With globalization, nations as well as their cities are becoming increasingly interdependent, affected by a common set of forces such as international trade, foreign investment, and international migration. Best planning practices from developing countries are being used in some western industrialized countries, and vice versa. There also appears to be a convergence of urban problems faced by cities in different world regions, such as persistent unemployment, deteriorating urban environment, increasing social stress, and institutional weaknesses.

Building on the central themes of globalization and learning from best practices, this course will offer a comparative analysis of planning practices around the world. It will cover such topics as local responses to globalization, national government’s role in urbanization, regional development planning, competitive urban economic policies, integrated transportation and land use planning, sustainable urban development, urban infrastructure and shelter delivery, and urban governance. It draws planning solutions from both developing and industrialized countries.

Course Expectations

This course will try to link national differences by explicitly comparing best practices against national and local circumstances. You are encouraged to bring to class for discussion your own working and educational experience from different countries.

You are expected to select a topic of your own interest and write a major research paper. The topic may focus on a substantive area of planning, including those covered in the course. Comparative analysis is expected through using examples from different countries. The topic may also dwell on a particular country, in which case you are expected to analyze different planning solutions or policies over time or across regions within the country. A proposal of the research paper is due mid-way through the semester and will be commented extensively by me. You will incorporate these comments into the final version of the paper and present it in class.

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- be knowledgeable of current discussions about economic globalization,
- understand the major implications of global economic integration for cities,
- be knowledgeable of critical urban and planning issues transcending national boundaries
- appreciate the need to understand local circumstances in transferring best planning practices across countries and cities, and
- know major resources for international research and become familiar with key international institutions.
University policies on class attendance and honor system apply to this class. You are expected to complete assigned readings prior to lectures, participate in class discussions, and hand in discussion notes and assignments on time. As an instructor, I am very concerned about the equality of access to education. If any of you has a physical or mental limitation that requires an accommodation or an academic adjustment, please arrange a meeting with me at your earliest convenience. March 25, 2005 is the last day to drop a course with a mark of "W".

Readings

There is no textbook for the course. The readings are available through links in Blackboard by clicking on the blue-colored titles. These materials are chosen deliberately to be as practical as possible so that they will be comprehensible and interesting. Prior to class, you are expected to read the materials and complete the discussion notes (when required), which will be centered on the reading materials. Let me know whenever you have any problem with the readings.

Discussion notes are one-page, single-spaced (10 – 12 font size), and typed papers that outline important points in the readings. These notes are meant to provide you with talking points (complete sentences are unnecessary), as you participate in class discussion on that topic. You must hand them in before class on the assigned day. Please check the course outline for discussion questions.

Assignments and Grading

• Discussion notes (six at 5 points each) 30%
• Research prospectus 10% March 7 by email attachment
• Draft research paper 20% April 13 by email attachment
• Research presentation 10% April 25 & May 2
• Final research paper 20% May 2 by email attachment
• Class attendance and participation 10%

Only absences due to illness or other legitimate reasons are acceptable and must be cleared with me. Students not attending a full session of class without legitimate reasons will be recorded as absent. More than six hours of unexcused absences during the semester will result in discount of a full letter grade. Late assignment without prior agreement with me will be discounted at the rate of 2 points per calendar day.

Final class grades will be on the following scale:

A = 90 - 100 points
B = 80 - 89 points
C = 70 - 79 points
D = 60 - 69 points
F = 0 - 59 points
Course Outline

• January 24  Introduction and resources

• January 31  Situating globalization

• February 7  World cities and urbanization

Questions for Discussion Note 1:
(please give examples whenever you can)
1. What are the key elements of economic globalization?
2. What are the impacts of globalization on world urbanization and world's settlement system?
3. What have made it possible for "world cities" to play a dominant role in the global economy?
4. What are the key functions of "world cities" in the new global urban hierarchy?
5. How do rapid advances in information infrastructure affect cities and "world cities" in particular?

• February 14  Local responses to globalization

Discussion Note 2: Globalization and Richmond
Summarize the ways in which:
1. Richmond is linked to the world through international trade, capital flows, immigration, or information networks.
2. Globalization is affecting Richmond's economy, labor force, or culture.
You may want to substantiate your descriptions with some quantitative information (fact toys).

• February 21  National government’s role in urbanization
Questions for Discussion Note 3:
(please give examples whenever you can)
1. What are the sources of city growth and, in particular, agglomeration economies?
2. Why has it been necessary for some countries to have national urban development strategies?
3. What are some of the more successful government policies in national and regional development?
4. What conclusions would you draw regarding the effectiveness of the Dutch Green Heart Planning?
5. How would you characterize South Korea's regional development policies? How different are they from the approaches in Brazil?

• February 28 Competitive urban economic policies


Questions for Discussion Note 4:
(please give examples whenever you can)
1. How would you characterize the new context for economic competition under globalization?
2. How is this context different from that of previous decades when there was an absence of a so-called "global economy"?
3. What types of public policy have been effective in facilitating both industrial restructuring and the growth of new urban economy?
4. In your opinion, what can American central cities do to revitalize their economies?
5. What are the common features of successful cities in attracting the creative class?

• March 7 Urban sustainability and environment


• March 14 Spring break/No class
• March 21 \hspace{1em} \textbf{Integrated transportation and land use planning}


\textbf{Questions for Discussion Note 5:}
1. What do you think are the two-way linkages between land use and transportation planning, i.e. how would one affect the other? And why is it important to have integrated land use and transportation policies?
2. How are land use policies integrated with transportation policies in Curitiba, Brazil? How effective has the strategy using two structural north-south transport arteries been in containing urban sprawl?
3. Do you see any differences between the system of transportation planning in Singapore and the United States? If so, what are they? How would such differences affect the transferability of the Singaporean experience?
4. The electronic road pricing scheme in Singapore is essentially a mechanism for congestion pricing and has been quite successful there. What obstacles do you foresee if this scheme were to be introduced in large American cities, like New York or Chicago?

• March 28 \hspace{1em} \textbf{Making cities livable}


\textbf{Questions for Discussion Note 6:}
(please cite examples whenever possible)
1. In many developing countries, shelter delivery to the urban poor includes the provision of a range of infrastructure services in addition to housing. What services do you think are basic necessities for the urban poor?
2. Conventional basic infrastructure for the urban poor is extremely expensive in relation to their income levels. What are some of the less expensive and more effective alternatives in the delivery of water and sewerage services?
3. Indonesia's Kampung Improvement Program (KIP) has been widely regarded as a fairly successful program of self-help housing. What are the main factors that have contributed to the moderate success of KIP?
4. What are the key factors that underlie the success of the Grameen Bank?

• April 4 & 11 \hspace{1em} \textbf{Research paper/No class}

• April 18 \hspace{1em} \textbf{Civil society and urban governance}

**Participatory Budgeting in Porto Alegre, Brazil (World Bank Case Study)**

- April 25  Research presentations
- May 2  Research presentations