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11.947 Urbanization and Development
Spring 2009

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Urbanization and Development
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Mid-term paper (25%)

Instructions

1. This is a take-home exam.
2. The exam has two parts (A and B). Both parts are weighed equally.
3. The exam sheet has three pages.
4. Please paste your answers into the spaces provided.
5. MLA citation style is mandatory throughout (exception: format of essay text).
Information is available at:
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/557/01/>
6. Part A: Answer all questions. Approximately 250 words per answer.
7. Part B: Choose one of the four options. Approximately 1,500 words. Use literature discussed in sessions 1-5 of this course and any additional texts (including readings assigned for sessions 6 and 7) where appropriate. A complete list of works used is required.
8. Submissions (electronic **and** hard copy) required by **SES #8 at 1pm**. In your electronic submission, please submit parts A and B in one file. Penalties for late submissions apply.

Part A (word limit: approximately 250 words per answer) (50%)

Answer all of the following four questions:

A.1 (12.5%)

Gugler states that “[t]he foremost conclusion of our systematic approach is how problematic most generalizations about world cities are.” Illustrate this limitation with an example.

A.2 (12.5%)

What, if anything, can we learn from Blockman’s article for an analysis of cities in economically deprived settings?

A.3 (12.5%)

Which phenomena described by Xu and Yeh in their article on Guangzhou can be explained by revisiting Cockburn’s main arguments? Which phenomena remain unexplained?

A.4 (12.5%)

How does Mitchell’s account of the local politics of nation-making sit with Simone’s depiction of the potential of urban politics in (North) Africa?

Part B (word limit: approximately 1,500 words) (50%)

Choose one of the following four options. Indicate clearly to which option you are responding.

- B.1 'In the Global South, urbanization itself is a positive development; socioeconomic frictions occur because its effects remain unaddressed.' Discuss.
- B.2 'Cities are places of empowerment.' Do you agree?
- B.3 How can politics cause urbanization? And conversely, what kinds of politics are caused by urbanization?
- B.4 'The urban experience of Central America foreshadows the challenges to be met in urbanizing South Asia.' Discuss.