

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Course Code / Title** : HS4031 Global Cities

**Pre-requisites** : HS1001 Person and Society  
HS2001 Classical Social Theory  
HS2002 Doing Social Research  
HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory  
HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics

**No. of AUs.** : 4

**Contact Hours** : 52

### Course Aims

This course takes the concept of the Global City as its starting point to understand metropolitan life through this particular expression of contemporary urbanism. The limitations of such a conceptual framing will be explored, and applicability of the concept to cities outside the 'West' will be examined. In addition to exploring key issues in urban studies through the frame of the global city, the course also aims to introduce methodological perspectives for studying how global city processes manifest at the scale of the everyday. In doing so, this course takes the 'urban' as the primary unit of analysis, as opposed to the 'national' or 'state'. The first part of the course introduces and discusses the main critiques of conceptualisations of Global Cities, after which examples of Global Cities from the 'North' and 'South' are discussed in greater detail. The course goes on to present methodological perspectives for doing research in such urban spaces. The second half of the course delves into important urban concerns around liveability, sustainability and the economy, amongst others, approached from the perspective of the Global City. As far as possible, discussions and the selection of readings will attempt a balance between cities of the global 'North' and 'South', with a particular focus on Asia.

### Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course students should be able to

1. Define and identify characteristics of the Global City
2. Critique the concept of the Global City and discuss its shortcomings, both theoretically and in terms of the implications for urban residents.
3. Understand how to employ the method of 'global ethnography' with respect to the relationship between different scales of analysis; the global and everyday.
4. Discuss issues of urban inequality, international migration, local governance, city-branding attempts, liveability and sustainability with regards to the Global City.

## Course Content

- Week 1 What is the Global City? Key concepts: Key characteristics of Global City  
Global City rankings
- Week 2 Limitations of Global City concept Key concepts: Ordinary City Non hegemonic networks Relational City
- Week 3 Tools for Studying the Global City Key concepts: Global Ethnography  
Glocalisation Local vs Global dichotomies
- Week 4 First Tier/Traditional Global Cities Key concepts: Inequality  
Economic & financial services
- Week 5 Key concepts: Non-Western modernities Infrastructural development  
Regional particularities
- Week 6 Singapore as a Global City Key concepts: Asian urbanism Nation-building &  
nationalism
- Week 7 Class Visit: Singapore Discovery Centre Key concepts: nation-building City  
branding
- Week 8 Global City culture & branding Key concepts: Tourism and heritage  
Gentrification Inter-city competition
- Week 9 Global City Governance Key concepts: Resource allocation Migrant labour and  
immigration
- Week 10 Sustainability and Resilience Key concepts: Smart city & technology enabled  
growth Precarity and the future of work
- Week 11 Liveability and the Global City Key concepts: Critique of liveability indices  
Inequality: elites and marginalized Social and spatial polarization
- Week 12 Class Visit: Centre for Liveable Cities Key concepts: Liveability policies
- Urban inclusion
- Week 13 Review the global city within the urban Review and presentation of final term  
papers

**Course Assessment**

CA1	Class Presentations	: 30%
CA2	Analytical reflections	: 30%
CA3	Final Research Project	: 30%
CA4	Class Participation	: 10%
<b>Total</b>		----- <b>100%</b>