

Course number		U-LAS05 20049 LE74					
Course title (and course title in English)		Introduction to Urban Geography-E2 Introduction to Urban Geography-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies Senior Lecturer,BAARS, Roger	
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences		Field(Classification)		Regions and Cultures(Issues)		
Language of instruction	English		Old group	Group A		Number of credits	2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)		Year/semesters	2026 • First semester	
Days and periods	Wed.1		Target year	All students		Eligible students	For all majors
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
The majority of the world's population live in cities. The course explores the dynamics and transformations of urban places and spaces, which include the origin and evolution of cities, the development of networks of cities bound together by culture, trade, communication and competition, as well as the dynamics of economic restructuring in urban regions.							
[Course objectives]							
The course allows students to develop a critical perspective on dominant neoliberal representations of the city and to explore the great diversity of urban worlds. Students will understand the complexity of human-city relationships and learn how cities are shaped by culture, society, economics, politics, and the environment.							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
INTRODUCTION 1) Approaches to the City - What is "the City"?							
CITIES IN THEORY AND PRACTICE 2) Key Concepts in Urban Geography 3) Evolution of Critical Urban Theory 4) The Contemporary City: Modern Urbanization 5) Mega-cities and Rapid Urban Population Growth 6) Field Trip: Sanjo/Gion							
POLITICS, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY IN THE CITY 7) Power and Politics in the City 8) Religious and Colonial Cities 9) Experiencing the Everyday City 10) Mobility and Transport 11) Architecture, Planning and Design 12) Is there a Sustainable Future for Cities?							
FINAL PRESENTATIONS 13) Group Presentations I 14) Group Presentations II							
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Introduction to Urban Geography-E2(2)

Total: 14 classes and 1 feedback session
The course schedule might change

[Course requirements]

You are interested in cities, excited about living in one, and want to learn more about them.

In week 6, we have a field trip to Sanjo/Gion: Participation is mandatory

[Evaluation methods and policy]

40% Photo Essay (1500 words), 40% Group Project (15-20 min), 20% Participation in Class

[Textbooks]

Required readings and materials will be distributed via LMS.

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Introduced during class

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students are expected to actively participate in each class. This includes the discussion of contemporary topics in small groups and writing up brief summaries of findings (worksheet). Preparatory materials include academic readings, news pieces and online media materials.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Field Trip: Sanjo Station (Keihan) can be reached in about 15min by bicycle from Kyoto University. The destination can also be reached by bus or Keihan Line (transportation costs to be covered by students).

Students should have Personal Accident Insurance for Student Pursuing Education and Research (Gakkensai).

If you have any questions, please email the instructor:
baars.rogercloud.6a@kyoto-u.ac.jp

[Essential courses]