The 21st century will be an urban century with more people around the world residing in metropolitan regions than in any other form of human settlement. This urbanization is taking place in both the global North and the global South. Its implications are widespread: from environmental challenges, to entrenched patterns of segregation, to new configurations of politics and social movements. The Global Metropolitan Studies Initiative at UC Berkeley is concerned with this urban condition, bringing together faculty and students across campus to foster interdisciplinary thinking and solutions to contemporary urban concerns. This course will introduce methodological approaches from urban theory to governance to engineering. The objectives of the course are to:

- Provide an opportunity to understand how research is undertaken in the various disciplines to contribute to our understanding of urban and metropolitan processes,
- Develop the technical breadth and communication skills essential to navigate our ever-increasing interdisciplinary world,
- Further connect and build the community on campus interested in addressing issues of global cities, and
- Advance doctoral students’ research by examining objectives and research design through an interdisciplinary lens.

This is a 3 unit graduate course that is required for students in the GMS Designated Emphasis and open to other doctoral students focused on metropolitan issues either domestically or abroad.
COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

Reading and Attendance — 20% of final grade
It is expected that students attend class regularly, read carefully the readings before each class meeting, and actively participate in the class discussions of the assigned readings. All readings are posted on bCourses unless otherwise noted.

Weekly Commentary — 20% of final grade
Students are expected to write a weekly commentary (not to exceed 500 words). Commentaries are to be submitted to the discussion section on the course website by 5 PM on Sundays before class, and you are expected to have read your classmates commentaries before each class. Commentaries are meant to be practice for developing a useful academic skill—writing a paper or book review—and will be modeled after this style of document. The write-up should focus on the key claims, methods, and methodologies of the weekly readings. Identify a common thread, comparison, or argument that conceptually ties these readings together. Pair a summary of the readings with critique of the works or a discussion of the important questions raised by the body of work.

Class Discussion — 20% of final grade
Students are expected to initiate the class discussions a few times during the semester (dates will be assigned in class). To initiate a discussion means to raise a series of questions about the week's readings to guide conversations in class. Students may choose to bring questions in writing with copies for everyone. Additionally, students may bring visual materials that complement/illustrate the cases being analyzed.

Research Proposal — 40% of final grade
Finally, each student will complete a term project, a research proposal that is informed by the multidisciplinary knowledge gained in the class (15 pages) due on April 30th (by email).

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

January 22: Opening Case Study: Interdisciplinary Research on Intermittent Water Supply in India


**Weeks 2-4  Urban Theory, Planning, and Environmental Design**

**January 29: Urbanization Processes and Their Effects**


**February 5: Conceptualizing International Urban Systems**


**February 12: Urban Planning and Its Impacts (Case study: Transportation Planning)**


**WEEKS 5-7: URBAN STUDIES AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**February 19: NO CLASS/ HOLIDAY**

**February 26: Economic Geography and Urban Economics**


**March 5: The Politics of Urban Policy**


**March 12: Urban Sociology—Urban Neighborhoods and the Persistence of Poverty**


**WEEKS 8-10: ENGINEERING FOR GLOBAL CITIES**

**March 19: Urban Infrastructure Systems**

Energy

Water

Energy & Water

Technology

(March 26–March 30: Spring Recess)

April 2: Methods 1

Measure


Build


April 9: Methods 2

Model

Simulate
Optimize

**WEEKS 11-12: CURRENT AREAS OF INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION OR EXCHANGE**

**April 16: Informal Transit in Kenya**


**April 23: Development Engineering**

