

Geography 320: Principles in Urban Geography

Fall 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2:20pm

Gilbertson Hall 125

Instructor: Dr. Sara Beth Keough

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11 am

Required Texts:

Pacione, Michael. 2009. *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*. 3rd Edition. London and New York: Routledge Press.

Gallagher, John. 2010. *Reimagining Detroit: Opportunities for Re-defining an American City*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

Kinder, Kimberley. 2016. *DIY Detroit: Making Due in a City Without Services*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Students need to be prepared to print articles posted on the Canvas course site. Articles must be read by the due date on the syllabus and brought to class every day.

Course Objectives

This course serves as an introduction for students to the basic principles of Urban Geography, a significant sub-field within the discipline of Geography. The course will expose students to foundational concepts and ideas about cities from a geographic perspective using both theoretical and applied approaches. Students will practice applying these foundational concepts in their own semester projects.

Course Content

Urban areas are expressions and representations of economic, political, and socio-cultural processes. Not only do these processes interact within cities to affect and impact local conditions, they also connect urban areas across space, and link urban areas to rural ones. This course will begin by looking at the historical development of cities and some of the early ideas in location theory. The course will then move to exploring concepts in both Urban Economic Geography (urbanization, economies of cities, retailing, planning) and Urban Social Geography (preservation, housing and class struggles, neighborhood change, social justice) with a focus on scale (local, regional, national, global) and connectedness between places. Toward the end of the course, we will focus specifically on the city of Detroit and explore current development trends within that city. They will also apply urban theories to their semester projects on a local urban development organization. Content will be explored through reading, class discussion, first-hand observation, writing, and presentation.

Class Expectations (These rules exist to ensure a positive learning environment for all students in the class and an effective teaching environment for the professor.)

1. Arrive to class early or ON TIME. Have all assignments read/prepared. Bring the text and all class materials to each class. (This allows you the means to fully participate in the class, which theoretically should lead to better grades).
2. Stay the ENTIRE class period. (Arriving late, or leaving early, is both rude and disruptive to myself and other students in the class. Late arrivals and early departures will hurt your overall grade in this course.)
3. Participate in class discussions and stay awake. (The classroom is not an appropriate place to sleep. If you are that tired, you will get more rest in your own bed.)
4. Turn off all cellular phones and electronic devices, and remove headphones/ear buds before class begins. (You will perform best if your full attention is given to the course material.)
5. All assignments are to be typed unless the instructor specifies otherwise. (This enables me to read your work, grade it, and return it in an efficient manner.)
6. If you are caught cheating, you will fail the assignment/test automatically. Further disciplinary action may result at the discretion of the instructor.
7. All assignments must be the work of the individual student. *Plagiarism in any form is not tolerated and will result in the failure of the assignment and possible further disciplinary action, such as removal from the classroom and/or a failing grade in the course. Not citing sources in your work is a form of plagiarism!* (Plagiarism examples include copying from another student, allowing another student to copy your work, using words or ideas from published material or websites without crediting the source and/or significantly changing the original wording, and not citing sources properly. See the Student Handbook for more information.)

8. No reading newspapers, surfing the web, text messaging, or perusing any non-class materials during class. Failure to adhere to this policy may result in the confiscation of property or the removal of the student from the classroom. (Giving your full attention to the class will put you in the best possible position to succeed.)
9. Any student failing to demonstrate mature and respectful behavior towards the professor or any other person in the class will be removed from the classroom. (Disrespectful behavior includes, but is not limited to, talking while the professor is talking, sleeping in class, texting in class, and labeling other peoples' ideas as dumb or stupid.)

Course Requirements:

1. Canvas

The use of Canvas will be an integral part of this course. Students are required to be familiar with Canvas and to check the class website on Canvas regularly. Announcements concerning class and related assignments will be posted, as will copies of the syllabus, any assignment instructions, and grades. Grades will be posted on Canvas as they are returned to the students so that students may, at any time, determine their grade in the class.

2. Email

Students are required to register and check their SVSU email accounts. Announcements and email communication between the instructor and students will be sent to students' SVSU email account. Most emails will be sent through the Canvas system, which uses students' SVSU email accounts. Therefore, it is each student's responsibility to check his/her SVSU email account regularly. Students are responsible for class information and announcements sent over email. When emailing the professor, please use "Dear Professor Keough" or "Dear Dr. Keough," tell me your name, and which class of mine you are in. Words like "please" and "thank you" will get you farther than making demands. Correct spelling, capitalization, and punctuation is essential for conveying your question/problem clearly.

4. Assignments (see directions for more details)

- **Class Readings:** Students are expected to carefully and seriously read the assigned chapters/articles BEFORE class on the day they are due (see class schedule for specific article due dates). Students are expected to bring the article/s and the notes they took on the articles to class that day and be prepared to participate in a discussion on those articles. All chapters and articles are found either on Canvas or in the required texts for the class. Some short news articles will be distributed in class by the instructor in advance of their due date.
- **Discussion/Participation:** Some class periods will involve a formal lecture by the professor, but others will consist of a class discussion on specific topics and readings (see the schedule at the end of the syllabus). Students should come to class with all class materials and readings, along with a separate set of notes on the readings, in order to fully participate in discussion. Discussion grades will be based on the quality and depth of student contributions. A student whose contributions show careful reading and deeper thinking, as well as the ability to make connections between the reading and ideas discussed earlier in the semester, will receive a higher grade than a student who makes a large number of contributions that only touch on surface-level ideas, doesn't show careful consideration for the reading, and/or repeats or rephrases what other students already said. If a student is absent on a discussion day, a grade of 0 will be earned for that day. See the participation rubric below.

It is important to come to class, though, even if you are unprepared, because the discussion is the only way to get class content, and that content is essential for understanding the material and performing well on exams. Even if you haven't done the reading, you can still learn something from the discussion. With the understanding that unexpected circumstances do arise, each student is allowed one absence and ONE FREE PASS day with no penalty to their participation grade. The FREE PASS means that the student is present in the class, but can choose not to participate in discussion (perhaps because they have not done the reading). The student must inform the professor that they wish to use their free pass prior to the start of class. The student must be present in class to use the free pass. An absence from class will result in a 0 participation grade. Students who do not use their free pass will have those points applied as extra credit to their final course grade.

- **Urban Development Project:** At the beginning of the semester, each student will select an urban development organization in Saginaw or Bay City from the list provided by the instructor. Students will write an analysis of this organization in a paper due at the end of the semester. To thoroughly analyze the organization, students need to attend the organization's monthly meetings, participate in events as they arise, interview those who work in (and possibly those who benefit from) the organization, and access historical and public records for the organization. Students will turn in a 12-15 page paper at the end of the semester analyzing the organization by connecting information they learned about the organization to urban geography theories. Students will present their analyses to the class in a formal oral presentation. The written portion of each project must be 1) submitted in class as a hard copy, and 2) submitted to TurnItIn.com (through Canvas) for a student to receive a grade on the assignment. Submissions to Turnitin can be made through the Canvas See the assignment directions for specific details.

***Students may bring ANY assignment to the Professor's office at least 10 days prior to the due date for feedback. She will provide comments that will assist the student in revising their assignment so that they have the opportunity to earn the highest possible grade. Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

***All late assignments receive a 10 point deduction for each day they are late (1 day = 0-24 hours after class begins)..
PRINTER PROBLEMS are NOT an acceptable excuse for not turning in assignments on time. PRINT YOUR ASSIGNMENT EARLY!!

5. Exams

There will be two exams in this class (see course schedule for dates). The exam will be based on all readings, lectures, discussions, films, and guest speakers covered in the course. Exams will be in essay form. Exam questions will be distributed 1 week in advance of the exam, and students are expected to prepare answers to the questions. During the exam, no notes or other materials may be used. In general, make-up exams are not allowed. Students who feel they have an exceptional circumstance that prevents them from taking the exam on the regularly scheduled day need to come to the professor's office in advance to make other arrangements.

8. Participation/Discussion/Attendance

Participation grades out of 25 points will be given 4 times during the semester: at the end of each month (Sept/Oct/Nov) and once at the end of the semester. These will be posted on Canvas. Attendance in class is required. Absences will be reflected in the Participation grade (5 point deduction after the 1st absence). Students are allowed one absence and one PASS (see #4 above) without penalty to their participation grade. Students who attend all classes and don't use their PASS will receive 10 points of extra credit added to their total points earned at the end of the semester.

Participation grades will be determined using the following rubric:

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|----------------|--|
| 22-25 points | Student readily contributes to discussion, demonstrating that not only have they read the material, but that they have thought about what it means. He/she poses interpretations and/or ask questions that show an attempt to understand the material at a deeper level. He/she makes connections between the assigned reading and other class materials, and can apply theory to concrete examples. |
| 17-21 points | Student contributes regularly to discussion, but contributions are inconsistent in their depth and insightfulness. Student attempts to make connections between assigned reading and other material, but connections are not strong. It is evident that the student has read, but that they have perhaps not considered the material seriously. |
| 12-16 points | Student contributes sporadically to discussion, and contributions are very surface-level and do little more than repeat the author's ideas. Few connections are made between assigned reading and other material. It is difficult to determine whether or not the student finished the assigned reading. |
| 6-11 points | Student is present but rarely contributes to discussion, and only at a very surface-level. Connections between reading and other material are not made, and it is apparent that the student has not done the assigned reading. The student is not prepared for class and/or some of the student's contributions do not enhance understanding of the material (i.e. are off topic) |
| 1-5 points | Student is present in class, but does not contribute to discussion, and/or student's contributions are counter-educational (disrespectful or off topic). [Note: using the PASS will not count against the student.] |
| 5 pt deduction | For each absence after the first absence. |

8. Grading

Grades will be based on reading quizzes, local application presentations, two exams, two papers, and two presentations.

Participation (4 x 25 pts each)	100 points
Exams (2 @ 75 pts each)	150 points
Project Paper	100 points
<u>Project Presentation</u>	<u>50 points</u>
Total Points	400 points

The following point scale will be used to calculate your grade in this class.

370-400 = A
360-369 = A-
350-359 = B+
330-349 = B
320-329 = B-
310-319 = C+
280-309 = C
260-279 = D
Below 260 = F

Students who have questions about how their grade is calculated are welcome to visit my office. However, grades are NOT negotiable!

Tips for Succeeding in Geography 320

1. Come to class everyday, be on time, and stay the entire period.
2. Have all assignments read or written when you arrive in class. Keep up with the reading! Don't get behind!
3. Take a good set of notes (typed or handwritten) on each reading assignment. Bring them to class. Add to those notes during the lecture or class discussion.
4. Look up any words you don't know in the reading and write down their definition.
5. Participate in class by answering and asking questions, or contributing ideas in a way that demonstrates you have done the reading and carefully considered it. (This only works if you have read carefully)
6. Read online news articles, or listen to or watch the news every day, paying particular attention to events with implications for cities.
7. If you have to miss a class, get the notes and announcements from another classmate BEFORE the next class period. If you don't understand the notes you borrowed, you may bring them by my office and I will explain them. You are responsible for all the information covered in class.
8. Don't wait until the end of the semester to rectify your grade in the class.

Anyone needing special course accommodations must contact the Office of Disability Services in C112 at 964-7000. It is the student's responsibility to alert the instructor of documented special needs.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week 1: Origins and Growth of Cities

- August 29 Syllabus/Class Expectations/Project Overview
- August 30 Pacione: Chapter 3: Origins and Growth of Cities (pp. 37-67)
Print out notes—bring to class and turn in.

Week 2: Urbanization in Global and National Contexts

- Sept 5 Labor Day Weekend—No Class!
- Sept 7 Pacione: Chapter 4: The Global Context of Urbanization (pp. 68-93)
Pacione: Chapter 6: National Urban Systems (pp. 121-136)
- Proof of contact with organization for Project due! (turn in copy of email exchange)

Week 3: Urban Planning and Transportation

- Sept 12 Pacione: Chapter 8: Urban Planning and Policy (pp. 164-188)
(Skip sections “Post-war Urban Planning in the UK,” “Planning the Socialist City,” and “Socialist Urban Form”)
Pacione: Chapter 13: Urban Transportation (pp. 263-280)
- Sept 14 Discussion: “Mass Transit Boom” (on Canvas)

Week 4: Land Use and Public Space

- Sept 19 Pacione: Chapter 7: Land Use in the City (pp.137-163)
- Sept 21 Discussion: “The Future of Public Space” (On Canvas)

Week 5: Urban Retailing

- Sept 26 Pacione: Chapter 12: Urban Retailing (pp. 240-262)
(Skip section “Concentration vs. Decentralization in Britain”)
Discussion: Read “The Magic of the Mall” (on Canvas)
- Sept 28 Film and Discussion: Phoenix

Week 6: Historic Preservation

- Oct 3 Discussion: “Place, Persistence, and Practice” (on Canvas)
“The Politics of Preservation” (on Canvas)
Exam 1 Questions Distributed
- Oct 5 Exam 1 Preparation

Week 7: Exam Week

- Oct 10 **Exam 1**
- Oct 12 Pacione: Chapter 18: Residential Differentiation (pp. 368-395)
(Skip section: “Ethnic Areas in the British City”)
Chapter 11: Housing Problems and Policy (pp. 218-239)
(Skip section: “Trends and Housing Tenure in the UK”)

Week 8: Residential Differentiation and Public Housing

- Oct 17 Pacione: Chapter 10: Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change (202-217)
Discussion: Chapter 1 from “Derelict Landscapes” (on Canvas)
- Oct 19 NO CLASS: Professor at Conference
Online Discussion: “Domestic Poverty” (on Canvas)
“Mapping the Evolution of Food Deserts...” (on Canvas)
**Discussion comments on Canvas due by 4pm Sunday Oct 22.

Week 9: Urban Livability

- Oct 24 Pacione: Chapter 19: Urban Livability (pp. 396-417)
Discussion: “Downtown Renaissance” (on Canvas)
- Oct 26 Film: Portland

Week 10: Case Study—Detroit

- Oct 31 Book: “Reimagining Detroit” (pp. 1-72)
- Nov 2 Book: “Reimagining Detroit” (pp.73-151)

Week 11: Case Study—Detroit

- Nov 7 Discussion: “Ecological Economics” (on Canvas)
“It’s Safe to Come, We’ve Got Lattes” (on Canvas)
- Nov 9 Guest Speaker: Ray Oldakowski

Week 12: Case Study—Detroit

- Nov 14 Discussion: “DIY Detroit” (Book) pp. 1-119 (Intro through Chapter 4)
- Nov 16 Film and Online Discussion: Detropia

Week 13: Case Study—Detroit

- Nov 21 Discussion: “DIY Detroit” (Book) pp. 120—202 (Chapter 7 through Conclusion)
Exam 2 Questions Distributed
- Nov 23 NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Exam Week and Special Discussion

- Nov 28 NO CLASS: Special class meeting Friday Dec 1 with Guest Speaker
**Optional Exam 2 review during class time (attendance is not required)
- Nov 30 **Exam 2**
***Dec 1: Special class meeting/Discussion with Dr. Kimberley Kinder (GA 125) 9:30a-12:30p

Week 15: Projects/Presentations

- Dec 5 **PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**
- Dec 7 **PROJECT PRESENTATIONS**

Week 16 (December 12): PROJECT PAPERS DUE by 1pm in Dr. Keough’s Office

- **Don’t forget to also submit them to Turnitin.com (see syllabus for login/password info)**