Course description:
In the last century Latin America went from being predominantly rural to the most urbanized region in the world. This course will examine the causes and consequences of this remarkable transformation. Over the course of the semester we will explore several themes relating to urbanization in Latin America including: violence and the representation of violence; inequality; urban social movements; democracy and popular participation; rural-to-urban migration; spatial segregation; housing; and efforts to remake the city.
We will return to two questions throughout the semester:

What are Cities For? And, who has a Right to the City? As we will see these questions have elicited different answers in different places, at different times and from different people. During the era of Spanish colonialism Latin American cities were reserved for the European-born elite, a small minority of the population, with the vast majority of the indigenous population excluded from the benefits and responsibilities of urban citizenship. Today cities are sites of contestation between real estate developers and financial speculators, politicians, affluent citizens and poor residents of the urban and semi-urban periphery. The course will use a variety of media including urban ethnography, social theory, film and fiction to explore various facets of Urban Latin America.

The 400 level requirement does not apply to this course.