

# USP 2

Urban World System

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## USP2 Syllabus, Winter 2007

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 of this syllabus

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

USP2 examines processes of urban and regional development in a global context. Lectures, films and readings draw attention to interlocking environmental, socio-political and economic concerns. The course focuses on a set of five interrelated questions: (1) How are global economic and global environmental changes interlinked? (2) Are global urban and economic growth trajectories environmentally sustainable; what types of agencies deal with such concerns? (3) What determines the contemporary division of labor among cities--including the rise of the so-called global assembly line and world cities? (4) From an historical perspective, how does urban and industrial growth in developing countries compare to such growth in developed countries? (5) What does all this have to do with urban and regional planning? Overall, USP2 provides a solid theoretical and holistic perspective of global economic development and systems of innovation in relation to urbanization--a perspective that emphasizes how the fate of the world's economy and the earth's environmental systems are increasingly interdependent.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND BASIS FOR GRADING\*

Assignment/ Exams	Due Date	Percent of Grade
<b>Midterm Exam</b> An in-class exam composed of definitions, multiple choice, and essay questions.	Thursday, Feb. 8	40%
<b>Final Exam</b> An in-class exam composed of short answer and essay questions.	Tuesday, Mar. 20 (8:00am-11:00am)	50%
<b>Section</b> Attendance and participation in section.	All quarter	10%
<b>Optional (Extra Credit) Essay</b> A five-page essay based on any one of the key topics covered during USP2, <a href="#">click here for instructions</a> .	Thurs. March 1	(up to 10%)

\* (1) If you opt to do the Extra Credit Essay, it must be turned in on March 1 (week 8) during class. We will not accept extra credit essays after March 1. We expect you to uphold the highest standards of honest scholarship in all writing and exams. To learn more about UCSD guidelines concerning academic honesty, [click here](#).

### REQUIRED READING

*Books sold at the Price Center Bookstore, and on reserve at Geisel Library's front desk.*

Keith Pezzoli (2000) *Human Settlements and Planning for Ecological Sustainability: The Case of Mexico City*. Cambridge: MIT Press. {paperback edition}

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (2006). *The State of the World's Cities 2006/2007: The Millennium Development Goals and Urban Sustainability, 30 Years of Shaping the Habitat Agenda*.

Sterling, Va., Earthscan.

Course Reader (2007). Available for purchase at A.S. Soft Reserves on campus, Student Center A (534-6256).

#### TOPICS COVERED IN USP2

*Each Topic listed below has a summary and set of readings. A jumping off point (index) for all of the topics is on the [Key Topics page](#) (you can also access this Key Topics page under "About Course" on nav bar to the right). Four features of the urban world system stand out no matter what political perspective colors the analysis: it is uneven, dynamic, increasingly international, and increasingly ecologically interdependent. With this in mind, USP2 examines the following topics and theoretical perspectives.*

1.	Rapid urban-demographic growth and resource-intensive industrialism have become large-scale biogeophysical forces on earth.
2.	The world's global city-regions are increasingly interdependent economically and ecologically.
3.	Theories and concepts of development, modernization and progress change over time; currently the capital-mobility model has a major influence on urban and regional planning and development.
4.	The costs and benefits of globalization are unevenly distributed across and within the world's city-regions.
5.	<i>Review and Midterm Exam</i>
6.	The call for sustainable development reflects a more ecological approach to improving quality of life and habitat in the world's city-regions and their hinterlands.
7.	The globalization of capitalism is giving rise to a new regionalism.
8.	Global urbanization and uneven development combine in ways that make traditional planning and policy approaches problematic.
9.	Research universities have a vital role to play in the quest for integrated regional planning and sustainable development.
10.	<i>RWBC and Review for Final Exam</i>