



**GEOGRAPHY FINAL COURSE OUTLINE SPRING 2009
URBAN STUDIES 313
H(3-3)**

The City in Film

Instructor: Geoff Ghitler

Office: ES 310

Telephone: 220 5596

email: gghitter@ucalgary.ca

Official Course Description:

The social and spatial organization of cities shapes the lives of the majority of the world's inhabitants. While urban scholars understand a great deal about the socio-spatial processes that create and organize cities, the ways in which these processes shape human beings' lived experience is often overlooked. A number of film directors have thoughtfully portrayed a wide variety of urban processes, allowing us to connect our theoretical understandings of these processes to the (portrayed) lived experiences of film characters (individuals as well as groups). This course utilizes one of contemporary society's primary communications media, film, to link our theoretical understandings of urban processes with the meaningful world of lived experience.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to explore the relationship between a number of the processes shaping cities--changing urban morphology, immigration and assimilation, community formation, economic restructuring, segregation, race and class conflict, social exclusion, suburban alienation, the commercial colonization of public space, and the structuring of social relationships in post-colonial cities--and the experiences of people living in those cities. We will strive to gain a basic understanding of several processes shaping city life, drawing from select theoretical and empirical readings, and then analyze films that deal with the same topics, paying special attention to the ways in which different groups and individuals react to and shape these processes.

We will also consider the ways in which the film directors' own perspectives and understandings shape their portrayals of urban life, and the ways in which these portrayals reinforce, elaborate upon, or contradict our theoretical understandings. By the end of the course, you should have a better understanding of some of the central processes shaping cities, how urban experience is shaped by broader processes, and how our understandings of urban life are shaped by context, perspective, and ideology.

Required and Optional Readings

All readings for this course are posted on Blackboard. Required readings are denoted with an asterisk (*) in the course reading list (also posted on blackboard). All other readings are considered optional although I may refer to them in lecture.

There is no final exam in this course. Marks will be based on the following:

Eight reaction papers (five points each)	40 points
Two essays (40 points each)	80 points
Take home exam	80 points
Presentation and discussion	30 points
Participation	<u>20 points</u>
Total	250 points

The following scale will be used:

A+	(4.0)	98-100%	B	(3.0)	80-83.9%	C-	(1.7)	64-67.9%
A	(4.0)	92-97.9%	B-	(2.7)	76-79.9%	D+	(1.3)	60-63.9%
A-	(3.7)	88-91.9%	C+	(2.3)	72-75.9%	D	(1.0)	55-59.9%
B+	(3.4)	84-87.9%	C	(2.0)	68-71.9%	F	(0.0)	Below 55

For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:

<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

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

- Assignments will be handed back only in class or by the Professor at pre-arranged time(s).
- To receive your assignment back via mail, please include an appropriately sized self-addressed, stamped envelope with your assignment when handing in to the professor.
- Posting of grades will be at the discretion of each Professor and, if posted, they will be scrambled. 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.