Cities, the largest and most complex artifacts in human history, are the settings of everyday life for more than half the population of the globe and more than two-thirds within the next three decades. Although history is never destiny, the past millennia of cities inform, if at times only as ghosts, our present debates about desires and visions for the future – where almost all of us will reside.

The knowledge of these urban artifacts – urban form as well as urban process – is intertwined with many disciplines – engineering, economics, law, geography, politics to name only a few. And that knowledge is at the very core of the professions of urban design, architecture, landscape architecture and city planning. All of us are all participants, in many ways, in the design and building of cities across the globe – we live in cities created by a thousand designers – us.

There are four learning objectives for the course:

- For both undergraduate and graduate students - an ability to identify significant urban projects, people and ideas that inform buildings, landscapes, or urban design projects and also inform our broader cultural knowledge of cities across the world. This will be demonstrated by successful completion of four quizzes.

- For both undergraduate and graduate students - an understanding of the many ways that political, cultural, technological and economic situations and policies have shaped and continue to shape urban form and process over time. This will be demonstrated with completion of the required weekly reading summaries.

- For both undergraduate and graduate students - an understanding of urban sustainability, with reference to urban form and urban process. This will be demonstrated in the final examination.

- For graduate students only - an ability to analyze an urban space or place to identify the primary ingredients of urban form, processes of change over time, as woven with cultural or personal meanings. This will be demonstrated by a video (5 minutes maximum) in Ted Talk format or a 3000 word essay, similar in form to those in The Guardian Stories of Cities.

There are five requirements for the course.

- Attendance - with a letter grade penalty for more than three unexcused absences. Attendance will be taken intermittently and without warning.

- 60% - Completion of readings and reading summaries on weekly basis, submitted on Canvas.

- 20% Graduate Students 30% Undergraduate Students – Four brief take home quizzes as a way to reinforce learning, administered either in class or Canvas.

- 20% - Graduate Students only - The Ted Talk format Video or Illustrated Essay.

- 10% - Take home final examination in essay form.

- Grades – 90-100 A, 80-90 B, 70-80 C, 60-70 D. Less than 60 – Failing.