

The Department of Geographical Sciences
College of Behavior and Social Sciences

Social Geography of Metropolitan Area in Global Perspective

GEOG 456 – Fall 2014

This elective course is offered for advanced undergraduate students.

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Office Hrs: Monday and Wednesday: 3:15 – 4:15, or by appointment

Class meets: Monday and Wednesday: 2:00 – 3:15, LEF 2166

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of the class will be on social fabric of contemporary cities. We will look into ways in which spatial organization affects social relations - a socio-spatial approach to human interaction with the urban environment; ways people perceive, define, behave in, and structure their cities and metropolitan areas. Spatial patterns of social activities as formed by the distribution and interaction of people and social institutions will be analyzed, and the focus of the discussions will be on controversial geographical issues of neighborhoods, segregation, homelessness, urban renewal and gentrification in the urban environment and on analyzing the opposite viewpoints that will create a running debate.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Analyze how spatial organization in cities affects social relationships;
- Discuss spatial patterns of social activities in various urban environments around the world;
- Evaluate controversial geographical issues in urban neighborhoods.

Students will leave the course with a toolbox of basic concepts that they can use to form and evaluate opinions relating to urban spatial organization and urban social issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ELMS

This course will use ELMS - www.courses.umd.edu/studentmanuel. It is mandatory to get acquainted with this tool. Without ELMS features, students will not be able to participate in the exercises and their performance will be hindered.

Course update: students are expected to check ELMS daily for announcement on changes in readings, exams, due dates, etc. All homework assignments and papers have to be posted on ELMS. Hard copy will not be accepted.

Reading and Other Resources:

- (1) required textbook, available for purchase at the University Book Center and the Maryland Book Exchange: Macionis, J.J and V.N. Parrillo (last edition), Cities and Urban Life, Prentice Hall, ISBN 0-13-226040-9
- (2) Leigh & Hoelzel, Smart growth's blind side and Maryland, Growing Smarter (Discussion papers 1)
- (3) Jones & Newman, Our America Life and Death on the South Side of Chicago (Discussion paper 2)
- (4) Other readings available on the web will be assigned from different sources. Information and articles will be posted on Blackboard.

DISCUSSION PAPERS

Various urban problems will be explored during this course. Students will be responsible for undertaking research and exploring arguments in support of or against the controversial issues. Each student will have to prepare two discussion papers related to the following topics – 1. Urban sprawl – positive and negative effects; and 2. Slums – products of capital. Details on discussion papers are posted on ELMS. If a student has any questions about the written work, consult with instructor well in advance of a due date. I strongly recommend visiting the University Writing Center for help in writing.

EXAMS

There will be three exams in this class. Exams will be a combination of essays, short answers, true and false, or multiply choice questions. Each exam will cover readings, lectures and discussions covered.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in my classes is mandatory. Participation in in-class discussion is part of the grade and students should realize that irregular attendance will result in a poor grade. Students who do not participate in discussions, and/or do not post their work on ELMS will be given a score "0" for each segment of the requirement. There will be no rounding of the grade at the end of the semester.

GRADING

Task	Points	% Grade
1. Participation in class discussions. Attendance and discussion is mandatory and will be included in the grade.	15	90-100 (A)
2. Two discussion papers (20 points each)	40	80-89.99 (B)
3. Tests (15% each)	<u>45</u>	70-79.99 (C)
4. Extra credit – evaluate the course at the end of the semester and receive 1% increase of the grade (90 percent of the class has to evaluate the course in order for all to receive this extra credit)	Total 100	60-69.99 (D) 59.99 and > (F)

Note: Written class requirements have to be submitted on ELMS. Hard copies will not be accepted. Late papers will be penalized 5 percent per day for 2 days, after 2 days

papers will not be accepted and will be graded 0. There will be no exception to this rule, therefore start working on time and submit your work early!

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a documented disability, you should contact Disability Support Services 0126 Shoemaker Hall. Each semester students with documented disabilities should apply to DSS for accommodation request forms which you can provide to your professors as proof of your eligibility for accommodations. The rules for eligibility and the types of accommodations a student may request can be reviewed on the DSS web site at http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/receiving_serv.html.

MEDICAL EXCUSES

Campus Senate policy requires students who are absent due to illness/injury to furnish documentary support to the instructor. I require students to contact me by email or by phone prior to class time in which you indicate you have an illness/injury. You must present written documentation verifying your illness/injury on the first day of class that you return to class. You will not be allowed to turn in missed assignments or make up quizzes, tests, papers, etc. If you have not provided this documentation. In addition, if it is found that you have falsified the documentation provided, I will refer you to the University's Student Conduct Office."

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

The University System of Maryland policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs, students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any exam that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. Written academic assignments cannot be posted late; a student has to post these assignments in advance if a due date falls on the religious observance date. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Notice should be provided as soon as possible but no later than the end of the scheduled adjustment period.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This Code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit <http://www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html>. The University of Maryland is one of a small number of universities with a student-administered Honors Code and an Honors Pledge, available on the web at <http://www.jpo.umd.edu/aca/honorpledge.html>. The code prohibits students from cheating on exams, plagiarizing papers, submitting the same paper for credit in two courses without authorization, buying papers, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. The University Senate encourages instructors to ask students to write the following signed statement on each examination or assignment: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this examination (or assignment)."