

Urbanization: The Growth and Transformation of Cities

About the Course:

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This course delves into the multifaceted realm of urbanism and urbanization, exploring the fundamental questions surrounding the existence of cities and the pivotal role economics plays in their formation. Students will gain insights into the impact of externalities, growth, and transformation on urban development, as well as the various typologies of cities and the principles of location theory. This comprehensive exploration of urban studies will provide students with a well-rounded understanding of the dynamic and complex world of cities.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand Urbanism and Urbanization:
2. Analyse contemporary urbanization trends and their implications.
3. Explore the fundamental reasons why cities exist and their role in human societies.
4. Identify economic, social, and cultural factors contributing to urbanization.
5. Evaluate the role of economics in city formation and growth
6. Explain the concepts of comparative advantage and economies of scale in urban development
7. Analyse externalities in urban environments
8. Identify City Typologies
9. Classify cities based on their functions and characteristics.
10. Understand the principles of location theory and their relevance to urban planning.

Course Structure:

Module 1: Introduction to Urbanism and Urbanization

- **Urbanism and Its Evolution**
 - I. Definition and historical context of urbanism.
 - II. Key milestones in the evolution of urban areas.
- **Urbanization Trends**
 - I. Contemporary urbanization patterns and their global variations.
 - II. Factors influencing urbanization in the modern era.

Module 2: The Existence of Cities

- **Exploring the Purpose of Cities**
 - I. The fundamental question: Why do cities exist?
 - II. Examining the roles of cities in societies.

- **Drivers of Urbanization**

- I. Economic, social, and cultural factors contributing to urban growth

Module 3: Economics in City Formation

- **Economic Forces Shaping Cities**

- I. Understanding the economic foundations of urban development.
- II. Comparative advantage and its role in urban economies.

- **Economies of Scale and Urbanization**

- I. Exploring the concept of economies of scale in city formation.
- II. Economic drivers of urban growth and specialization.

Module 4: Externalities in Urban Environments

- **Urban Externalities**

- I. Defining urban externalities and their various forms.
- II. Positive and negative externalities in urban contexts.

Module 5: Growth and Transformation of Cities

- **Patterns of Urban Growth**

- I. Analyzing patterns and factors influencing urban growth.
- II. Case studies highlighting different growth trajectories.

Module 6: City Typologies and Location Theory

- **Typologies of Cities**

- I. Classifying cities based on function, size, and characteristics.
- II. Examining the roles of different city typologies in regional development.

- **Principles of Location Theory**

- I. Introduction to location theory principles.
- II. Application of location theory in urban planning and land use analysis.

Who is the Course For/ Intended Audience:

This course is primarily intended for students and young researchers interested in urban studies and city formation. It serves as a valuable resource for individuals looking to build a strong knowledge base in urban studies, whether they are pursuing academic research, urban planning, policy analysis, or related fields.

Duration and Time Commitment:

The course is self-paced and can typically be completed in 1-2 hours.