

**The Urban World 10:762:233 index 10174**  
**Cities: 01:450:240 index 00272**  
**Fall 2008. Murray 210. Mon/Thurs 8.10-9.30am**  
**Website at <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>**

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This is an interdisciplinary course on the city throughout the world. It is historical, geographical and political. We will be exploring why cities developed, what they are like today, and what their possible/likely futures are. In addition to powerpoint lectures, some guests, and class discussions, we will see some videos. If you miss a video in class or want to see it again, you will be able to view it at the Media Center in Kilmer Library.

### Reading

Books for this course are Cities by John Reader (Atlantic Monthly Press, 2004). It is in the Rutgers Bookshop or you can order it online. (As of July 08, the price was \$6.99 on Amazon) and Dennis E.Gale Greater New Jersey: Living in the Shadow of Gotham (Univ of Pennsylvania Press, 2006) \$19.95 new or \$7.42 used. We will be posting material (powerpoints, notes, articles) on our class website. You are expected to keep up with current events affecting cities (through newspapers, TV, web, radio etc) some of which we will discuss in class. Questions based on these class discussions will be included on tests and we will occasionally ask for written summaries of discussion with names of participants. Cities is not a typical textbook. The Times of London called it “the most enjoyable book ever written about the matter of the city.” Others have said it is “never boring,” “entertaining,” “captivating”...and so forth. It is an “easy read” and to make it even easier I have posted my notes on all the chapters so you can see what I thought was important and questions that occurred to me as I was reading. Gale’s new book on Northern New Jersey should be of interest to all since he is writing about our localities. He teaches at Rutgers Newark.

### Evaluation

Attendance and promptness count. There will be four exams, each covering material since the previous exam. If you miss one of the first three exams and have appropriate documentation as to why you missed it (e.g. doctor’s note), you can take a make up (essay exam) on Tuesday November 25 (a Rutgers Thursday!)- the day before the Thanksgiving holiday. The first three exams will be “objective” questions. For the final, you will have a choice between an “objective” test or an essay exam. Each exam is worth 25% of your grade. Attendance will be taken. If your course grade is borderline between two grades, good attendance, and particularly participation in class debate/discussion (of which we’ll have some records), will give you the better grade while poor attendance will result in the lower grade. All students are expected to follow Rutgers academic integrity rules at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

### Preliminary Schedule

September 4 (Thursday) Introduction to class and to teachers. Expectations, ways of learning, overview, Sakai. Powerpoint: Cities Intro.

September 8 (Monday) Repeat of first class for those who added (If you were at class Sept 4, you don't need to come today).

September 11 (Thurs) Cities and Civilization. Urban origins. (Cities chaps. 1,2.) Powerpoint: Urbanization.

September 15 (Mon) Mesopotamia 4000 years ago and Baghdad today. **Part of video: Mesopotamia: I have Conquered the River.** (Cities 3,4) Powerpoint: Early Urban Civilizations.

September 18 (Thurs) Mi Shi on Early Chinese cities.

September 22 (Monday) Greek & Roman cities and Ancient cities of the New World. (Cities 5). Powerpoints: Greece and Rome & New World Cities.

September 25 (Thurs) First Exam

September 29 (Mon) Bria and Mi on Urban New Jersey Powerpoint Gale NJ (Gale pp.1-50)

October 2 (Thurs) Urban diversity: minorities, immigrants and varied lifestyles. Mi Shi on Asians. (Gale, pp 51-78). Powerpoint: African Americans and Hispanics.

October 6 (Mon) New Brunswick: our local city. Podcast Urban Change: New Brunswick. **No formal class meeting – watch the podcast at your leisure!**

October 9 (Thurs) No class. Optional New Brunswick walk. Walking guide on website.

October 13 (Mon) The church and the city past and present: debate on the role of religion in public policy. Church, Religion and social policy. (Cities chap 6&7). Share your experience and opinions.

October 16 (Thurs) Women and the City. Powerpoint Women in City.

October 20 (Mon) Housing in Cities and Suburbs – Foreclosures and other crises. Guest: Alan Cander, Lawyer and PhD candidate Bloustein School. (Cities 8,9)

October 23 (Thurs) Cities and employment. Tentative Guest: Wendel Thomas, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and alumnus of RU. (Cities 10,11)

October 27 (Mon) Second Exam

October 30 (Thurs) Twentieth Century urban growth, shantytowns, informal economy .  
Powerpoint Cities Transformed. (Cities 12)

November 3 (Mon) Cities and the Presidential Election. What should an “Urban Policy” look like for the next four years? Come ready to debate! (Cities chap 13)

November 6 (Thurs) Mi Shi Urban growth in Asia **Video: Part of “The Urban Explosion” about Istanbul and Shanghai.** (Cities chap 14 – waste disposal)  
Powerpoint: Asian urbanization.

November 10 (Mon) Shanghai and Beijing (after the Olympics) Mi Shih

November 13 (Thurs) Urbanization in Africa **Video: “My Mother Built this House” about housing in South Africa** (Cities chap 15 –public health). Powerpoint :  
African urbanization.

November 17 (Mon) Urban Latin America **Video: “Doing the Right Thing” about Porto Alegre, Brazil.** (Cities chap 16 –transport/trade) Latin American  
Urbanization.

November 20 (Thurs) Prospects for cities in the developing world. **Video: Pavements of Gold**

November 24 (Mon) Third Exam

November 25 (Tuesday, but a Rutgers Thursday) Make up exam for anyone who missed any of first three.

December 1 (Mon) The future of cities 1: Cybercities – how the web is changing urban society. Cybercities. **Video: Part of “Metropolis” by Fritz Lang** (Cities chaps 17-19)

December 4 (Thurs) The future of cities 2: Cities as playgrounds (tourism)  
Powerpoint: Tourism in Cities.

December 8 (Mon) The future of cities 4: Powerpoint: Future Cities.

December 11 (Thurs) Final Exam option #1. You may take the exam this day or on the official exam day of December 19 at 4pm. Choice of objective or essay.

December 19 (**Friday**) 4-7.30pm Final Exam (option #2). Choice of short answer or essay test.