

## **Course: Urban Geography**

Professor: To be confirmed  
Department: Urban Geography  
Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Language of Instruction: English

### **Syllabus**

Contemporary cities are growing rapidly and have become the main drivers of the world economy. Urban growth is accompanied by an intense process of internal restructuring of the city and an exacerbation of urban problems such as social segregation, transport, air pollution, etc. In this context, the Smart Cities paradigm emerges as a strategy to use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in order to improve quality of life, optimize the efficiency of services, promote economic development and social inclusion, facilitate governance and preserve the environment.

#### 1) CITIES AND URBAN GROWTH

- Concepts and theory in urban geography
- The urban world: global context of urbanization
- Urban systems and global cities

#### 2) URBAN FORM AND STRUCTURE

- The historical growth of cities
- The contemporary city: urban structure and land use dynamics
- Urban planning for sustainable cities

#### 3) ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IN THE CITY

- The economy of cities
- Social inequalities
- Mobility and transport
- Environmental problems

#### 4) SMART CITIES

- ICT technologies and sustainable cities
- The Big Data explosion: monitoring and analyzing the pulse of the city
- Fields of action: environmental, social and economic challenges
- Solutions based on Geographic Information Systems

### **References**

Notes provided in class  
Information from Webpages provided in class

**Evaluation:** I consider three options to be discussed in order to meet the University criteria and the goals of the students

- (A) Final Exam (50%) and short questions in class (50%)
- (B) Final Exam (50%) and term paper and presentation in class (50%)
- (C) Final Exam (100%)

### **Main Course Reading Materials:**

Crane, R., & Weber, R. (Eds.). (2015). *The Oxford handbook of urban planning*. Oxford University Press.

Hall, T., & Barrett, H. (2018). *Urban geography*. Routledge.

Johnston, R. J. (2013). *City and society: An outline for urban geography*. Routledge.

Kaplan, D. H., & Holloway, S. (2014). *Urban geography*. Wiley Global Education.

Pacione, M. (2013). *Urban geography: A global perspective*. Routledge.

Schwanen, T. and van Kempen, R. (Eds.) (2019): *Handbook of Urban Geography*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Short, J. R. (2017). *An introduction to urban geography*. Routledge.

Song, H., Srinivasan, R., Sookoor, T., & Jeschke, S. (2017). *Smart cities: foundations, principles, and applications*. John Wiley & Sons.