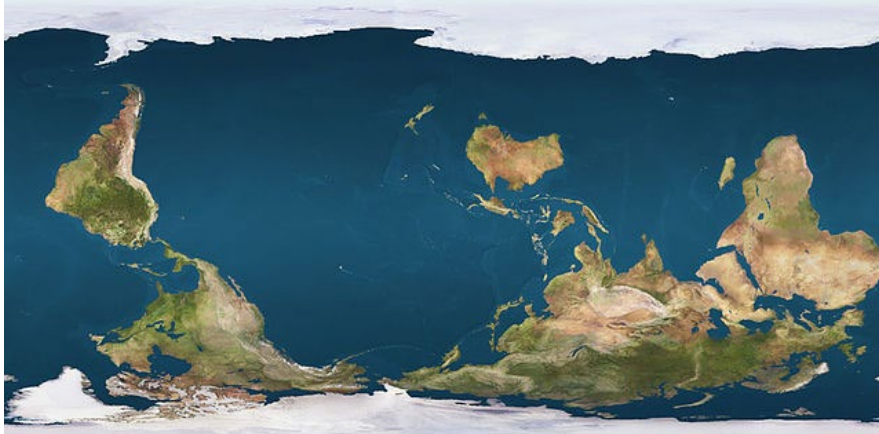


**URP 570\_W25: Global and Comparative Planning**  
Instructor: Ana Paula Pimentel Walker ([appiment@umich.edu](mailto:appiment@umich.edu))



Poulpy, from a work by jimht at shaw dot ca, modified by Rodrigocd. Public Domain. El Sur Global

This course unsettles many taken-for-granted assumptions about how poverty and inequities emerge – and deepen – between and within countries and cities and the role urban planning can play in addressing (or contributing to) these problems. While focused on learning to “see from the South”, the course also equips students with valuable frameworks, strategies and tools that would be useful in Global North cities. First, we will critically engage the concept of “development” and significant governance processes that have impacted how countries and cities operate (e.g., colonialism, structural adjustment, decentralization, globalization, insurgent planning). Second, we will learn from the impacts of major stakeholders that partner with, work in isolation of, or organize against governments attempting to carry out development planning, including multilateral organizations (such as the United Nations, ACHPR, AHRC, World Bank, IMF, WTO, ILO), corporations, donors, non-governmental agencies, and social movements. Finally, in the latter half of the class, we will discuss recurrent issues in the urbanization process many countries face and the interventions they are attempting related to disaster preparedness and climate change, health and public service provision, food security, rapid urbanization, migration and displacement; property regimes and plural governance systems; poverty and economic development; transportation; housing and informal settlements; and public space and enclave development. Emphasis will be on understanding debates about the causes of issues facing cities in low- and middle-income countries and the relative success of interventions, including innovations that have and could be adapted to complex planning problems in the Global North.

### **Learning goals**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Explain the historical and contemporary governance trends that shape the context for urban and regional planning in low and middle-income countries.
2. Critically analyze the key development institutions and actors administering or influencing development planning.
3. Compare the significant trends, issues, interventions and innovations emerging across key planning sectors in the Global South.
4. Argue for a position on efforts to transfer planning lessons found in one place to different socio-political, environmental, and economic contexts.

### **Course format and requirements**

No prior coursework is required. While the course is geared towards UM master’s students in Urban and Regional Planning – especially those taking this as part of the Global and Comparative Planning Focus Area – the content is appropriate for (and would benefit from the involvement of) students in various other disciplines. The course is structured as a discussion seminar, requiring considerable reading, but also involves speakers, a debate and many interactive scenarios that attempt to put students in the shoes of practicing planners, citizen planners and international agencies, using case studies developed with practitioners and action researchers.