# Geography 3630E Introduction to Urban GeographySummer 2017

## Instructor Contact

Professor: Mr. Chad Steacy

Office/Telephone: GG Building, Room 120, 828 200-2088

Email: steacy@uga.edu

Office Hours:

I will log into the course each weekday (M-F) during the term. On most days, I will log into the course at least twice daily, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, to check for questions and to participate in discussions. I cannot guarantee that I will log into the course evenings or over the weekend, so if you have questions for me, please make sure you post them so that I can respond in a timely fashion. I will do my best to respond to your questions within 24 hours after I first read the message, with the exception of questions posted on Fridays, in which case I will respond the following Monday.

I will be outside Georgia conducting field research June 9 to 26 and July 17-21. I \*will\* be logging into the course during this time, but my "morning" and "afternoon" will be ahead by 6 hours and behind by 3 hours, respectively, relative to those who will be in the Eastern time zone. When I am in route, I cannot guarantee that I can access the course and my responses may be slightly delayed.

E-Mail Address: steacy@uga.edu, and the email function within eLC

## Course Description

*This course examines historical and contemporary processes of urbanization, primarily in the European and North American contexts. We are concerned particularly with how these processes are expressed geographically, resulting in the differentiation of space and the creation of distinctive places. Urban Geography requires a spatial approach: understanding and explaining the “why” of where as we study the overall spatial patterns of a city or a system of cities. This course covers a range of topics relevant to cities, including historical development, governance, social patterns, economic roles, planning, contemporary problems, and the linkages among all of these. We will examine the geography of urbanization at several scales, ranging from the development of the North American urban system to the experiences of neighborhoods within cities.*

## Course Goals

* To understand the historical evolution of cities in Western Society
* To understand the links between urbanization and economic structure
* To understand the basic links between urbanization and the natural environment
* To understand how cities are structured internally, and how that structure reflects social, political, economic and ecological factors
* To understand the connections between cities and regional systems of cities
* To understand the contemporary city – its structure, problems and prospects

## Textbook

* Urban Geography, **3rd Edition**, by Kaplan, Holloway & Wheeler

*Note: the textbook is available in a variety of formats including a Kindle version, which is paginated the same as the print version. I will provide the first several chapters in pdf format on eLC. The book can be acquired through a variety of online retailers and may be rented.* **Please do NOT use the 2nd edition of the textbook – several chapters were substantially changed!**

## Other Materials

Additional course materials will be made available to you via eLC*.*

## Course Requirements

Course requirements are that you (1) stay up to date with the course readings, videos and online activities as directed by the checklists on eLC, (2) participate regularly in discussions, (3) take three essay exams and (4) prepare one paper.

## Meeting Time, Weekly Schedule, and Online Discussion

This is an online course, so you will be engaging with course materials and your instructor asynchronously. However, this course is organized on a weekly schedule, and you are expected to engage and contribute on a weekly basis with discussion posts and responses. For the purposes of this course, a week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

## Course Outline

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **Topic** | **DUE DATE (all times are Eastern Daylight Savings Time)** |
| Week 1 (6/4-6/10) | Welcome to the CourseIntroduction |  |
| Week 2 (6/11-6/17) | Urban Origins through Urbanization in the Roman Empire |  |
| Week 3 (6/18-6/24) | Cities of Trade & Cities of Industry in Europe |  |
|  EXAM 1 | Questions Released | June 21, 11:59pm |
|  EXAM 1 | Questions Set | June 23, 11:59pm |
|  EXAM 1 | Essays Due | June 25, 11:59pm |
| Week 4 (6/25-6/30) | North America through the Rise of the Urban Industrial System |  |
| Week 5 (7/2-7/8) | Pre-WWI Industrial Cities through the beginning of WWII |  |
| Week 6 (7/9-7/15) | Infill Suburbanization & Rise of the Automobile through early Post-WWII urbanization |  |
|  EXAM 2 | Questions Released | July 11, 11:59pm |
|  EXAM 2 | Questions Set | July 13, 11:59pm |
|  EXAM 2 | Essays Due | July 15, 11:59pm |
| Week 7 (7/16-7/22) | Post-WWII Sprawl, De-Industrialization & the rise of Globalization |  |
| Week 8 (7/23-7/31) | Contemporary Urbanization: Gentrification, Immigration, & the Unequal City |  |
|  EXAM 3 | Questions Released | July 28, 11:59pm |
|  EXAM 3 | Questions Set | July 30, 11:59pm |
|  EXAM 3 | Essays Due | August 1, 11:59pm |
|  FILM PAPER | Due | August 4, 11:59pm |

## Missed Assignments/Make-Ups/Extra Credit

All work will be uploaded to eLC. There will be a cutoff date/time for each assignment’s dropbox – once that date/time has passed you will not be able to submit your work. I do not offer make-up work. I do not offer extra credit.

## Evaluation and Grading

*My grading policy is simple – if you earn the points, you are guaranteed the following grades:* ***A: 93.0-100%, A-: 90.0-92.9%, B+: 88.0-89.9%, B: 83.0-87.9%, B-: 80.0-82.9%, C+: 78.0-79.9%, C: 73.0-77.9%, C-: 70.0-72.9%, D: 60.0-69.9%.*** *I use a curve if, and only if, it is to your benefit.*

*Details about the course requirement are found below. Here, to summarize, your course grade will be based on Discussions (40%), 3 essay exams (40%) and 1 paper (20%).*

## Attendance Policy/Expectations of Participation

* *Participation is vital for your learning in this class, especially since it is an asynchronous online course!* ***Ask questions*** *about readings, projects, or lecture materials – I suspect that someone else in class will probably have the same question. Please* ***do not be shy with questions or comments****. You will be required to participate in the online discussions on an ongoing basis.*
* *A standard face-to-face semester course has about 38 hours of classroom contact. For this summer term, this works out to be one hour per weekday of regular contact time. Since this is an online-only course, you should expect to invest the one hour that you would normally be sitting in a classroom by watching recorded lectures and participating in online discussions. In addition, as in any college course, you will need to invest additional time in reading, preparing for discussion posts, studying for exams and doing research for and writing papers. In total, I expect that you will invest somewhere between 2 and 4 hours per day, five days a week in the course. You should also plan to invest time over weekends as necessary.*
* *My class does not require a lot of small activities – I prefer well-reasoned and deeper engagement. You will need to be online every day, but the number of items that you turn in to me will not be overwhelming.*
* *Discussions. Since we cannot see each other in a traditional manner, your participation in the discussions are vital for the success of the class and for your performance in the class. I have designed the course so that there are formal discussion topics every week that will require you to compose thoughtful posts on a weekly basis (see above). I will assess the number, spacing and thoughtfulness of each week’s posts, and these assessments will constitute 40% of your course grade. Since there will be 8 assessments, one for each of the Modules/Weeks, each week’s discussion participation will be worth 5% of the course grade. Each of my weekly assessments will be based on the Discussion Assessment Rubric available on eLC.*
* *Exams: there will be three non-cumulative essay exams for this course. I will provide to you a list of candidate exam questions worded exactly as they will appear on the actual exam. These question lists will be released to you via eLC no less than three days prior to the due date of the exam in order for you to prepare your answers (the questions are your study guide). You should prepare to provide a three- to four-paragraph response to each question. I will indicate to you no later than 24 hours prior to the due date of the exam the specific exam questions for which I want you to write essays. There will be three essays for each exam. You will then prepare your essays using your own computer using any resources that you have available to you. You will submit your essays in a single file, titled with your name, to an eLC dropbox. The dropbox will be open until the designated date and time – if you are late you will not be able to submit your essays. The three exams will be worth 40% of the course grade, with the second and third exams weighted slightly more than the first. This works out to 12% of the course grade for the first exam, 14% of the course grade for the second exam, and 14% of the course grade for the third exam.*
* *There will be one paper that I want you to prepare. Detailed instructions will be available on eLC. The paper is a review of a film with an urban theme. You will select a film, either from a list of possible films or after consulting with me. You will critically evaluate the film’s communicated perceptions of cities. The film paper is worth 20% of your course grade. The paper will be evaluated used the Term Paper Evaluation Rubric, available on eLC.*
* *To review the components of your grade, Discussions are worth 40%, Exams are worth 40%, and the Paper is worth 20% of your course grade.*

## Academic Honesty

## As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: <http://www.uga.edu/honesty>. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

## Disability Statement

UGA is committed to the success of all learners, and we strive to create an inclusive and accessible online environment. In collaboration with the Disability Resource Center (http://drc.uga.edu/), we work with students who have documented disabilities to access reasonable accommodations and academic supports.

For more information or to speak with a Disability coordinator, please call the Disability Resource Center at (706) 542-8719, TTY only phone (706) 542-8778.

## Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your academic use only

## Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these are required assignments, you need **not** reveal any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identifiable/sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

## Technical Issues

For TECHNICAL PROBLEMS with eLC or other issues, contact: UGA’s Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS) Help Desk at 706-542-3106, or email at helpdesk@uga.edu. You can also submit at a helpdesk request online at <https://eits.uga.edu/support/request>.

Additionally, there will be a forum in the online course for students to post any issues or concerns. (Including a forum for technical issues can be a great way to help your students and encourage them to help each other.)

## Netiquette

Netiquette is a way of defining professionalism through network communication. Students who violate proper Netiquette will be administratively dropped by the instructor from the course.

Here are some Student Guidelines for the class:

* Do not dominate any discussion.
* Do not use offensive language.
* Never make fun of someone’s ability to read or write.
* Use simple English.
* Use correct spelling and grammar.
* Share tips with other students.
* Keep an “open-mind” and be willing to express even your minority opinion.
* Be aware of the University’s Academic Honesty Policy.
* Think before you push the “Send” button.
* Do not hesitate to ask for feedback.
* When in doubt, always check with your instructor for clarification

(policy used with permission from: Mintu-Wimsatt, Alma, Kernek, Courtney, and Lozada, Hector R. 2010. “Netiquette: Make it Part of Your Syllabus” MERLOT Journal of Online Learning and Teaching, 6, No.1.)