



Global Cities in the World System – Geog 445

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:10-12:25

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The purpose of this course is to examine the relationships between human settlement systems, inter-societal networks (world-systems) and transformations of modes of production. What has been the role of cities with regard to changes in the basic logic of social reproduction? We will examine how the roles of cities and systems of cities have changed depending on the nature of the world-systems in which they are embedded. After introducing several theoretical problems that motivate the comparative study of world-systems, we will discuss big historical issues: the rise of the first cities and settlement systems, interstate systems composed of city-states, the effects of empire-formation on cities, the effects of capitalist city-states on tributary empires, the role of cities in the rise of Europe, and the emerging predominance of the capitalist mode of production, and the subordination of cities to national states and capitalist firms in the capitalist world-economy. The consideration of urban-rural relationships, larger societal structures, core/periphery relations, and whole world-systems are necessary to the understanding of the development of cities. There will be 2 exams and a final to apply the theories and concepts. The theoretical premise that we will be establishing early on will be utilized throughout the entire semester.