

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

URBP0001. Cities and globalization (6 credits)

Cities have played a major role in the development of the global economy. As centres of production, commerce and trade, innovation, and intellectual and cultural exchange, cities have profoundly influenced the world in which we live. As cities occupy such a crucial position in the contemporary world, it is important to understand how they have developed and how they shape our daily lives, especially as the world becomes increasingly globalized. London and New York have occupied a prominent position in the emerging global economy for many decades. These 'world cities', and others like Hong Kong which also aspire to this special status, are key players in the global economy. This course focuses on the various roles that cities play in the global economy. We will examine the inter-relationships between urban development and globalization processes. Particular attention will be given to the role of 'world cities' and to the debates surrounding their development. We shall look at the experiences of London and New York, as well as other major cities such as Shanghai, Tokyo, Sydney and Paris. We shall also review the current debate concerning the development of Hong Kong as Asia's 'world city': what this might mean and how it might be achieved.

Assessment: 100% coursework.

One individual term paper of 2,500-3000 words and one group project on an assignment set by the teachers.

Teaching mode: 2 hours of formal classes per week, lectures and discussion sessions supplemented by 1 hour of small group tutorials.

(For candidates admitted in or before the academic year 2007-2008)

URBP0002. Creating the sustainable city (6 credits)

Since the publication of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987, the principles of sustainable development have been widely adopted within the international community. Agenda 21, which has provided the framework for global action on sustainability, was adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit. Many cities and regions have developed new approaches to planning and managing economic and social development and environmental change using the Agenda 21 model. The World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 placed a new emphasis on action to promote sustainability through partnerships between government, business and civil society.

This course will review how the ideas surrounding sustainable cities and regions have developed over the past 20 years. The course will review experiences from different parts of the world to demonstrate how sustainability issues are now incorporated in the development process. We will also focus on the issue of sustainable development in China and Hong Kong, including the work of the Commission for Sustainable Development. We will explore how Hong Kong can plan its future in a more sustainable way to improve the quality of life of its people and to conserve its natural environment and biodiversity.

Assessment: 100% Coursework.

One individual term paper of 2,500-3000 words and one group project on an assignment set by the teachers.

Teaching mode: 2 hours of formal classes per week, lectures and discussion sessions supplemented by 1 hour of small group tutorials.

(For candidates admitted in or before the academic year 2007-2008)