The primary purpose of this course is for you to learn how to design, research and write a major research paper (18-20 double-spaced pages (excluding notes and bibliography) significantly using primary sources on some aspect of the urban experience in South Asia. The seminar is geared to offer you the necessary tools to undertake a research project in terms of offering readings that are germane to all of us, guiding you methodologically, honing your capacity for discussion and oral argumentation on these areas and ultimately writing your paper in phases. This course will do this by examining the experience of urban life in modern South Asia from several perspectives and time periods. We begin the course by exploring the effects of urban planning on the spatial organization of cities under colonial rule. Not only will this section give participants an understanding of the differences between the organization of precolonial and colonial cities in the sub-continent, it will also explore the relationship between power and supposedly neutral and technical practices of urban planning. Although the majority of the cities that we will examine are located in South Asia, the course strives to also consider the urban experience beyond the geographical boundaries of the Indian subcontinent. Therefore we study and compare the effects of high modernist thinking on cities in the context of Islamabad and Brasilia. A course that focuses on cities cannot be complete without an examination of globalization for which media is an important theme. We will analyze how both new and old forms of media shape the urban experience. By studying these cities in these various manners, course participants will trace how ideas of hygiene, freedom, commerce and development influenced urban life as articulated by colonial planners, technocrats in the postcolonial period and through media technology. The particular visions of urban life that we will study make powerful connections between the city and identity. By surveying these particular cities, we will gain an understanding of the relationship between religious, ethnic, gender and class affiliations (among other categories of social identity), as they shape the culture, politics and landscape of cities.

Format: Seminar.

Requirements: active participation in class discussions (includes weekly questions on the reading), class presentations, final research paper (18-20 pages for
undergraduates; 25-30 pages for graduate students). I will meet with graduate students separately and we will discuss some additional readings.

**Grade Distribution**

1. Participation 20%
2. In class presentations 20%
3. Approved paper description with bibliography 10% (Due by the 3rd week/Meeting 3)
4. Preliminary Draft of Paper 15% (Completed by 9th week/Meeting 9)
5. Final Draft of Paper 35% (Due June 12)

**Research paper:** In consultation with the professor you may choose your research topic and city of study. The readings are significantly broad and well crafted for you to choose a set of concepts to design your project and paper. For this reason, your active participation in class discussion is required and you must come to class having read the assigned text. More than one absence will result in the loss of a full letter grade (see General Class Rules below). Graduate students may select their topics so that they are directed towards their own areas of interest and research though the same deadlines apply to them.

One of the most important things about a research paper is to work on it in parts which makes the task manageable. This course is designed to help you construct your paper by including a session in the library with the history librarian who can help you to find primary sources. By the third week you need to submit a one-page paper description in which you identify a topic, discuss the organization of your paper, state the primary sources with which you will work and a set of questions you seek to answer in your paper. Because making presentations on your paper is an important way for you to conceptualize and make coherent your paper, I also require to briefly discuss your paper topic in class and present some of your findings near the end of term. During the week of May 20, I will meet with each of you to discuss a preliminary draft of your paper. The paper is due June 10 and as you can see from the schedule of assignments be prepared to plan ahead so that your paper is completed on time (late submissions will not be accepted).

**Participation and Weekly Assignment:** In order for this seminar to be productive you must complete the assigned reading before class and come prepared to discuss it. Participation is a significant portion of your grade amounting to 40%. *Being silent or unengaged in this course is likely to result in a very low grade, if not a failing grade, despite the rest of your work. You must bring three questions to each class pertaining to the reading and submit a copy to me in class. I will collect and grade these incorporating my evaluation into your participation grade. I will grade these questions based on the degree to which they reflect your understanding of the reading, their reference to a majority of the chapters that were assigned. The following guidelines should assist you with the construction of your questions: When reading the assigned texts take note not only of the author’s argument but also the kinds of sources and concepts that are used, the organization of the chapters/essays, the basic points of the empirical site s/he describes, and the
methodologies employed—these are all elements that you can bring up during class discussion. Each reading is selected to provide you with the components of a research model for your own paper so do take note of the structure of the assigned chapters as you research and write your paper. These questions should not be constructed as prompts that solicit information on the reading like reading comprehension questions. Instead they should be analytical in nature and reflect on any part of the reading, its methodology in addition to comparing it with aspects of other readings. You are welcome if you ask a question about a specific idea from the reading that drew your interest. You may compose your questions in a few sentences or in a paragraph.

**General class rules:** No loud food in class (i.e. food that makes a lot of noise as it is consumed). Cell/smartphones OFF. No laptops or tablets, please bring the readings and your notes in hardcopy. Because participation in this seminar is indispensible to its guiding you toward your paper I expect full attendance meaning that you attend every single class, arriving and departing on time as well. This is little to ask because we meet merely 9 times this term. Because your absence will significantly affect the dynamic of the seminar, more than one absence will result in the loss of a full letter grade. Because the term and structure of the course is geared toward completing the research paper you must turn it in by **June 10.** Unless the University administration contacts me to explain why your paper is late an automatic 0 is assigned if I do not receive your paper by the deadline. All work that you turn in must be your own. Any work submitted for credit that includes the words or ideas of anyone else must fully and accurately identify your source in a complete citation. If you are confused about this or do not understand the consequences of academic dishonesty at the UO—or the ethical issues behind these university policies—please read the UO plagiarism policy: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/)

If you have physical or learning differences that require special accommodations official notice from Disability Services (see [http://ds.uoregon.edu](http://ds.uoregon.edu)) is required. I will do everything in my power to address all documented needs.

**Required Texts:**
William Glover, *Making Lahore Modern*
Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper*
James Holsten, *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia*

All required texts are on reserve, in multiple copies, in the Knight Library. All other required readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Course webpage: [https://library.uoregon.edu/node/3064](https://library.uoregon.edu/node/3064)
**Course Schedule** (this may be adjusted as we move through the term, I will announce these changes in advance).

**April 1, Meeting 1**
**Introductions and Orientation toward the Research Paper**
Part 1. Introduction to the course and its goals, seminar members.
Part 2. Library session on historical research and primary sources in the University of Oregon libraries.

**April 8, Meeting 2**
**Urban Palimpsest and Colonial Town Planning**
William Glover, *Making Lahore Modern* (Chapter 1-4)

**April 15, Meeting 3**
**Paper topic descriptions due.**
Part 1: *Islamabad and Technocratic Development in the Postcolonial Period I*
Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper* (Introduction, Chapters 1-2)
Part 2: Discussion of paper topics in class.

**April 22, Meeting 4**
**Islamabad and Technocratic Development in the Postcolonial Period II**
Matthew Hull, *Government of Paper* (Chapters 3-5)
**Assignment:** Please bring a review of the following presentation: *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America*, Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 4:00 pm Gerlinger Lounge, by Vivek Bald, Associate Professor of Writing and Digital Media, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Click here for details about the book: [http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=572de89f21bc1668f43d73c3c&id=bb23b6eff7&e=7508fcb230](http://us6.campaign-archive2.com/?u=572de89f21bc1668f43d73c3c&id=bb23b6eff7&e=7508fcb230)

**April 29, Meeting 5**
**Indian Diaspora and Urban Migration: The Sikh Diaspora in Singapore**
Part 2: What is an historical research paper? Methodological Analysis of the assigned essay.

**May 6, Meeting 6**
**Brasilia and High Modernism**
James Holsten, *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia* (Chapter 1-4)

**May 13, Meeting 7**
**Resistance and Unforeseen Outcomes**
James Holsten, *The Modernist City: An Anthropological Critique of Brasilia* (Chapter 5-8)
May 20, Meeting 8
Media Urbanism
Ravi Sundaram, *Pirate Modernity: Delhi’s Media Urbanism* (Chapter 2-5)

May 27, Meeting 9
Preliminary draft discussions this week, individually and in my office, no meeting.

June 3, Meeting 10
Paper Presentations