

UBST/GEOG 253 Introduction to Cities

Spring Term, May-June 2007
Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-3:45pm, ES 443

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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, and urban economic processes. 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 number of locations around the world, but 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. While these processes connect to diverse research and social policy questions, the emphasis will be 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 fields 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 through class discussion and in written form.

Required Textbook

R.T Legates and F. Stout (eds.) (2003) The City Reader, New York: Routledge

Additional required readings are available through Blackboard.

Assignments and Grading

All assignments must be completed to pass the course. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day late, and after three days, they will no longer be accepted. Electronic submissions of assignments will not be accepted. On take home, written assignments, writing competency (organization, grammar, spelling, word choice, etc) will count for the mark. The Writing Centre at SS 110 can help you with any writing difficulties you might have.

Final mark is based on 4 components:

Class participation (including film analysis) 15%

Mid-term exam	25%
Calgary Exercise	20%
Final Exam (take home)	35%

Please see separate course attachment for details on the Calgary exercise.

Regular attendance in class is expected. Please notify me in case of an illness or family conflict.

As part of your assignment for the take home final and Calgary exercise, you are required to keep accessible a digital version. This is not only to protect me (my dog might eat your paper), but also to protect you (you may accidentally slide your paper under the wrong office door). So if something should happen to your paper during the marking process, I will contact you for an additional copy and expect that a digital version of the paper be available. If you have no digital copy, consider the paper mark a zero. Do take this part of the assignment seriously.

Grade scale:

A+ (100-99), **A** (98-92), **A-** (91-88), **B+** (87-85), **B** (84-82), **B-** (81-78), **C+** (77-75), **C** (74-70), **C-** (69-62), **D+** (61-58), **D** (57-55), **D-** (54-52), **F** (51-0)

Lecture topics and Reading schedule

Lectures will take the form of wide-ranging discussions focusing on the assigned readings. I highly recommend completing the assigned readings prior to the start of class.

As a way to connect students to local urban issues and invite student participation, at the beginning of each class period we will spend about 15-20 minutes discussing a news article from the Calgary Herald. The stories are posted to Blackboard and are labeled according to the date they are due. Topics do not necessarily correspond to the lecture material of the day, but may aid in you choosing a topic for the 'Calgary Exercise'.

Readings for the lecture are listed in parenthesis. CR= The City Reader

Week 1

May 15th: Introduction (CR, p9-18)
Pre-Modern urban development (CR, p21-57)

May 17th: Pre-Modern urban development (Knox and McCarthy)
Urban development to 1800 (Jordon)

Week 2

May 22nd: Class and space in modern cities (CR, p58-86)
City life (CR, p87-118)

May 24: Urban social ecology and exclusion (CR, p151-163, p181-188, p201-206)
Film (**in class writing assignment**)

Week 3

May 29th: Race and Ethnicity (CR, p119-135) (Olson and Kobayashi)
Culture, fear, public space and social justice (CR, p136-150) (Glassner) (Mitchell)

May 31st: Mid-term review
Mid-term exam

Week 4

June 5th: Urban political power (CR, p235-243) (Peck and Tickell)
Contested cities (CR, p227-234, p244-255) (Lake)

June 7th: Film 'Planning politics in urban life in Post-WWII NY'
Post 9-11 cities (readings TBA)

Week 5

June 12th: Inner city revitalization (CR, p267-295) (Florida)
Gentrification (Schaeffer and Smith) (Smith) (Ley)

June 14th: Suburbanization and sprawl (CR, p448-463) (Fowler) (Gans)
Suburbanization and sprawl (Kunstler) (Newman & Kenworthy)

Week 6

June 19th: Classic visions of urban planning (CR, p297-336) (Geddes) (Calthorpe)
Contemporary approaches to planning (CR, p339-398)

June 21st: Urban Design 1 (CR p437-447, p207-211) (McCannell) (Boddy)
Urban Design 2 (CR p409-436) (Harvey)
Calgary Exercise due by 4:30pm

Week 7

June 26th: Sustainable urban development (CR p399-408, 486-496)
Course-wrap up...hand out take home **Final exam due June 29th** at 4:30pm

Plagiarism

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

Disability Resource Centre Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

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

Campus Safewalk

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.