

L32 3752 – Globalization, Urbanization, and the Environment

Spring 2012
11:30-1:00 Tuesday & Thursday
Seigle Hall L002

Instructor: Robert Holahan (rholahan@wustl.edu)
Office: Seigle 241
Office Hours: Monday 1-2 pm; Thursday 2-3 pm

Important Dates

Exam 1: March 8

Exam 2: April 26

Short Paper Due Dates (Choose Three): Feb 16, March 22, April 10, April 26

Final Paper Due Date: May 2

The rapid spread of urbanization has profound consequences for environmental quality--some positive, some negative. As the world economy continues to integrate across traditional political boundaries, such growth in urban areas is likely to continue. This course explores the causes and consequences of urbanization on environmental health and how local environmental conditions may facilitate the growth of modern mega-cities. Among the topics addressed are the effects of demographic changes on rural communities as younger generations seek better economic opportunity in far-away cities; the benefits to environmental quality from an expanding middle class; and the robustness of traditional institutions to changing political-economic demands.

To investigate the broad range of policy issues involved with urbanization and environmental use, this course is divided into four topics—Urban Environmental Challenges, Land Use, Urban-Rural Divide (& Connection), and Natural Disasters. Each topic will be given roughly equal attention.

Grading

Grading for this course will be based on performance on two exams, and based on three writing assignments. Additionally, the instructor reserves the right to use in-class participation as an additional, qualitative, measure of a student's performance.

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Writing Assignment 1:	15%
Writing Assignment 2:	15%
Seminar Paper:	30%

The grading scale at the end of the course is out of 400 total points and proceeds as follows:
A+ 392-400; A 372-391; A- 360-371; B+ 348-359; B 332-347; B- 320-331; C+ 308-319;
C 292-307; C- 280-291; D 241-279; F 0-240

Paper Assignments

The course is divided into 4 'topics'. For three-out-of-four of the topic areas, you will write a 3-5 page, double-spaced, paper investigating class discussion and readings further in-depth, or investigating a different angle of the broad topic. For example, during the unit on natural disasters, you may choose to investigate the political-economic causes of past disasters, such as the flood in Johnstown, PA. Specific paper topics and ideas for these writings will be discussed further in-class. Each of these papers will count for 15% of your final grade and are due on specified dates listed in the syllabus and discussed in class.

In addition, one of the three topic-papers you write will be turned into a longer, seminar-styled research paper. Thus, you will be initially graded (15%) based on the shorter 3-5 page paper and then additionally graded (15%) on the additional information included in the final paper. The instructor also reserves the right to grade the final seminar paper on its own merit, if he feels that it is a vast improvement over the shorter paper-version. Specific instructions for formatting and writing this paper will be discussed in class.

Exams

There are two exams for this course and will be given in-class. The exams will be based on essays, short answers, and possibly some problem solving questions.

Academic Dishonesty

Any student caught violating the rules of academic honesty as outlined in the University's Student Handbook will be failed.

Required Books:

Cronon, William. 1991. *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN 0393308731.

Fogel, Robert. 2004. *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700-2100*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521004888.

Articles and Other Readings: Additional articles will be assigned, as designated on the class schedule below. These will be available online via Telesis.

You are responsible for reading each of the chapters or articles listed below before the class for which each assignment is listed. Classes will draw on the readings as a baseline for discussion, but will also go beyond the content of the specific reading.

The Instructor Reserves the Right to Change this Syllabus at Any Time

Week 1 – Introduction to Course and Key Concepts

January 17: Introduction to Course

Read: This syllabus!

January 19: Introducing Cities & Exploring Major Urban Environmental Challenges

Read: Bloom et. al (2008); Available Online

Week 2—Urban Environmental Challenges I

January 24: Normative Evaluations of Environmental Challenges: Environmental Justice & Sustainable Development

Read: Layzer, Chapter 4; Available Online

January 26: NO CLASS

Read: NO READINGS

Week 3—Urban Environmental Challenges II

January 31: Defining Brownfields and Hazardous Waste Policy, Guest Lecture by Melissa Enoch, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Read: Vaughn, Chapter 5; Available Online

February 2: Collective Action & Coercion in an Urban Context: Public Health & Water

Read: Farber and Chen (2006), Chapter 8; Available Online

Week 4—Urban Environmental Challenges III

February 7: Urban Sprawl and the Politics of Regional Governance

Read: Layzer, Chapter 16; Available Online

February 9: Transportation Policy in an Urban Context

Read: Billitteri (2008), Chapter 6; Available Online

Week 5—Land Use I

February 14: The Spatial Location of Cities

Read: Cronon, Chapter 1

February 16: Transportation Networks and Policy in a Historical Context: Railroads vs. Rivers

Read: Cronon, Chapter 2

(Paper 1 Due)

Week 6—Land Use II

February 21: Malthusian Famine and Population Growth

Read: Sen (1981); Available Online

Ehrlich (1968), Hardin (1968); Available Online

February 23: Nutritional Needs & The Supply of Labor

Read: Fogel, Chapters 1 & 2

Week 7—Land Use III

February 28: Technological Development and Institutional Change in Agriculture

Read: Cronon, Chapter 3

McCloskey (1972); Available Online

March 1: Supplying the City with Natural Resources

Read: Cronon, Chapter 4

Week 8—Land Use IV & First Exam

March 6: Globalization and Food Security

Read: Layzer, Chapter 12; Available Online

Fogel, Chapter 3

March 8: EXAM 1

Read: NO READINGS

Week 9—NO CLASSES; SPRING BREAK (March 13, 15)

Week 10—Urban-Rural Divide (and Connection) I

March 20: Urban-Rural Politics in the US

Read: TBD

March 22: Rapid Growth of Urbanization in Developing Countries

Read: Weeks (2009), Chapter 4; Available Online

(Paper 2 Due)

Week 11—Urban-Rural Divide (and Connection) II

March 27: Supplying the City with Labor: Urban Environmental Challenges

Read: Cronon, Chapter 7

March 29: Supplying the City with Labor: Rural Environmental Challenges

Read: TBD

Week 12—Urban-Rural Divide III & Natural Disasters I

April 3: Logrolling & Politics of Urban-Rural Divide: Food Stamps and Agricultural Subsidies
Read: Ferejohn (1986); Available Online

April 5: Defining “Natural” Disasters & Vulnerability to Disasters
Read: Farber and Chen (2006), Selections from Chapters 3 & 4; Available Online

Week 13—Natural Disasters II

April 10: Natural Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness
Read: Prah and Marshall (2010), Chapter 3; Available Online *(Paper 3 Due)*

April 12: Policy Shocks? Katrina and Global Warming
Read: Layzer, Chapter 17; Available Online
Farber and Chen (2006), Chapter 7; Available Online

Week 14—Natural Disasters III

April 17: Coordinating Policy Responses: Global Climate Change Mitigation
Read: Layzer, Chapter 10; Available Online
Satterthwaite (2009); Available Online

April 19: Coordinating Policy Responses: Global Climate Change Mitigation
Read: Rosenbaum, Chapter 10; Available Online

Week 15—Course Wrap-up And Exam

April 24: Review of Course
Read: NO READINGS

April 26: EXAM 2
Read: NO READINGS *(Paper 4 Due)*