SCHOOL: ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
LEVEL: HONOURS
MODULE: URBAN STUDIES
CODE: GEOG727

DURATION: 3 HOURS   **TOTAL MARKS: 300**

INTERNAL EXAMINER: **PROF B. MAHARAJ**
EXTERNAL EXAMINER: **PROF C. SEETHAL**
                       UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE

INSTRUCTIONS: **Answer THREE questions.**
                All questions carries equal marks.
                This examination question paper consists of TWO pages.

1. Governance indicates a new kind of socio-political logic characterised by a differentiated and multi-centred political system with a mixture of private and public actors who participate directly in the decision making process without any clear hierarchic relation between the many centres and actors. Critically evaluate the different theoretical approaches adopted to explain urban governance.

2. There is a misleading idea that private-public partnerships (PPPs) bring additional private resources into public services or infrastructure. The truth is that PPPs do not supplement public spending – they absorb it. Do you agree with this view? Discuss with reference to examples.

3. Urban governance is conceived increasingly in 'technocratic' (i.e., output) terms: legitimation via 'performance' rather than active community participation or engagement (Beetham, 2001). Do you agree with this view? Discuss with reference to examples. Comment briefly on the community response in South African cities.

4. In the contemporary neoliberal context urban and central governments promote projects that rewrite city landscapes through mega events, infrastructure investments, construction of prestigious business centres and gated communities. It is assumed that urban citizens benefit from the direct and/or trickle down effects of these projects. However, in reality, these projects often extend the geography of gentrification, deepen socio-spatial inequality, increase the hegemony of 'elite-driven democracy' in urban governance, reduce affordable housing and displace the urban poor from their living environments. Critically assess this statement, referring to examples.

5. The status of women in cities is of concern given that they are in a more vulnerable position than men. The UN has argued that a policy on women and urban governance should address two aspects. One is women's increased representation in local decision making. The second is greater attention to issues of concern to women. Critically assess the extent to which these twin goals are being realised, referring to specific examples.

6. Decentralisation offers many promises – including local level democratization and participation, improved service delivery for the poor, and greater financial accountability. However, in practice, effective implementation often lags behind rhetoric. With reference to examples, critically evaluate the extent to which decentralisation has been a successful urban governance strategy.

7. Any attempt to restructure the apartheid city through planned development must take the following into consideration: redistribution of resources; creating zones of opportunities for those who had been historically disadvantaged; integrating the city so that urban resources are accessible to all citizens; and participation of people in the planning process. With reference to examples, critically evaluate the extent to which these strategies have been successful in the post-apartheid era.