This seminar deals with theories, empirical realities, and policies related to urban areas today by examining the state-of-the-art literature on cities in the global capitalist economy at the research frontier of several sets of topics that concern cities throughout the world including:

- Cities and non-cities: the future of urban structure: Cities, suburbs, exurbs across the globe
- Big data and smart cities: How is big data changing urban theory and policy
- Local development policies for “sticky” places? Attracting talent, investment, tourists, and entrepreneurs
- Competitiveness, marketing, and branding? Job creation, local development, tourism, heritage, arts & culture
- Creativity, arts and culture: Cities and their creative spaces
- Gentrification and neoliberalism
- How does urbanization in developing countries challenge established ideas in urban studies?

Readings:
The course is structured as a seminar, with discussion each week centered on readings and research issues. We will have readings in common from online sources such as OSU’s electronic journals. Each participant will also read and review articles or chapters of interest to him/her. In general, each seminar participant can expect to read at least one article or chapter each week in addition to the 3-5 readings (60-100 pp) discussed in class each week.

Course requirements include:

- Written and oral participation in seminar discussions.
- Your constructive evaluations of other students’ oral and written work.
- Three 2-3 page (1.5 spacing, 1-inch margin) reviews of articles or book chapters (other than the required readings). A review includes a 1-page summary and a 1-2 page critique; the critique situates the article or chapter within the literature on the paper’s topic. Journals from which articles can be reviewed include any in which references on the course reading lists are published or where your own reading takes you. Reviews are due October 5, October 19, and November 9.
- Periodic progress reports on your review-and-agenda project.
- A review paper (15-25 pages, double-spaced, minimum 20 references) outlining the state-of-the-art and a research agenda in a particular area [due Friday, December 8]. Your seminar paper is an opportunity to review the literature on a focused urban topic and to assess what we know and what we don’t know about the topic. This sort of review paper can, with revision, be published in the same journals from which we read articles. Several papers from previous seminars have been published – and in the best journals. Others have been the core of research proposals that have been funded.
- A presentation of 15 minutes, outlining the “review-and-agenda” paper, on November 30.

*Any updates will be posted on the Carmen website for Geog 8501.*

Disability Accommodations: The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. **SLDS contact information:** slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.
Weekly schedule – Geog 8501 – AU 2017

Week 1 – August 24: Introduction, definitions, and global patterns

Week 2 – August 31: Global patterns and global cities

Week 3 – September 7: The future of urban theory (1)

Week 4 – September 14: The future of urban theory (2)

Week 5 – September 21: Non-cities? Suburbs and slums

**Week 6 – September 28: City branding and city marketing**

**Week 7- October 5: Creativity, arts, and culture (1)**

**October 12 – No class (Autumn break)**

**Week 8 – October 19: Creativity, arts, and culture (2)**

**Week 9 – October 26: Gentrification**
**Week 10 – November 2: Neoliberalism**

**Week 11 – November 9: Cities in developing countries**

**Week 12 – November 16: Big data and smart cities**

**Extra: Growth/decline**

**Nov 23 – No class: Thanksgiving holiday**

**Nov 30 - Presentations**

**Dec 8 – review & agenda papers due**