



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

MU1625 Global Cities, 7.5 credits

Global Cities, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Faculty of Social Sciences on 2008-05-14 and was last revised on 2020-05-28 by School of Global Studies to be valid from 2020-08-31, autumn semester of 2020.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course Global Cities, 7,5 credits, is given as an additional single subject course.

Main field of studies

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Specialization

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- account for key concepts such as ‘the global city’, ‘the world city’, ‘the modern city’, ‘the sustainable city’ and the ‘network city’;
- identify and describe different processes of urban change in terms of history, politics, economy, city planning, culture, geography, sustainable development, social change and/or drivers of urban change;

- explain why global trends are more prevalent and visible in some cities than in others, and provide examples of processes of ‘glocalization’ and ‘urbanization’;

Competence and skills

- write shorter academic texts;
- formulate questions relevant to the course literature;
- identify core issues related to ‘the global city’, ‘the world city’, ‘the modern city’, ‘the sustainable city’ and ‘the network city’;

Judgement and approach

- assess the status of selected cities by applying the concept of ‘the global city’;
- critically examine drivers of urban change.

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

Course content

Today, over half of the world’s population lives in cities and the need for new understandings of urbanization and its related processes in different social and geographical contexts is growing. In the meantime, some old metropolises or ‘world cities’ are being transformed into ‘global cities’. Larger cities are often assumed to be places for political development, sites of artistic and scientific creativity, and/or melting pots of ethnic and cultural diversity. Capital cities or mega-cities are competing to become attractive and dynamic centers of world regions, beyond the national borders.

The course will examine how processes of globalization and modernization relate to social, cultural, economic and political transformations in a selection of cities around the world. The characteristics of the modern city as well as alternative urban development are presented and discussed.

Lectures focus on the history of urbanization, Nordic capitals (Stockholm, Helsinki, Oslo and Copenhagen), Istanbul, Lagos, Jakarta, Hanoi, Tokyo, Mexico City and Brasilia. A number of social science concepts and tools apt for researching cities are presented: The medieval city; the early industrial city; transnational networks; the sustainable city; the modern city are also covered in the lectures. Further, the course explores the interrelationship between globalization and cities by probing into issues like these and by "visiting" cities in different parts of the world.

Form of teaching

The course is based on lectures.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

The examination of the course is divided in two interrelated elements:

- A PM (Grades: Pass or Fail), 2,5 hp
- A final paper (Grades: Passed with Distinction, Pass or Fail), 5 hp

In the PM, the student presents a brief overview of one particular aspect of a selected global city. The final paper should contain a thorough discussion of relevant literature from the course combined with academic literature or texts on a selected city.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary.

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

To obtain Pass on the entire course the student must have a pass on their PM and a pass on their final paper

To obtain Pass with Distinction on the entire course the student must have a pass on their PM and a pass with distinction on their final paper

Course evaluation

The course coordinator guarantees that the students' points of views are considered regularly and systematically during the course/at the end of the course. This is done by written and verbal evaluation. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the students and will function as a guide for the development of the course.