

**FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN CHANGE
YORK UNIVERSITY**

ENVS 5023 Global Cities/Geog 5580 | 3 credits

Fall Term 2022

This course offers an introduction to the literature on global cities and a systematic review of a distinct field of research in urban studies which concerns itself with the globalization of a network of global or world cities.

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Time: Thursday, 9:30-12:20

Room: HNES140

Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00-12:00 (HNES213)

Objectives:

Large internationalized cities such as Toronto, Shanghai, Chicago and London are today tightly embedded within a broad range of global networks—demographic, cultural, economic, ecological, epidemiological—that have major implications for the everyday lives of their inhabitants. But globalized urban life also exists in smaller and more marginal cities and towns, North and South. It also affects the spaces in-between and the “global periphery”. With a particular view towards Toronto, these worldwide urban networks and the cities in them are the subject of this course. In particular, through a broad range of interdisciplinary investigations, the sections of this course are intended to explore the origins, characteristics and consequences of this heightened global connectivity among contemporary urban centres. By some accounts globalizing cities are the basing points of the global economy; by other accounts, globalizing urbanization is part of a general historical process leading to complete urbanization. The course will reveal the different epistemological and ontological assumptions of either assumption and discuss various methodological approaches to researching and understanding the world of globalized urbanity in which we live.

Outline:

A specific literature emerged since the 1980s, which looked at a distinct group of *global cities*, or as they are sometimes called *world cities*. These cities were considered nodes in the global network and were thought of as “command centres” of the global economy, switching stations of trade and commerce and destinations of immigration. The relationships among these cities have been described as hierarchical and ordered through the global division of labour. At the top of this hierarchy were “alpha cities” like New York, Tokyo and London; among the second and third tier global cities were such urban regions as Los Angeles, Chicago, Frankfurt,

Shanghai, Singapore, Hong Kong, Sao Paulo, and Toronto. Reflecting changes in real patterns of urbanization around the world, this model has been critiqued and modified as scholars *on* and *from* non-Western urban worlds have challenged the “view from the top” that is inherent to the original global cities literature. Subsequently, a broader and recalibrated view on “globalizing cities” became the more appropriate approach to our urbanized planet. Non-hierarchical, topological and network-based models have been suggested among others. Expanding the notion of globalizing cities to other registers than the economic, and to introduce a distinct postcolonial, poststructural and noncentral view to the debate has been the distinction of the more recent literature. In this course, we will do a thorough review of the “classic” texts on the relationships of urbanization and globalization and of those who contest these approaches.

During the course, we will review additional lectures by eminent scholars of global urbanization, including Neil Brenner (University of Chicago), Xuefei Ren (Michigan State University), and David Wilson (University of Illinois, Urbana).

The course sequence roughly follows the structure of the *Globalizing Cities Reader*, the textbook for the course.

- *Section One*, FOUNDATIONS, introduces the themes of the course and includes a number of classic texts on global city formation.
- *Section Two*, PATHWAYS, contains a number of classic studies of global city formation, focusing on major themes within this emergent literature.
- *Section Three*, RELATIONS, examines the relationality in today’s global urban society – through mobility, capital transactions, labour markets but also infectious disease.
- *Section Four*, REGULATIONS, deals with official and institutional politics related to the governance of cities in a globalizing world.
- *Section Five*, CONTESTATIONS, critical political reactions to global city formation, as well as various forms of sociopolitical mobilization and contestation that are emerging in globalizing cities.
- *Section Six*, CULTURE, examines various dimensions of the cultural life of and practice in globalizing cities as sites of processes of cultural globalization, focusing in particular upon the interplay between globalized urbanization and the formation of global and local cultures, identities, architectural forms, lifestyles and imaginaries.
- Finally, *Section Seven*, FRONTIERS, examines the refinement and critique of globalizing cities research during recent years and surveys some of the major scholarly controversies that have been generated within this field.

The course will be taught seminar style, which relies on close and intensive reading of the materials and discussion in class. Be prepared to read about 80-100 pages a week (at a minimum this includes the *Globalizing Cities Reader* and a book each for reaction and review).

Requirements/Assignments:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of five different aspects of their work:

1. Participation: A brief, pointed **discussion/presentation** of up to three readings in one or more of the sessions. The list can be accessed at this link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1AqXEnEXZAWRsatYnuLIScXzQ-VxXUHegPyQs-e3eBMg/edit?usp=sharing> You are expected to put your name to and take responsibility for **three** readings for the term.
2. A short **reaction paper** of 1000 words on Atkinson's *Alpha City*, Samuel Stein's *Capital City*, Jenny Robinson's *Comparative Urbanism*, Matthew Soules' *Icebergs, Zombies, and the Ultra Thin* or Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor's *Race for Profit* (Due SEPTEMBER 22)
3. One 1500-word **review** of a relevant book on globalizing cities. Novels are being encouraged. (Due OCTOBER 20).
4. A piece of **observational field research** details to be announced. (Due November 17).
5. A 4000-word empirically based **term paper** which discusses an aspect of global city formation in Toronto (or by special permission of another city) making use of the literature in the course reader (topic to be discussed individually). Due DECEMBER 1. Group projects are encouraged but need to be vetted with the instructor.

Required Readings:

Xuefei Ren and Roger Keil eds. (2017) *The Globalizing Cities Reader*. London and New York: Routledge.

Rowland Atkinson (2020) *Alpha City: How London Was Captured by the Super-Rich*. Verso: London **or**

Jennifer Robinson (2022) *Comparative Urbanism: Tactics for Global Urban Studies*. Oxford: Wiley **or**

Matthew Soules (2021) *Icebergs, Zombies, and the Ultra Thin. Architecture and Capitalism in the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press **or**

Samuel Stein (2020) *Capital City*. London: Verso **or**

Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor (2019) *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

Selected further readings (for reviews and term papers) will be made available in class as the course progresses.

Detailed weekly sessions

Week 1

September 8 **9/11 and its aftermath: The formation of an urban world in permanent crisis.**

Editors' introduction: global city theory in retrospect and prospect

What do we need to know? How do we know it? What are the questions we need to ask?

Reading: Bhan, G., Caldeira, T., Gillespie, K., and Simone, A. The Pandemic, Southern Urbanisms and Collective Life, *Environment and Planning: Society and Space*, August 3 (2020)

<https://www.societyandspace.org/articles/the-pandemic-southern-urbanisms-and-collective-life>

Podcast: Decolonize/Decenter: Planning in the South, The Urban Political Podcast, June 18, 2021.

<https://urbanpolitical.podigee.io/44-south>

Week 2

September 15 **Foundations**

Introduction to Part One; 1.0 Prologue, The Metropolitan Explosion (Peter Hall); 1.1 Divisions of Space and Time in Europe (Fernand Braudel); 1.2 World City Formation: An Agenda for Research and Action (John Friedmann and Goetz Wolff); 1.3 Locating Cities on Global Circuits (Saskia Sassen); 1.4 Urban Specialization in the World System (Nestor Rodriguez and Joe Feagin); 1.5 Accumulation and Comparative Urban Systems (John Walton); 1.6 The World-System Perspective and Urbanization (Michael Timberlake); 1.7 Global City Formation in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles: An Historical Perspective (Janet Abu-Lughod); 1.8 Global and World Cities: A View from Off the Map (Jennifer Robinson); 1.9 Space in the Globalizing City (Peter Marcuse).

Week 3

September 22 **Alpha City, Capital City, Icebergs, Race for Profit, Comparative Urbanism**

Readings introduce some of the key themes of the course from various angles. For introduction, watch:

Rowland Atkinson <https://progressivegeographies.com/2020/07/27/laleh-khalili-and-rowland-atkinson-global-flows-of-capital-commodities-and-people-video/>

Jenny Robinson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfm60H9y2BY>

Samuel Stein <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4OHJGkrl18>

Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwOrGpVLeN4>

Week 4

September 29 **Pathways**

Introduction to Part Two; 2.0 Prologue Istanbul was our past, Istanbul is our future (Hamid Dabashi); 2.1 The City as a Landscape of Power: London and New York as Global Financial Capitals (Sharon Zukin); 2.2 Detroit and Houston: Two Cities in Global Perspective (Richard C. Hill and Joe Feagin); 2.3 The Stimulus of a Little Confusion: A Contemporary Comparison of Amsterdam and Los Angeles (Edward Soja); 2.4 Global City Zurich: Paradigms of Urban Development (Christian Schmid); 2.5 From 'State-Owned' to 'City Inc.': The Re-territorialization of the State in Shanghai (Fulong Wu); 2.6 The Dream of Delhi as a Global City (Veronica Dupont); 2.7 'Fourth World' Cities in the Global Economy: The Case of Phnom Penh (Gavin Shatkin); 2.8 Medellín and Bogotá: The Global Cities of the Other Globalization (Eduardo Mendieta).

Week 5

October 6 **Relations**

Introduction to Part Three; 3.0 Prologue Specification of the World City Network (Peter Taylor); 3.1 Local and Global: Cities in Network Society (Manuel Castells); 3.2 Comparing London and Frankfurt as World Cities: A Relational Study of Contemporary Urban Change (Jonathan V. Beaverstock, Michael Hoyler, Kathryn Pain, and Peter J. Taylor); 3.3 Global Grids of Glass: On Global Cities, Telecommunication and Planetary Urban Networks (Stephen Graham); 3.4 Global Cities and the Spread of Infectious Disease: The Case of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in Toronto, Canada (S. Harris Ali and Roger Keil); 3.5 Flying High (in the Competitive Sky): Conceptualizing the Role of Airports in Global City-Regions through 'Aero-Regionalism' (Jean-Paul Addie); 3.6 One Package at a Time: The Distributive World City (Cynthia Negrey, Jeffery L. Osgood, and Frank Goetzke); 3.7 Global Cities between Biopolitics and Necropolitics: (In)Security and Circuits of Knowledge in the Global City Network (David Murakami-Wood); 3.8 The Virtual Palimpsest of the Global City Network (Mark Graham); 3.9 Relationality/territoriality: Toward conceptualization of cities in the world (Eugene McCann and Kevin Ward).

Week 6

Fall Reading Week: Reading the World City

Possible books:

Adiga, Aravind (2011) *Last Man in Tower*. Delhi: HarperCollinsIndia.
Beatty, Paul (2015) *The Sellout*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
Berger, John (1990) *Lilac and Flag*. New York: Vintage.
Brand, Dionne (2005) *What We All Long For*. Toronto: Vintage Canada.

Chariandy, David (2017) *Brother*. Toronto: McLelland and Stewart.
Cole, Teju (2011) *Open City*. New York: Random House.
Eggers, David (2012) *A Hologram for the King*. San Francisco: McSweeney Books.
Hernandez, Catherine (2017) *Scarborough*. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press.
Jemisin, N.K. (2020) *The City We Became*. New York.
King, Thomas (2021) *Sufferance*. Toronto: HarperCollins.
Lanchester, John (2012) *Capital*. London: Faber and Faber.
Melandri, Fancesca (2017) *Sangue Giusto*. Rizzoli (Italian, French, German)
Menasse, Robert (2019) *The Capital*. W.W.Norton.
Tartt, Donna (2013) *The Goldfinch*. New York: Little Brown and Company.
Helwig, Maggie (2004) *Girls Fall Down*. Toronto: Coach House Books.
Stephen Dale (2021) *ShiftChange: Scenes from a Post-industrial Revolution*. TO: Between the Lines.
Anna Wiener (2020) *Uncanny Valley*. New York: MCD Books.

Week 7

October 20: **Reading the World City**

Literary excursions into an urban world.

Week 8

October 27: **Going to Chicago**

A virtual visit to a global city on the Great Lakes. With guest lectures by Neil Brenner (Chicago), Xuefei Ren (Michigan State) and David Wilson (Illinois). – Readings to be announced.

Week 9

November 3: **Regulations**

Introduction to Part Four; 4.0 Prologue The Global City as World Order (Warren Magnusson); 4.1 Globalization and the Rise of City-regions (Allen J. Scott); 4.2 Global Cities, 'Global States': Global City Formation and State Territorial Restructuring in Contemporary Europe (Neil Brenner); 4.3 Global Cities and Developmental States: Tokyo and Seoul (Richard Child Hill and June Woo Kim); 4.4 World City Formation on the Asia Pacific Rim: Poverty, "Everyday" Forms of Civil Society and Environmental Management (Mike Douglass); 4.5 New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy (Neil Smith); 4.6 Between World History and State Formation: New Perspectives on Africa's Cities (Laurent Fourchard); 4.7 The 'Right to the City': Institutional Imperatives of a Developmental State (Susan Parnell and Edgar Pieterse); 4.8 Global Cities' vs. 'global cities:' Rethinking Contemporary Urbanism as Public Ecology (Timothy W. Luke).

Week 10

November 10: **Contestations**

Introduction to Part Five; 5.0 Prologue From Tahrir Square to Emaar Square: Cairo's private road to a private city (Mohamed Elshahed); 5.1 Local Actors in Global Politics (Saskia Sassen); 5.2 The Right to the City (David Harvey); 5.3 Urban Social Movements in an Era of Globalization (Margit Mayer); 5.4 São Paulo: The City and its Protest (Teresa Caldeira); 5.5 Global City Building in China and its Discontents (Xuefei Ren); 5.6 Between Ghetto and Globe: Remaking Urban Life in Africa (AbdouMalik Simone); 5.7 World Cities and Urban Renewal (Steven Tufts); 5.8 Blockupy Fights Back: Global City Formation in Frankfurt am Main after the Financial Crisis (Sebastian Schipper, Lucas Pohl, Tino Petzold, Daniel Mullis, and Bernd Belina).

Week 11

November 17: **Culture**

Introduction to Part Six; 6.0 Prologue: High Culture and Hard Labor (Andrew Ross); 6.1 World Cities: Global? Postcolonial? Postimperial? Or Just the Result of Happenstance? Some Cultural Comments (Anthony King); 6.2 "Global Media Cities": Major Nodes of Globalising Culture and Media Industries (Stefan Krätke); 6.3 Willing the Global City: Berlin's Cultural Strategies of Inter-Urban Competition after 1989 (Ute Lehrer); 6.4 The Transnational Capitalist Class and Contemporary Architecture in Globalizing Cities (Leslie Sklair); 6.5 Shanghai Nightscapes and Ethnosexual Contact Zones (James Farrer and Andrew Field); 6.6 Graffiti or Street Art? Negotiating the Moral Geographies of the Creative City (Cameron McAuliffe); 6.7 Spaces and Networks of Musical Creativity in the city (Allan Watson, Michael Hoyler and Christoph Mager); 6.8 Provincializing the Global City: From Bombay to Mumbai (Rashimi Varma).

Week 12

November 24: **Frontiers**

Introduction to Part Seven; 7.0 Prologue World City (Doreen Massey); 7.1 The Global Cities Discourse: A Return to the Master Narrative? (Michael Peter Smith); 7.2 External Urban Relational Processes: Introducing Central Flow Theory to Complement Central Place Theory (Peter J. Taylor, Michael Hoyler and Raf Verbruggen); 7.3 Beyond the Global City Concept and the Myth of 'Command and Control' (Richard G. Smith); 7.4 World Cities under Conditions of Financialized Globalization: Towards an Augmented World City Hypothesis (David Bassens and Michiel van Meeteren); 7.5 Can the Straw Man Speak? An Engagement with Postcolonial Critiques of 'Global Cities Research' (Michiel van Meeteren, Ben Derudder, and David Bassens); 7.6 Global Suburbanization (Roger Keil); 7.7 What is Urban about Critical Urban Theory? (Ananya Roy); 7.8 Planetary Urbanization (Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid); 7.9 New Geographies of Theorizing the Urban: Putting Comparison to Work for Global Urban Studies

(Jennifer Robinson); 7.10 Governing the Informal in Globalizing Cities: Comparing China, India, and Brazil (Xuefei Ren); 7.11 The Urban Revolution (Henri Lefebvre).

Week 13

December 1: **Conclusions and Reflections**

Important Course information

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy webpage

§ Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website

§ Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants

§ Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities

§ Student Conduct Standards

§ Religious Observance Accommodation

Intellectual Property Notice

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Academic Honesty

York students are required to maintain high standard of academic integrity and are subject to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty as set out by York University and by the Faculty of Environmental Studies. Please read the *Senate Policy on Academic Honesty* (which can be found as Appendix One of the *Academic Regulations of the Faculty of Environmental Studies* or in the ?University Policies and Regulations section of the *York University Undergraduate Programs Calendar*), available at:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/legislation/senate/acadhonesty.htm>

There is also an academic integrity website with complete information about academic honesty. Students are expected to review the materials on the Academic Integrity website (<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity>).

HPRC Review Process

FES GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR ETHICAL REVIEW OF RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMAN PARTICIPANTS IN UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

York students are subject to the York University Policy for the ethics review process for research involving Human Participants. All research activity with human participants and minimal risk as part of this course has to undergo ethical review. Please consider the following definitions:

- **“Human participants”** in research will be defined as persons who provide data or information to the researcher which are typically not part of their professional capacity.
- The draft **definition of funded research** from the Human Participants Review Sub-Committee [HPRC] is: “‘Funded’ will refer to all research that is receiving money that is in response to a specific proposal and administered by the university. Research using monies not administered by the University, and/or not in response to a specific proposal, will be considered ‘unfunded’.”
- The **definition of minimal risk** being used is the one given in the SSHRC/NSERC/MRC *Tri-Council Policy Statement Aethical Conduct for Research involving Humans* (August, 1998): “If potential subjects can reasonably be expected to regard the probability and magnitude of possible harms implied by participation in the research to be no greater than those encountered by the subject in those aspects of his or her everyday life that relate to the research, then the research can be regarded as within the range of minimal risk.” (p. 1.5)

PLEASE NOTE: Students who feel that there are extenuating circumstances which may interfere with the successful completion of the course requirements are encouraged to discuss the matter with the Course Director as soon as possible. Students with physical, learning or psychiatric disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in teaching style or evaluation methods should discuss with the Course Director early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.