COURSE OVERVIEW
In the global urban hierarchy of cities, global cities are those considered to be integral to the world economy. New York City, London, Paris, Tokyo and Shanghai are classic examples of global cities. Implicit in this understanding of cities is that some cities are unproductive, inefficient and non-functional. These cities are often considered to contain many poverty-stricken places. The movie *Slumdog Millionaire* is a perfect example. In this course, we will devote the majority of our time to rethinking the global urban hierarchy. In doing so, we will examine: 1) how cities are imagined, produced and experienced; 2) the relationship between cities and globalizing processes; and 3) colonial and neo-colonial influences in the shaping of contemporary cities. We will also examine the social-spatial, gendered and environmental implications of the neoliberal aspirations of some cities to move up on the global urban hierarchy.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe the connection between globalization and urban life;
- Apply various theoretical and analytical approaches to socio-cultural, economic and political issues in cities;
- Critically reflect on the competing interests of different urban dwellers;
- Produce a power analysis of cities that accounts for intersectional identities;
- Think critically about the on-going project of colonialism in global urban development processes;
- Reflect on their positionality and locate themselves in globalization processes that contribute to the production of urban space; and
- Connect popular culture to course theories and concepts.

COURSE TOPICS
The course will explore the following topics: colonial cities; the global political economy of cities; urban development and renewal; creative urbanism; urban living and subaltern subjects; money and power in the city; food, music and fashion in the city; diaspora, identity and place-making; toxic and disaster capitalism; fear and border panics; and fortified cities, anxious urbanisms and off world worlds.

COURSE READINGS