THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Programme Title	**:**	All Undergraduate Programmes
Programme QF Level	**:**	5
Course Title	**:**	Understanding Cities
Course Code	**:**	GEH1019 / SSC1237
Department	**:**	Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	**:**	3
Contact Hours	**:**	39
Pre-requisite(s)	**:**	Nil
Medium of Instruction:		English
Course Level	**:**	1

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing students with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- **P**rofessional **E**xcellence;
- **E**thical **R**esponsibility; **&**
- **I**nnovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of students in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills

2. Critical Thinking Skills

3. Creative Thinking Skills

4a. Oral Communication Skills

4b. Written Communication Skills

5. Social Interaction Skills

6. Ethical Decision Making

7. Global Perspectives

1. **Course Synopsis**

Nowadays more than half of the world population live in urbanised areas. Studies of cities from different perspectives, such as treating the city as a geographical place, a growth engine, a way of life, a political landscape with conflicts, or a cultural/artistic representation, are essential for better understanding of cities we live in. This course aims to introduce different social, cultural and economic dynamics of the city from a multidisciplinary perspective. It will first look at how the city becomes a centre for the socio-economic development in the age of globalisation. It will then explain how different geographical imaginations give rise to various urban dynamics. Through lectures, seminars and fieldtrips, students will be able to develop in-depth understandings towards ideas such as global cities, postmodern cities and postcolonial cities.

2. **Course Intended Learning Outcomes** (CILO$_S$)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

CILO$_1$ to acquire understanding of theories and concepts related to urban studies and the dynamics of urbanization and urbanism

CILO$_2$ be aware of past and present urban issues in Hong Kong and other big cities and to apply theoretical knowledge and concepts to analyze contemporary urban problems

CILO$_3$ formulate ways to combat urban problems to live in harmony with nature and other people of the society

CILO$_4$ appreciate the different values and cultures found in cities

3. **Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities**

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Part I: Defining the city and its studies Topics covered in this part include: diversities and difficulties in defining "cities"; major approaches such as locational analysis, spatial networks, urban power, urban planning, neo-Marxist and postmodern accounts of cities; and the representative issues / authors of different approaches.	*CILO$_{1,2,4,}$*	Lectures Group discussions and sharing

Part II: Snapshots of cities	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$	Lectures
This part emphasizes cities' outlooks, structures and functions with city examples for illustration whenever appropriate. ☐ Cities in historical contexts (e.g. garden cities, industrial cities, colonial cities, socialist cities) ☐ Cities in integration and segregation (e.g. polycentric cities, metropolis, edge cities, gated communities, ghetto and slum in cities) ☐ Cities in connections (e.g. port cities, aerotropolis, global cities, networked cities) ☐ Cities in efficiency (e.g. automobile cities, compact cities, sustainable cities, ecocities)		Group discussions and sharing Class debate Literature / material search and reading

4. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Individual Paper	60%	$CILO_{1, 2,3,4}$
(b) Film Critique	40%	$CILO_{1,2,3,4}$

5. Required Text(s)
Hubbard, Phil, (2018), *City*, Oxon: Routledge.

6. Recommended Readings

Fyfe, Nicholas R. and Judith T. Kenny (eds.) (2005) *The Urban Geography Reader*. London: Routledge.

Garreau, Joel (1991) *Edge Cities: Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Doubleday.

Hall, Peter and Kathy Pain (2006) *The Polycentric Metropolis: Learning from Mega-city Region in Europe*. London: Earthscan.

Jane Jacobs (2011) *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (50th anniversary edition). New York: Modern Library.

Jenks, Mike, & Rod Burgess (eds.) (2000) *Compact Cities: Sustainable Urban Forms for Developing Countries*. London and New York: Spon Press.

LeGates, Richard, T. and Frederic Stout (eds.) (2007) *The City Reader* (4th edition). London: Routledge.

Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele (2005) *The Urban Sociology Reader*. London: Routledge.

Miles, Malcolm, Tim Hall and Iain Borden (eds.). 2004. *The City Cultures Reader* (2nd edition). London: Routledge.

Paddison, Ronan (ed.) 2001. *Handbook of Urban Studies.* London: Sage Publications.

Roberts, Peter, Joe Ravetz and Clive George (2009) *Environment and the City*. London: Routledge.

Sassen, Saskia (2001) *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

Scott, Allen J. (ed.) (2001) *Global City-Regions: Trends, Theory, Policy*. Cambridge: Oxford University Press.

Ward, Stephen V. (1992) *The Garden City: Past, Present and Future*. London: E & FN Spon.

7.   Related Web Resources

"AtributosUrbanos", the glossary section:

www.atributosurbanos.es/en/glossary

City Mayors: Running the World's Cities:

http://www.citymayors.com/

"Cities of Today, Cities of Tomorrow", the City Project, United Nations Cyberschoolbus.

http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/habitat/index.asp

Online glossary for *Urban Social Geography: An Introduction*:

http://www.thebicyclingguitarist.net/studies/geog_glossary.htm

Urban Development, The World Bank:

http://go.worldbank.org/PQE9TNVDI0

8.   Related Journals

Cities. Elsevier.

Environment and Planning A, B, C and D. Pion.

Geoforum. Elsevier.

Habitat International. Elsevier.

Landscape and Urban Planning. Elsevier.

Progress in Planning. Elsevier.

Urban Morphology. International Seminar on Urban Form

Urban Studies. Sage Publication.

9. **Academic Honesty**

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the *Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity* (https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. **Other**

Newspaper, magazine articles, videos and films about cities of the world, various encyclopedias of cities, urban studies, urban geography, urban planning and urban sociology.

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