



GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE SPRING 2009

GEOGRAPHY 253 (Urban Studies 253) H(3-0) Area II

Introduction to Cities

Instructor: Geoff Ghitler	Room: ES310	Office hours: After class or by appointment
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Official Course Description

This course is designed as a general introduction to the diverse processes that shape cities. While covering the interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies, it emphasizes the most diverse of the disciplines: Geography. In this course we will examine fundamental issues of city growth and development, social differentiation, urban culture, urban politics, urban economic processes, urban planning, urban morphology, urban design, and urban futures. While emphasizing a geographic (spatial) perspective, we will draw from a variety of perspectives, including those of Anthropology, architecture, cultural Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, sociology, Urban Design and Urban Planning. Examples will come from a variety of locations around the world, emphasizing Canada, the United States and Europe.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad introduction to the processes that shape cities. These processes give rise to a variety of research and social policy questions that form the basis of urban Studies and much of urban Geography. As this is an introductory course, emphasis is placed on raising basic questions about cities. Provisional answers to these questions may be suggested, but more advanced study is required for comprehensive understanding.

In addition to introducing students to the field of Urban Studies and Urban Geography, this course is designed to demonstrate the advantages of an interdisciplinary perspective, to show the importance of cities in shaping cultural, economic and political processes, and to familiarize students with contemporary urban issues.

Finally, this course aims to help students think through urban issues by writing about them, and in turn to hone their writing skills.

Text(s)/Readings

R.T. Legates and F. stout (2007) The city Reader 4th Edition, New York: Routledge

Additional required readings will be made available through blackboard

Assignments and Grading

All assignments must be completed. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late. On take-home, written assignments writing competency (organization, grammar, spelling, word choice etc) will count for 20% of the grade. The Writing Centre at SS 110 can help you with any writing difficulties you might have.

Grades will be based on:

Midterm Exam	25%
Film Analysis	22.5%
Calgary exercise	22.5%
Final Exam	30%

Grades will be base on the following grading scale:

A+	98-100%	B	80-83.9%	C-	64-67.9%
A	92-97.9%	B-	76-79.9%	D+	60-63.9%
A-	88-91.9%	C+	72-75.9%	D	55-59.9%
B+	84-87.9%	C	68-71.9%	F	Below 55

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotation, but also paraphrases and ideas, *where they appear in your text*. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as web pages or visual media, and material taken from such format. Please consult me if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to:

Register with the Disability resource Centre (220-8237) and

Discuss your needs with me no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course

“Safewalk” Program - 220 5333

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night - call 220 5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access.
Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca