

GEOG333 Social Geography of Metropolitan Area in Global Perspective

Time and Place: Tuesday & Thursday; **2:00pm- 3:15pm** (Edward St. John Learning & Teaching Center 1224)

Lecturers: Laixiang SUN (Office: LEF 2181G; email: LSun123@umd.edu; phone 301 405 8131; office hours: after class, Tuesdays 3.15 – 4.15 or by appointment).

Teaching Assistant: Caroline Bruchman (email: cbruch@umd.edu).

Course Description

It has been said that cities highlight the best and worst of everything and reveal the most remarkable contradictions of our time. This course provides an introduction to the study of cities and urban life. Such study is highly interdisciplinary and we will discuss the origins, features, and evolution of various cities by mobilizing the perspectives from historians, economists, geographers, sociologists, political scientists, and planners. In the study, we will examine the interactions between urbanization process and the dynamics of economic, political, cultural, socio-demographical, and environmental changes. We will analyze the interplay between established or ‘classical’ theories of the city, and new efforts to understand new processes, new problems, and new opportunities. A variety of cities from different historical periods and across the globe will be used to illustrate important concepts and analytical perspectives.

Learning objectives

When you successfully complete this course you will have acquired a critical understanding of:

- 1) how cities are produced, consumed, and theorized as complex social, economic, ecological, and political systems;
- 2) the main debates over geographical interpretations of the urban world;
- 3) the major forces and interdependencies which shape internal spatial structure of the city, including commercial and industrial locations, social areas, neighborhoods, and land use changes; and drive urban trends and public policy.

Textbooks

- (1) Required: **Paul L. Knox and Linda M. McCarthy, 2014. Urbanization: an introduction to urban geography, 3rd Edition.** ISBN-13: 9781292039169 (paperback), 480 pages. Pearson. <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-uk/referral?term=9781292053967>.
- (2) Recommended: **John J. Macionis and Vincent N. Parrillo, 2017. Cities and Urban Life, 7th Edition.** ISBN-13: 978-0134377513, 452 pages. Pearson.

In addition, we will use other sources, which will be suggested as we go along. I will also provide you with keywords and key concepts that will help you to search for material and prepare for the exams. You are also required to read a newspaper of your choice regularly and be prepared to discuss current events in class. Many newspapers can be accessed on-line so there is no need to subscribe to any particular one. Obviously you will come across interesting articles and other material that you might want to bring to class. Please share your findings with the class and also send me updates on interesting articles or documentaries and contribute to making this a successful class!

General Requirements

Requirements for this course include attendance and participation in class, 8-10 pop quizzes, a mid-term and a final exam. Course readings will come from the class textbook and other assigned literature and online documentaries. The idea is that you read the respective chapter in the textbook or other suggested reading before the class. Lectures will also be based on information not included in the readings, so it is important to attend class. We will discuss current events as they relate to global issues in class so it is important to read (quality) newspapers and watch the news regularly. The exams and quizzes will be based on the assigned readings, all material presented in the lectures, documentaries, guest speaker presentations and other information discussed in class.

Assessment and Grades

There will be a mid-term exam during the semester and a final exam. These will test all material covered in class. There will be no extra credit assignments.

- **Exams:** There will be a mid-term exam worth 20% and a final exam worth 30% of your final grade. The exam questions will be based on course readings and other lecture material, so class attendance is important in order to do well on the exam. In the event of an illness or emergency (which must be documented) an oral or written make-up exam will be held. If you are late to class on the day of the midterm, you will receive a zero grade. The dates for both exams will be provided well in advance.
- **Pop quizzes:** There will be 8-10 pop quizzes accounting for 20% of your final grade. In the event of an illness or emergency (which must be documented) an oral or written make-up exam will be held.
- **Written essay:** You will have to submit one written essays (maximum 1500 words) worth 30% of your final grade.
- **Attendance and Class Participation:** Attendance and participation in class discussions are a requirement and an integral part of the work for the course. A significant portion of exam questions will come from materials presented in lectures and class discussions. Therefore attending class will be important in helping you do well in the course. For more on the University of Maryland's attendance policy see <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html>. The University's policy on medically necessitated absences from class can be found at <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html>.

Grading Scale

All assignments will be given a numerical grade on a 100-point scale. At the end of the semester, your overall numerical grade will be calculated, based on your grades for and the relative weights of the assignments and then converted to a letter grade using the following scale.

Numerical grade (n)	Letter Grade
$96 \leq n \leq 100$	A+
$93 \leq n < 96$	A
$90 \leq n < 93$	A-
$86 \leq n < 90$	B+
$83 \leq n < 86$	B
$80 \leq n < 83$	B-

The University's marking system defining the standards for letter grades is as follows:

A+, A, A- denotes excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship

B+, B, B- denotes good mastery of the subject and good scholarship

C+, C, C- denotes acceptable mastery of the subject

D+, D, D- denotes borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, and it does not represent satisfactory progress toward a degree

F denotes failure to understand the subject and unsatisfactory performance

$76 \leq n < 80$	C+
$73 \leq n < 76$	C
$70 \leq n < 73$	C-
$66 \leq n < 70$	D+
$63 \leq n < 66$	D
$60 \leq n < 63$	D-
$0 \leq n < 60$	F

All grades will be determined by the above method.

Medically Necessitated Absences from Class

For a medically necessitated absence from a single lecture students may submit a self-signed note to their instructor. Such documentation shall be honored as an excused absence unless the absence coincides with a Major Scheduled Grading Event. Any student who wishes to be excused for an absence from a single lecture due to a medically necessitated absence shall: (1) Make a reasonable attempt to inform the instructor of his/her illness prior to the class; and, (2) Upon returning to class, present their instructor with a self-signed note attesting to the date of their illness. This note must be submitted to the instructor as soon as the student returns to class following an absence. Each note must also contain an acknowledgment by the student that the information provided is true and correct. Providing false information to University officials is prohibited under Part 9 (h) of the Code of Student Conduct (V-1.00(B) UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT) and may result in disciplinary action.

Students who experience more than two non-consecutive medically necessitated absences, a prolonged absence(s) of consecutive lectures, or an **illness during a Major Scheduled Grading Event** as identified in writing by the class instructor shall be **required to provide written documentation of the illness** from the Health Center or from an outside health care provider. In cases where written verification is provided, the Health Center or outside health care provider shall verify dates of treatment and indicate the time frame that the student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. No diagnostic information shall be given. For more information on the University's policy on medically necessitated absences from class can be found at <http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html>.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is the use of another person's work as if it was your own. For more technical definitions of plagiarism see <http://www.bsos.umd.edu/for-students/advising/academic-integrity-honor-pledge-and-legal-aid-.aspx>. If I believe that there has been plagiarism on an assignment, I will inform you of my determination and you will receive a zero for the assignment. Cases will be referred to the Student Conduct Office. Remember that on each assignment you must write and sign the honor pledge. "I have neither given nor received any unauthorized help on this assignment."

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have disabilities, learning or otherwise, you should visit the Disability Support Office to fill out appropriate forms that will tell me what accommodations to make. These may include testing formats, class participation difficulties, and paper writing. I will make every effort to accommodate

students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form which has been updated for the Fall 2011. This form must be presented to me no later than October 1, 2012. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation which has been reviewed by DSS after October 1, 2012.

Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones (including text messaging) cannot be used while you are in the classroom. All music playing devices must be turned off and earphones must be removed during class. Computers are not to be used for non class-related purposes during class time. If it becomes obvious that you are using your phone or your computer for non class-related purposes, you will be asked to shut it off and put it away. Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the class.

Honor Code

The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code administered by the Student Honor Council (<http://www.bsos.umd.edu/for-students/advising/academic-integrity-honor-pledge-and-legal-aid-.aspx>). **Unless you are specifically advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all papers, projects, or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course.** Students who fail to write and sign the Pledge will be asked to confer with the instructor.

CourseEvalUM

Your participation in the evaluation of courses through CourseEvalUM is a responsibility you hold as a student member of our academic community. Your feedback is confidential and important to the improvement of teaching and learning at the University as well as to the tenure and promotion process. I will announce when the CourseEvalUM will be open for you to complete your evaluations for fall semester courses. Please go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete your evaluations. By completing all of your evaluations each semester, you will have the privilege of accessing online, at Testudo, the evaluation reports for the thousands of courses for which 70% or more students submitted their evaluations.

Draft Time Table and Topics (subject to change)

1/25	Introductions: Urbanization and Urban Geography (Chap 1 of books 1 & 2) Syllabus, Overview
1/30 2/01	Urban Origins and Historical Processes of Urbanization Chapter 2 of books 1 & 2
2/06, 08	Foundations of Urban Systems Chapter 3 of books 1 & 2
2/13, 15	Urban Systems and Cities in Transition Chapter 4 of books 1 & 2
2/20, 22	Urbanization in the Less Developed Countries; Chapters 5 of book 1
2/27 3/01	Urban Form and Land Use in the Less Developed Countries Chapters 6 of book 1
3/06 3/08	Urban Problems and Responses in the Less Developed Countries Chapter 7 of book 1. Preparation for Lecture 8: Watch movie “Inside Job” at http://watchdocumentaries.com/inside-job/
3/13	The Urban Development Process Chapter 8 of book 1 <i>Handout assignment for “Cities reveal the most remarkable contradictions of our time” paper</i>
3/15	<i>Midterm exam</i>
3/20, 22	Spring Break
3/27, 29	How Neighborhoods Change Chapters 9 of book 1
4/03, 05	The Politics of Change: Urbanization and Urban Governance; Chapter 10 of book 1
4/10, 12	Urban Policy and Planning Chapter 11 of book 1
4/13	<i>Submit assignment paper on ELMS by 10.00am.</i>
4/17, 19	The Residential Kaleidoscope Chapter 12 of book 1
4/24, 26	The City as Text: Architecture and Urban Design Chapter 13 of book 1
5/01, 03	Urbanization, Urban Life, and Urban Spaces Chapter 14 of book 1
5/08, 10	Review & Revision
5/12~18	<i>Final Exam</i>