

## **CP2235 Syllabus**

Sustainable Urban Development, JG, 3 Credits

Fall 2026

### **Instructor Information**

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Instructor: Dr. Jairo Garcia

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### **General Course Information**

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#### **Description**

This class is a short journey through the history of cities around the world. We will explore key aspects of the evolution of world cities in the past, the enormous challenges faced by world cities in the present and the future (e.g., population growth, migration, unsustainable consumption, and climate change, among others), and the opportunities that these challenges present including the use and development of clean technologies (Smart Cities) as well as changes in economic, social, and cultural practices towards a sustainable planet (Circular-Economy).

Planning for and running world cities bring together concepts that involve practically every major discipline. From climate to the economy, from health to social justice, and from infrastructure to technology, a holistic, sustainable approach is needed to solve the complex problems facing cities around the world.

Urban planners and other urban experts from around the world will be invited to the World Cities class to discuss the challenges that existing cities experience and how innovation and creativity provide solutions to these challenges for the well-being of their residents and for the construction of a more sustainable planet.

#### **Course Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course students will have accomplished the following:

- Identify key aspects of the evolution of world cities in the past.
- Identify the present challenges faced by world cities and relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems.
- Identify predictable key factors that world cities in the future will face.
- Explore potential solutions to build world cities that are sustainable and climate-friendly.

## Required Course Materials

- Global Cities: A Short History (2016) by Greg Clark.
- Triumph of the City: How Our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier by Edward Glaeser.
- Additional readings will be posted in Canvas.

## Grading Policy:

Assignment	Points	Weight Final Grade
Midterm Exam	100	10%
Final Exam	100	10%
Individual Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Cities (50 points)</li> <li>• Industrial Cities (50 points)</li> <li>• Information Cities (50 points)</li> <li>• Circular Cities (50 points)</li> </ul> Only presentations	200	20%
Team Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizations (50 points)</li> <li>• Smart World Cities (50 points)</li> </ul> Only presentations	100	10%
Final Team Presentation – World City (100 points) AND paper (1,500 words) (200 points)	300	30%
Extracurricular Activity Presentation AND paper (2 pages)	100	10%

Class Participation	100	10%
Total	1000	100%

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

### **Description of Graded Components**

#### **-Class Attendance & Participation (100 points)**

Attendance and participation are very important as they contribute to the overall learning and enjoyment of the class. Class Attendance includes a physical presence during class and participation.

Note: Zoom attendance is reserved for emergency cases that must be approved by the instructor before the class.

A prerequisite to participating is showing up. Attendance is taken. Institute-excused absences should be communicated at least 24 hours ahead of time, via email, to the instructor. Commentary and questions that contribute to the in-class discussions and demonstrate thoughtful consideration of assigned readings will make up the second portion of your participation grade.

Final Participation Points = Attendance + Participation

- No absences + Participation = 100 points
- One absence + Participation = 90 points
- Two absences + Participation = 80 points
- Three absences + Participation = 70 points
- Four or more absences = 0 points

#### **-Individual Presentations (200 points)**

Students are required to research and prepare a PowerPoint presentation about the topics listed below and present their findings to the entire class (see dates in the syllabus). Each presentation should not exceed 5 minutes.

- Ancient Cities (50 points)
- Industrial Cities (50 points)
- Information Cities (50 points)
- Circular Cities (50 points)

**-Individual Extracurricular Activity (100 points)**

Students are required to choose an extracurricular activity related to a World City, prepare a presentation, and write a paper. Examples of extracurricular activities are working on a voluntary for a world city project, attending a world city event, or interviewing an official working for a world city. Students are required to prepare a PowerPoint presentation and make a 5-minute presentation of the activity to the class, as well as write and submit in Canvas a two-page paper (not including title page, references, or appendixes; one-half spaced; 12 fonts; APA guidelines).

**-Teams Assignments (400 points)**

Student will be randomly assigned to a team of 3-4 members.

Teams will be assigned to research and present to the class the following topics.

- Organizations (50 points)
- Smart World Cities (50 points)
- The Final Team Project about a World City (paper: 300 points and a presentation: 100 points).

At the end of each one of the presentations, each one of the students will be required to complete an evaluation form for members of her/his team, including themselves.

The earned grades for the presentation will be an average among the quality of the presentation, the quality of the report, and the team-group evaluation form.

Papers and Presentations:

The paper and presentations should be submitted on Canvas. The paper should be a minimum of 1,500 words (one-and-a-half spaced, 12 font) using APA Style guidelines)

**-Midterm Exam (100 points) and Final Exam (100 points)**

Exams will be administered in-class via Canvas and have been scheduled to cover roughly the first and second halves of the course. All exam material will be drawn from the assigned readings, lectures, and guest presentations. Each exam will consist of two sections: short answer and essay. Approximately one week prior to an exam, the instructor will distribute a list of key concepts to focus study.

## Course Policies

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### Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance and participation are very important as they contribute to the overall learning and enjoyment of the class. Class Attendance includes a physical presence during class and participation. Students are allowed to miss up to three (3) classes but will be grade zero if four (4) or more classes are missed.

Note: Zoom attendance is reserved for emergency cases that must be approved by the instructor before the class.

A prerequisite to participating is showing up. Attendance is taken. Institute-excused absences should be communicated at least 24 hours ahead of time, via email, to the instructor. Commentary and questions that contribute to the in-class discussions and demonstrate thoughtful consideration of assigned readings will make up the second portion of your participation grade.

Final Participation Points = Attendance + Participation

- No absences + Participation = 100 points
- One absence + Participation = 90 points
- Two absences + Participation = 80 points
- Three absences + Participation = 70 points
- Four or more absences = 0 points

### Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

### Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. Articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

## **Use of Generative AI**

If you choose to use **Generative Artificial Intelligence** software (for example ChatGPT, Bard, Microsoft Copilot, etc.) in completing ANY assignments for this class, you must include a proper reference in your work. If you choose to use precise language generated by the software, you must quote it. The reference must include the website and specific prompts used to generate the referenced output. For an example of how to reference, you may want to consult APA.

## **Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams**

Assignments turned in after the specified due date will incur a grade penalty according to the following schedule:

- Within 24 hours of original due date: 10% deduction off the final grade
- Between 24-48 hours of original due date: 20% deduction off the final grade
- Between 48-72 hours of original due date: 30% deduction off the final grade
- **After 72 hours the grade will be zero for the assignment.**

For team presentations, you will be expected to present on the day assigned to your group and these presentations will not be accepted for partial credit after the date assigned.

## **Inclement Weather and Digital Learning Days**

In case of inclement weather, we will meet via Zoom **in Canvas**.

## **Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom**

Laptops, tablets, e-readers, and other digital devices may be used to take notes, refer to relevant information, and complete in-class assignments. If you are using a digital device for non-course purposes at any time during the semester, you will be asked to refrain from using it for the remainder of the course. No exceptions.

## **Campus Resources for Students**

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### **Undergraduate Student Academic Success Resources:**

- Academic Support: Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at [success.gatech.edu/tutoring](https://success.gatech.edu/tutoring), email us at [tutoring@gatech.edu](mailto:tutoring@gatech.edu), or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

### **Graduate Student Academic and Professional Success Resources:**

A list of resources for graduate students is given on the [Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education](#) website. Specific information for [current graduate students](#) includes

- [Academic Resources](#) such as the Communications Center, Language Institute, Library, Catalog, Registrar, resources for conducting research, Advocacy and Conflict Resolution resources, and how to manage unexpected situations that may impact your academic performance;
- [Student Resources](#) such as Campus Services, Child Care/Family programs, Health & Wellness, Career Services, and the Student Resource Guide; and
- [Professional Development](#) such as *the programming from the Career Center and other professional development resources and events*”

### **Student Well-Being:**

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide \(gatech.edu\)](#))