

Course Title: GST 110 The Global Experience: Globalization & Urbanization

Class Time & Location: Section O: 9:25-10:35 MWF **Office hours:** Mon 3:00-4:00pm Tue 10:00-11:00am *or by*
 Location: 309 Carlton Wed 1:00-2:00pm Thu 11:00-12:00am *appointment*

Instructor: **Dr. Ryan Kirk**, Dept. of History and Geography, Dept. of Environmental Studies
 E-mail: rkirk2@elon.edu (e-mails will be responded to within 24 hours)
 Phone: 336-278-6477
 Office: 112C Lindner Hall

Required Texts: **1) Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Intention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier.** By Edward Glaeser. 2011. New York: Penguin Press. 338 p.
2) The City: A Global History. By Joel Kotkin. 2006. New York: The Modern Library. 218 p.
(Note: Additional required and suggested readings will be provided in pdf format or html links, and will typically consist of journal articles, news articles, web sites, or book sections. Readings will be posted on Moodle)

Catalog Description: This first-year seminar examines personal and social responsibility in domestic and global contexts. In developing your own view of the world and its many peoples, societies, and environments, you will evaluate the complex relationships that may both promote and obstruct human interaction. The course emphasizes critical thinking and creativity focused on contemporary and salient issues as informed by their historical contexts. The seminar is inquiry-based, writing intensive, and taught from a variety of perspectives.

GST 110 Themes: Six themes are shared across sections of GST 110. It is up to the individual faculty member to decide which themes will receive priority.

- The impact of globalization in an increasingly connected, technological, and rapidly changing world
- The influence of power and resistance in historical and contemporary interactions
- The relationship between humans and the natural world
- Diversity and its relationship to intercultural competency
- The analysis and evaluation of personal and social responsibility
- The processes, limitations, and implications of ethical reasoning

Section Overview: Although all sections of GST 110 address these same six themes, each section is taught with different topics and assignments in order to engage these themes. Our GST 110 section (Section O as in Ostrich, which is the section mascot) will use the central topic of "Globalization & Urbanization" to explore global forces. We recently passed a significant global milestone where more than 50% of the world's population now lives in cities, and this percentage is forecasted to increase to 70% by 2050. This semester, we will examine the causes and implications of this trend. Simultaneously, we will examine how cities work, explore the ways cities influence culture and social dynamics, and evaluate the relationships between urbanization, wealth and poverty. You will also spend a lot of time reflecting on how you relate to the places where you live and what characteristics define the neighborhoods and communities where you would like to live.



Learning Outcomes: During the semester, you will:

- Define globalization and evaluate the major drivers, patterns, and effects of globalization in different areas of the world, particularly in relation to cities.
- Examine major processes of urban management, including planning and design, public utilities management, economic development, and social services, and then develop a written manifesto for a sustainable 21st century city.
- Identify and evaluate ways in which urban life influences culture and society.
- Explore the metrics and meanings of "standard of living" and "quality of life" in different urban regions of the world.
- Critically assess your own relationship to the places where you live, and assess your role and responsibilities as a global citizen in an urbanizing world.

Grades:	Component	Percentage of Final Grade
	Participation	8%
	Campus Speaker Reviews (3 speakers + 1 reflection)	5%
	City & Society Presentation	7%
	Portfolio (Topic: Reflections on Place & Community)	10%
	Minor Paper (Topic: Compare and contrast Research Cities)	10%
	Major Paper (Topic: Manifesto for a 21 st Century City)	30%
	Quizzes (4 total, 7.5% each, all cumulative)	30%

Attendance Policy: A primary goal of this class is develop your critical thinking and creativity skills by examining your place in the world, and a key method of meeting this goal is practicing these skills for 210 minutes per week in class. Thus, attendance will be taken. **The attendance policy is very simple: you are given 3 free unexcused absences and your final grade will be reduced 3% for each additional unexcused absence.** The only excused absences are sanctioned Elon events. Thus, plan carefully for things like illnesses or family events.

Participation: Your participation grade will be determined at two points of the semester: 4% before midterm grades, and 4% after. The participation combines two components. First, we will have regular reading and research tasks. I will monitor that you have completed these tasks. Second, I will take regular notes on how well you demonstrate the following characteristics in class:

- a) Preparedness: The student comes prepared for each class session, having completed readings and addressed research topics.
- b) Attentiveness: The student is regularly engaged in class sessions and is not regularly sleeping, browsing on laptops, texting, etc.
- b) Contributive: The student regularly contributes to discussions and group projects.
- d) Professionalism: The student arrives on time, is respectful in discussions, is not distracting, and assists other students where possible.

Research Cities: To facilitate discussions of various topics, you will work in groups of 3-5 students to research specific cities around the globe. Each group will research one major city from a historically industrialized region of the world and one from a developing region. There will be multiple writing assignments, presentations, and research requirements related to these cities, and we will use them to inform many of our discussions. Grading for these requirements is built into the participation, portfolio, presentation and papers.

Campus Speaker & Cultural Event Reviews: Elon hosts dozens of speakers and cultural events from around the world. You are to attend three events, and then write a 400-600 word reflective essay that summarizes and critiques the speaker or event. **Reviews must be submitted within 7 calendar days of the event. At least 2 must be completed before Spring Break, all speaker reviews must be completed by May 1. At least 1 must be a performance.** After you have completed all 3 reviews, you will write a synthesis reflection essay about how these speakers or events influence our community. Further instructions, a grading rubric, and a list of speakers are available on Moodle.

Presentations: You will present a 10-minute presentation on a specific example of how urbanization influences society. This presentation can be drawn from your own experiences (supplemented with research), your research cities, or other examples. You will develop the presentation in multiple phases including a full written draft.

Portfolio: The portfolio will consist of a regular series of "writing to think" assignments centered on the theme of "**Reflections on Place & Community**". Some assignments will respond to readings, others will relate to your Research Cities, and others will relate to your own personal experiences. At the end of the semester, you will organize them into a portfolio and write a synthesis reflection. Many of the writings will focus on your own experience and personal values. Grading is based on effort, organization, and clarity of arguments.

Final Paper: The capstone project is titled "**A Manifesto for a Sustainable 21st Century City.**" Throughout the semester we will examine how cities work and how they influence society. There will be multiple short writing assignments related to this topic, and then you will write a synthesis paper that summarizes your views for what a sustainable large city should do to succeed in a globalized world. The paper will be at least 4000 words (about 15 pages double spaced) and contain at least 15 scholarly sources.

Quizzes (4): Quizzes will be given roughly every 3rd week to reinforce course content. Quizzes will consist of map identification and short-answer questions related to readings and material covered in class. We will grow a list of testable terms and concepts throughout the semester. All testable material will be cumulative, which means it will remain eligible for all subsequent quizzes. The final exam will follow a similar format, but will also include synthesis essay questions.

Grading Policies:

Overall grading is criterion-referenced, in which grades are designed to measure how well students perform relative to predetermined standards. Final grades are rigid and based on a standard scale: (e.g., > 90% = A, > 80% = B, etc). Individual assignments, however, may be curved upwards (never downwards) at the discretion of the instructor.

Grades on each assignment can be contested to the instructor up to 2 weeks after the assignment is returned for errors or perceived injustice. Send an e-mail or bring a written statement to office hours containing sound reasons why a grade should be changed.

Incomplete grades are assigned at the discretion of the professor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work on time. Requires a written agreement between the professor and student before the final exam.

Submitting Assignments: Due dates are specified in the course schedule (below). **Some assignments will be submitted electronically via Moodle, and others will be submitted at the start of class.** Guidelines and requirements for each assignment will be provided on Moodle.

Late Assignments: Extensions to assignments may be granted if requested in advance with appropriate justification. **Without an approved extension, assignments may be submitted up to 3-days late for 80% partial credit, or up to 7-days late for 60% partial credit.** Assignments will not be accepted later than 7 days after the due date without an approved extension. Quizzes may be rescheduled if arrangements are made at least 1 day prior to the quiz date.

Academic Integrity Policy: Students are expected to abide by the Elon Academic Honor Code (available at <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/handbook/violations/default.xhtml>). In this course, plagiarism and cheating during in-class quizzes are the most important concerns. Alleged violations will be dealt with according to University policy.

Special Assistance: Please inform the instructor of any special needs for accessibility and learning, and appropriate measures will be taken to aid success in the course. If you are a student with a documented disability who will require accommodations in this course, please register with Disabilities Services in the Duke Building, Room 108 (278-6500) for assistance in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

How to succeed in this course: The Global Experience is by design a writing- and effort-intensive course. Two primary traits will help you succeed in this course. First, you must be willing to commit to the regular workload required. I expect that at least 2 hours preparation for each class period – variously involving reading, watching, researching, reflecting, writing, or studying – will be the norm. We will regularly discuss ways for completing these tasks effectively and efficiently. Second, you should be willing to truly engage with the challenge of assessing your place in the world. A good part of the grade is based on clarifying and articulating your perspectives on topics that do not have clear right and wrong answers. Since much of the grading is effort based, passiveness or lack of engagement in this regard will likely be reflected by unengaging or underdeveloped products, and hence lower grades.