Overview
Honolulu, Auckland, Port Moresby, Noumea, Apia, Koror, Pape'ete, Ebeye, and Funafuti. Each of these Pacific places, as well as many other centers of agglomeration in Oceania, offer fascinating insights about processes of urbanization in a globalized age. PLAN 741 / PACS 690 focuses on enhancing our understanding of Oceania in light of the Pacific region’s rapid urban growth. Is it inevitable that cities across the Pacific will evolve in a manner that parallels global cities elsewhere, or is it possible that urban growth in Oceania will evolve differently, and if so, how?

Our seminar will examine the distinguishing socioeconomic and cultural contexts of Pacific urbanization through the study of topics including land rights, migration, settler populations, rascalism, remittances, environmental degradation, tourism, social equity and foreign investment. We will question who makes the choices about various forms of urbanization and enquire about how urban growth affects Pacific island societies? Who gains, and who loses? How can planners influence alternative directions and choices?

Readings, discussions, media and research assignments on the structure of urbanization processes in Oceania will be complemented by several special guest lectures. Through projects that require careful interrogation of the nature of urban issues in the Pacific, seminar participants will gain new conceptual models and analytical skills for addressing contemporary urban planning challenges.

Requirements
Course requirements include weekly readings, active class participation, a midterm exercise that focuses on preparation of a technical assistance planning paper, and a research paper that is due at the end of the term. Papers must be submitted in draft form for review and comment prior to being finalized and graded.

In addition, at the beginning of the semester each student will select an urban center for the purpose of becoming a “specialist.” During the term each specialist will periodically provide briefings about urban issues affecting the particular place in which they specialize. Evaluation will be based on class participation, oral presentations, and the two written assignments.
Schedule

Week

1 Introduction and Overview: The Pacific Islands Region


2 Theories of Urbanization and Development


3 Urban Planning and Development in Perspective: A Grounding


4 Land Issues in the Pacific


Solomon Islands Film: *Since the Company Came*

5 **Settler Populations and Urban Plans**


6 **Technical Assistance Planning Exercise**


7 **Ghettos, Squatter Settlements, and Rascalism: New Perspectives**


Vanuatu Film: *Kilim Taem*

8 **Governing Cities**


9 **Urban Unrest in Oceania**

Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, “Failed State and the War on Terror: Intervention in the Solomon Islands.” AsiaPacific Issue Paper no. 72, 2004


Eric Wittershein: *Vanuatu election documentary*.

10 **Women’s contributions to Urban Life**


11 **Planning for Climate Change and Global Warming in Atoll Nations**


Tuvalu Film: *Time and Tide*

12 **Making Pacific Cities Green: Planning Options and Opportunities**


Porus Olpadwala et al., “The Sustainability of Privilege”

13 **Research Paper Presentations**

14 **Pacific Cities of the Future: A Bias Toward Hope**

Research presentations (cont.)