Films: Global/Cities

I will update this list as I receive new material, so please send me film titles, information/commentary on films, and reference material.
email: joni.palmer@colorado.edu

General: Urban

Better Luck Tomorrow
2003; Drama; Subject: Asian-American high school students, criminal behavior
The Bourne movies are great because they use a huge variety of urban settings
Brazil
1985, Terry Gilliam
Code 46
2004; Subjects: Dystopias, social conflict, visas
Malls R Us, Helene Klodawsky, 2009
from the website: From impressive architectural projects to environmental and social concerns, everything you have always wanted to know about shopping malls, and more.
Megacities
2006, by Cambridge Educational (Firm)
Metropolis, 1927, Fritz Lang
Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
1988; William H. Whyte; An older film but I have found that this is something that actually works to draw students into the content.
http://directcinema.com/dcl/title.php?id=95

United States

America's immigration debate
by Wilson R Ruiz; Cadec Pictures (Firm); Krafftwerk Film.; Films for the Humanities & Sciences (Firm); DVD video; Language: English
Publisher: Princeton, NJ : Films for the Humanities & Sciences, [2005]
Bullitt
1997; 1970’s San Francisco
Do the Right Thing
La Ciudad
Pleasantville (critique of suburbia)
Roger and Me
1989; Michael Moore; Subjects: Flint, MI, recession, GM
Good for deindustrialization, rust belt, etc.
The Truman Show (critique of New Urbanism)
The Visitor
2008, Tom McCarthy
Immigration debate in US
http://www.rollingstone.com/reviews/movie/17041831/review/20217692/rs_1050_the_visitor
When the Levees Broke. A requiem in four acts
  2006; Spike Lee’s take on Katrina

**Baltimore**
The Wire (TV show)
Homicide (TV show)

**Boston**
The Departed
Gone Baby Gone

**Detroit**
Detroit, Ruin of a City
  George Steinmetz; quite compelling (if problematic in some areas) and provides a nice overview of Gramsci's conception of Fordism. It's a bit hard to get your hands on, but if you google the film or email Steinmetz you'll find it.
  [http://www.detroitruinofacity.com/detroit%20home.html](http://www.detroitruinofacity.com/detroit%20home.html)
Poletown Lives!
  1983; Detroit, MI; auto industry

**Los Angeles**
Blade Runner
  1999; Ridley Scott; Los Angeles, 2019
Chavez Ravine: A Los Angeles Story
Chinatown, 1999
City of Industry, 1997
Collateral, 2004
Heat, 1995
Los Angeles plays itself, 2003
Pulp Fiction, 1994, Quentin Tarantino
The Shield (television show)
The Garden, 2008, Scott Kennedy Hamilton
  The film deals with issues of property development, political corruption and the displacement of farmers (primarily immigrants from Latin America) in Los Angeles. [http://www.blackvalleyfilms.com/](http://www.blackvalleyfilms.com/)

**New York**
Clockers
Dark Days
  Documentary about people living in the old subway tunnels
French Connection
King of New York
Manhattan
Mean Streets
New York: A Documentary Film
   a multi-part series on NYC, chock full of good stuff
New York, The world's city
   by Wilson R Ruiz; Fred J Gattys; Cadec Pictures (Firm); Krafftwerk Film.; Films
   for the Humanities & Sciences (Firm);
   DVD video / Language: English
   Publisher: Princeton, NJ : Films for the Humanities & Sciences, [2005]
A short film on walking in New York at: http://liminalities.net/4-1/spacewars.htm

**Latin America**

**Mexico**

Crash
A Day Without a Mexican
Maquilapolis
   On US-Mex border zones; focus is on political organizing, but a piece of the story
   is re the creation of border slums
Mexico City, the impossible city
   by Wilson R Ruiz; Fred J Gattys; Cadec Pictures (Firm); Krafftwerk Film.; Films
   for the Humanities & Sciences (Firm); DVD video; Language: English

**Rio and Sao Paulo**

City of God (Rio)
Elite Squad (Sao PAulo)
Favela Rising
   About political organizing in a Brazilian favela; emphasis is on organizing
   through music, but tells the story of the making of city life

**Europe**

**Paris**

La Haine
   by Mathieu Kassovitz; compare with Le Fabuleux destin d'Amélie Poulain
   http://www.criterion.com/films/216
Playtime, 1967, Jacques Tati
   Paris, satire on the homogeneity of modern tourism

Frankfurt the Euro-city
   by Wilson R Ruiz; Fred J Gattys; Roger Williams; Cadec Pictures (Firm);
   Krafftwerk Film.; Aaron Goldman Productions.; Films for the Humanities &
   Sciences (Firm); DVD video; Language: English

Amsterdam Global Village
   4-hour documentary showing the diversity of people living in the global city.

Liverpool, a New Dawn, 1995, 15 min.
An older movie that I love to show as it briefly covers all cycles of urban restructuring in western cities (from initial industrialization to deindustrialization/restructured economy):

Last Summer in Berlin Mitte
  a short (about 20 min.) documentary film; English subtitles from the German original
  It will be hosted also at the AAG Conference in Las Vegas and at the Lumpencity Conference in Toronto in March 09.
  Tells the struggles of marginalized residents of an old tenement house in former East Berlin, in the midst of the gentrification boom in the surrounding area. More information and snapshots are on: http://www.flickr.com/photos/urbanreinventors/sets/72157604103588641/
  Alessandro Busà: ab2792@columbia.edu
  info@urbanreinventors.net www.urbanreinventors.net

Mon Oncle, 1958, Jacques Tati
  Monsieur Hulot, modern architecture, technology

Berlin: Symphony of a Big City / Berlin: Die Sinfonie der Grosstadt, 1927, Walter Ruttman, Director
  one day in Berlin, starting in the morning and ending in late night

Films on London (thanks to Yara Evans)
1872  London: a pilgrimage
1920  Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, John S Robertson
1929  Blackmail, Alfred Hitchcock
1929  Piccadilly
1944  Gaslight
1949  Passport to Pimlico, Henry Cornelius
1950  Night and the city, Jules Dassin
1950s Free Cinema  Various
1960s London Nobody Knows, Norman Cohen, Douglas Hickox
  Brick Lane
  My son the fanatic
  To sir with love
  Shooting fish
  On the buses
  Career Girls, Mike Leigh
  A Complete History of all my sexual failures
  Oliver Twist, David Lean
  Somers Town, Shane Meadows
  High Hopes, Mike Leigh
  It is a free world, Ken Loach
1964  A Hard Day's Night, Richard Lester
1965  The knack and how to ge, Richard Lester
1965  Darling, John Schlesinger
1966 Blow Up, Michaelangelo Antonioni
1966 Alfie, Lewis Gilbert
1966 Blow Up, Michaelangelo Antonioni
1971 Private Road, Barney Platts-Mills
1975 Pressure, Horace Ove
1981 The Long Good Friday, John MacKenzie
1984 1984, Michael Radford
1985 My beautiful launderette, Stephen Frears
1987 Hope and Glory, John Boorman
1987 The Last of England, Derek Jarman
1990 Life is sweet, Mike Leigh
1991 London kills me
1991 Riff Raf, Ken Loach
1993 Naked, Mike Leigh
1994 London, Patrick Keiller, BFI
1994 Four weddings and a funeral, Mike Newell
1996 Secrets and lies, Mike Leigh
1996 Beautiful thing, Hettie MacDonald
1998 Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels, Guy Ritchie
1999 Wonderland, Michael Winterbottom
1999 Notting Hill, Roger Michell
2001 From Hell
2001 Bridget Jones’ diary, Sharon Maguire
  Follows the interactions of several immigrants in London, including their
  experience with the illegal organ trade. It's a very rich text for writing and
  discussion.
2002 London Orbital, Petit and Sinclair
2004 London: The Post-Imperial City, 26 min.
2005 Match point, Woody Allen

“Asia”
Three Seasons
  Post-colonial Asian cities by Vietnamese-American director Tony Bui. Its about
  the post-war transition of Vietnamese cities and the loss of traditional
  ways of life.
Cyclo (Hanoi)

On Borrowed Land (Phillipines) - movie shows the struggles of the urban
poor over squatting on reclaimed land in Metro Manila.

Tokyo
Tokyo, the neon city
  by Wilson R Ruiz; Fred J Gattys; Cadec Pictures (Firm); Krafftwerk Film.; Films
  for the Humanities & Sciences (Firm); DVD video; Language: English
High and Low (postwar Tokyo)

Hong Kong
Wong Kar-Wai's films set in Hong Kong. Based on his research in Hong Kong, Kris (Kris Olds, UW Madison) made a strong case for these films expressing anxieties both about HK's status as a global city and its reversion to China (some of the films were pre-1997, I believe).

Hard Boiled
The Killer
Chungking Express
In the Mood for Love

Singapore
I Not Stupid
Rogue Trader

China
Tank Man
on the relationship between Tienanmen Square and China's economic opening -- and eventually on the way that the market reforms have created the new Chinese cities

Manufactured Landscapes
Edward Burtynsky's cities in China with the perspective that these massive factories and environmentally destroyed areas (quarries, mines, coal fields, etc) are part of the "natural" landscape.
trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jv23xwe0BoU

The World - film by Jia Zhangke

Up the Yangtze
Released Nov. 2008 by National Film Board of Canada
Contributor believes it is better than Discovery Channel documentary on Three Gorges Dam

India
Bombay Calling
a documentary about young adults working as telemarketers in India.
Mahanagar
Meghe Dhaka Tara
Slumdog Millionaire (Mumbai)
Salaam Bombay

MiddleEast
Syriana (Middle East Cities)
David Hover, Hafeez Arain; VIDOC Productions.

Africa
Battle of Algiers
Blood Diamond (DVD extras!)
   2007, Sierra Leone; Subjects: civil war (1991-2002), smugglers
Constant Gardner (DVD extras!)
   2006, Kenya, human rights
Les Temps qui changent
   By André Téchiné; with Catherine Deneuve and Gérard Depardieu; a current and timely classic set in Tangier: http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0399738/

Miscellaneous
Boiling Point: The Global Struggle for Water
   2002; Competition for freshwater is heating up. Is war inevitable, or is a peaceful solution possible? This program spotlights three trouble spots that epitomize the intensifying crisis and efforts being made to manage it: the Okavango, where a commission formed by Angola, Namibia, and Botswana is trying to resolve the conflict that is endangering the river’s unspoiled waters; the Rio Grande, where an aging water-sharing treaty and ever-greater demands for water leave farmers on both sides of the divide with little hope; and the West Bank, where Palestinian rainwater reservoirs and the Israeli water grid are dangerous points of contention between the two peoples. (27 minutes)
   VHS ISBN 978-0-7365-8972-7
   DVD ISBN 978-0-7365-8973-4
   http://ffh.films.com/id/6343/Boiling_Point_The_Global_Struggle_for_Water.htm

Flow. for love of water
   by Irena Salina; Steven Starr; Caitlin Dixon; Christophe Julien; Group Entertainment (Firm); Oscilloscope Laboratories.; 2008; Subjects: Water-supply. | Water-supply -- Moral and ethical aspects. | Water utilities -- Deregulation
   www.flowthefilm.com

Global cities immigration and the world economy
   by Wilson R Ruiz; Cadec Pictures (Firm); Krafftwerk Film.; Aaron Goldman Productions.; Films for the Humanities & Sciences (Firm); DVD video; Language: English; Publisher: Princeton, NJ : Films for the Humanities & Sciences, ©2004.

Global cities
   by Films for the Humanities & Sciences (Firm); DVD video; Language: English; Publisher: Princeton, NJ : Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 2004.
Italy: Natural Hazards and Disasters
2002; Why do communities take hold in areas prone to flooding, volcanic eruptions, and other catastrophes? This program profiles Italian cities that have suffered from natural disasters and why habitation has continued in those places. Touring flood-plagued Florence, its Arno River dam, and a Roman-style house near Pompeii, the program presents examples of how, throughout history, environmental dangers have taken a backseat to everyday human needs, until they can no longer be ignored. A viewable/printable instructor’s guide—including geographical background information, extension activities, vocabulary handouts, and more—is available online. Correlates to National Geography Standards. (25 minutes)
http://ffh.films.com/id/12281/Italy_Natural_Hazards_and_Disasters.htm

Koyaanisqatsi: Life Out of Balance
very tripppy, Philip Glass music, etc., I wouldn't recommend showing the whole thing--just pull out 20 minutes or so... you can view the trailer on YouTube:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PirH8PADDgQ

Life after people
written, produced and directed by David de Vries; produced by Vincent Lopez; produced by Flight 33 Productions for History Television Network Productions [New York, N.Y.]: A&E Television Networks; Distributed by New Video, 2008
Subjects: Extinction (Biology), Human beings, Nature -- Effect of human beings on nature and civilization, apocalypse in motion pictures

Liquid city
30 minutes; English, Hindi and Marathi with English Directed and produced by Matthew Gandy
The film is based on a unique collaboration between academics and film makers based in London and Mumbai and combines in-depth interviews with activists, engineers, local residents and other voices to paint a unique picture of this vibrant and fast changing city.
The film is available from the UCL Urban Laboratory, Department of Geography University College London, 26 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AP
http://www.ucl.ac.uk/urbanlab

On the brink
A Screenscope production in association with South Carolina Educational Television; producer, Marilyn Weiner; director/writer, Hal Weiner.
1 videodisc (57 min.): sd., col. with b&w sequences; 4 3/4 in.
Narrator, Matt Damon.
This film "explores a growing national security threat throughout the world: how environmental pressures can lead to violence, terrorism and regional conflict. Travel to areas where environmental degradation and unsustainable development
practices have had negative impacts on the quality of life for millions of people"--
Container. Journeys to Bangladesh, South Africa, Peru, Haiti, Mexican/U.S. border

The power of place geography for the 21st century
by E Deborah Dorsey; Lance Wisniewski; Jean Louis Cros; Annie Breit; Micheline Paintault; Bob Burns; Katarzyna Remin; Roger Samsioe; Georges Combes; Joop van Reede; Hardy Stow; Kenji Tozaki; Masami Yokota; Hidetoshi Nakama; Terry Kay Rockeferler; Agnes Zerwetz; Jean-Louis Chaléard; Philippe Kimmerling; Peter Frumkin; Rebecca Marvil; Megan Reilly; Eilish McCormick; Nancy Caulfield; Steve Peters; Cambridge Studios (Boston, Mass.); Annenberg Media.; DVD video : Partial animation; Language: English; Publisher: S. Burlington, VT : Annenberg Media, [2006]

Trade.
by Marco Kreuzpaintner; Roland Emmerich; Rosilyn Heller; Peter Landesman; José Rivera; Kevin Kline; Cesar Ramos; Alicja Bachleda-Curus; Paulina Gaitan; Roadside Attractions (Firm); Centropolis Entertainment (Firm); VIP 4 (Firm); Lionsgate (Firm); English language DVD; Santa Monica, Calif. : Lionsgate, [2008]; Subjects: Human trafficking -- Mexico -- Drama. | Abduction - Mexico -- Drama.

Uprooted: Refugees of the Global Economy
2002; A compelling tale, through interviews, of how the global economy has forced people to leave their home countries—Maricel is one of thousands of women encouraged by the Philippine government to work abroad as a domestic worker in order to pay its international debt. Free trade destroyed Jessy and Jaime's family business in Bolivia. Despite their engineering degrees, they have worked as janitors in the US In order to reunite with their parents, their children had to brave a border crossing alone. In Haiti, Luckner worked for 14 cents an hour at a US-owned baseball factory, which moved to China in search of cheaper labor costs.

Slum Cities
2006; Each week, in countries around the globe, nearly a million people say goodbye to their homes in impoverished rural regions—and move to even worse conditions in cities. This program explores the tragic results: illegal slums filled with some of the poorest people in the world, lacking water, sanitation, and other resources needed to support exploding populations. Viewers are shown the lives and homes of those who struggle in the slums of Mumbai, India, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and who face the threat of eviction, the spread of disease, and rampant drug dealing and gang violence on a daily basis. Slum residents, as well as those who have broken out of the cycle of poverty, share their personal insights and frustrations regarding this urgent international issue. (46 minutes)
Water for the Cities
2003; This program takes a hard look at the mounting challenge of providing millions of people in urban areas with potable water and adequate disposal of waste water. To highlight the difficulties, segments focus on the water problems of the megalopolis, cities with populations of over ten million people, such as Lagos, Jakarta, and Mexico City. The massive logistics that enable Las Vegas to prosper in the middle of a desert are also explored. (27 minutes)

Some other films that might be useful:
Whale Rider (New Zealand)
Rabbit Proof Fence (Australia)
Rashomon (World Regions: Japan)
Kekexili Mountain Patrol (World Regions: Nepal/Himilayas)
Hotel Rwanda (World Regions: Sub-Saharan Africa)
The Band's Visit (World Regions: Arab/Israeli Relations)
Hard Rock and Water (North American Geog: Economic development in Newfoundland and Iceland)
Kitchen Stories (Research Methods)

Further Resources
call number: HT151 .C569 2008
Each chapter is written by a team of urban geographers who specializes in the region, and they include a list of suggested resources, including films and websites.

The Cinema of Globalization: A Guide to Films About the New Economic Order by Tom Zaniello. a catologue of loads of movies and i have found it to be a very useful resource.

Icarus Films
Gary Crowdus, Director of Marketing and Publicity
Email: gary@IcarusFilms.com
Brooklyn, NY 11201
Phone: (718) 488-8900
Fax: (718) 488-8642

PLACES IN FILMS: Documentary films for regional geography courses
Dr. Dmitrii Sidorov, Department of Geography, CSU Long Beach
*This is a fabulous resource!!
http://csulb.edu/~dsidorov/Places_in_Films.html

A few years ago, Planners Network produced an extensive list of urban planning related films that may be useful for you - you can find them inside the Disorientation Guide on the website: http://www.plannersnetwork.org/publications/disorientation.html

Worldcat Search … on global cities.
www.worldcat.org select DVD and you’re ready to go.
⇒ Great way to find films by subject (etc.) and to find out if films are available at libraries in your region.