Urban Governance I: Institutions</td>
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<td>Week 13 – 11/17</td>
<td>Urban Governance II: Participation</td>
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<td>Task 8: Profile urban institutional governance structures</td>
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<td>Week 14 – 11/24</td>
<td>Urban Governance: Activism and Citizenship</td>
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<td>Paper 3 due</td>
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<td>Task 9: Profile some ways in which participation in institutionalized through formal and informal mechanisms</td>
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<td>Week 15 – 12/01</td>
<td>Knowledge Transfers and Movements, Comparative Work</td>
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<td>Wrap-Up</td>
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<td>Task 10: work on Paper 3!</td>
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Readings and Course Schedule (while the topics will remain the same, the required readings may change. The bibliography that accompanies the Editors’ Introductions in the CGSR provides a short bibliography on each topic. Some suggestions for recommended readings till Week 6 are included here as examples)

Week 1, August 25, Introduction

Week 2, September 01
Making the ‘Third World’ City: History, Colonialism and Development
• CGSR. Parts I and II, Pages 1-72

Recommended

Task 1: Pick a country you will work on through the semester and a related region. Do discuss it with me so you understand the limitations of available work. Also, look for and compile a list of works of art using different media including the written word, photography, installations, films, documentaries, and more that seek to understand and interrogate various city experiences. Read and explore as you prepare for Week 2 and the rest of the semester…

Week 3, September 08
Migration and Urbanization
• CGSR. Part III, Section 3, Pages 73-91

Recommended

Task 2: Research historical underpinnings of urban growth, the region’s colonial past and development history and current situation.
Week 4, September 15
Urban Economies
- CGSR. Part III, Section 4, Pages 92-114

Recommended

Task 3: Country-wide migration profile including brief details on remittances, and country wide urbanization patterns.

Week 5, September 22, PAPER 1 DUE
Housing
- CGSR. Part III, Section 5, Pages 115-146

Recommended

Week 6, September 29
Basic Urban Services
- CGSR. Part IV, Section 6, Pages 147-175

Recommended
- Batley, R. and D. Moran (2004) Literature Review of Non-State Provision of Basic Services. International Development Department, School of Public Policy, the University of Birmingham, Birmingham

Task 4: Brief city economy and housing profile
Week 7, October 06
Urban Infrastructure
- CGSR. Part IV, Section 7, Pages 176-196

Task 5: Brief basic urban services and urban infrastructure profile. Revisit Task 1 where I asked you to “look for and compile a list of works of art using different media including the written word, photography, installations, films, documentaries, YouTube videos and more that seek to understand and interrogate various city experiences” … has your list of such works expanded? Has your interpretation of these works changed in any way? Why is this so?

Week 8, October 13, Fall Break, No class

Week 9, October 20, PAPER 2 DUE
Megaprojects

Week 10, October 27
Cities at Risk I: Poverty, Violence and War
- CGSR. Part IV, Section 8, Pages 197-226

Task 6: Brief profile on major megaprojects and their impacts

Week 11, November 03
Cities at Risk II: Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change
- CGSR. Part IV, Section 8, Pages 197-226 (skim again)

Task 7: Profile major drivers of risk including climate change, as well as major disaster events and their urban effects
### Week 12, November 10

**Urban Governance I: Institutions**
- CGSR. Part V, Section 9, Pages 227-253

### Week 13, November 17

**Urban Governance II: Participation**
- CGSR. Part V, Section 10, Pages 254-269
- Reading to be added on disasters, social capital and gender

Task 8: Profile urban institutional governance structure and how it fits into regional, state, national and transnational governance frameworks

### Week 14, November 24: PAPER 3 DUE

**Urban Governance III: Activism and Citizenship, Two Asian Cases**
- CGSR. Part V, Section 11, Pages 270-303

### Week 15, December 01

**Knowledge Movements, Wrap-Up**
- Review all earlier readings
- CGSR. Part V, Section 12, Pages 304-322

Task 9: Profile some ways in which citizen participation is institutionalized through informal and formal mechanisms

Task 10: noted just so we can have a nice round number of tasks – work on Paper 3!!

**PAPER 4** will be due after the semester ends. We will establish the due date together.