

HUMN 1008 CITIES: INTRODUCTION TO URBAN STUDIES

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 101589

Coordinator Cameron McAuliffe (<https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Cameron McAuliffe/>)

Description This subject is a keystone in the Geography and Urban Studies major. It aims to introduce students to the major urban challenges that will shape our society in the future and to the major substantive concerns in the field of urban management and planning. It will develop students' understanding of how their own urban experiences are shaped by broader historical, cultural, economic, and social forces, and will enable students to compare the Australian urban context and issues with those in other world regions.

School Social Sciences

Discipline Human Geography

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 4 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Undergraduate Level 1 subject

Equivalent Subjects LGYA 1336 - The Urban Context

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate debates over major urban development issues (such as environmental sustainability, heritage preservation, or social equity);
2. Analyse the physical, social, economic, and cultural structure of the contemporary Australian city, and contrast it with the structure of cities in other world regions;
3. Formulate a coherent argument about the impacts of a current urban issue (such as transportation, large scale redevelopment, or urban growth);
4. Explain major contemporary theories about the urban-level interface between global and local forces;
5. Identify the unique and distinctive elements that define particular urban places, and describe the relationships between these urban place and urban inhabitants.

Subject Content

1. Historical evolution of cities, urban problems, and our attempts to resolve those problems
2. Comparative analysis of the social, economic, political, and cultural forces shaping cities in different world regions
3. Globalisation and social equity
4. Environmental and economic sustainability

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are

regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Quiz	8 x 15 minutes	40	N	Individual	N
Essay	1,000 words	30	N	Individual	N
Case Study	400-600 words per person	30	N	Individual	N

Summer Hybrid

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

Type	Length	Percent	Threshold	Individual/ Group Task	Mandatory
Essay	1000 words	30	N	Individual	N
Case Study	400-600 words per person	30	N	Individual	N
Final Exam	1000 words	40	N	Individual	N

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

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View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=HUMN1008_25-AUT_KW_1#subjects)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

On-site

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Summer (2025)

Parramatta - Victoria Rd

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