# **GEOG 3260/5260 Spring 2017**

# **Urban Geography**

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### Course Description

Urban Geography is designed to provide students with i) a solid understanding of the processes and forms of urban settlement, more specifically urban origin, urban system, urban spatial structure, suburbanization, urban planning, (de)industrialization, inner-city decline, gentrification, entrepreneurial politics, cultural economy and globalization; and ii) a critical overview of key concepts and theoretical frameworks developed and discussed in the academic field of Urban Geography.

Many large cities around the world are currently undergoing a rapid, fundamental and extensive transformation induced by, among others, global economic restructuring, neoliberal transition, (de)industrialization, (im)migration, (de)centralization, sociocultural and demographic changes, and technological developments. This course takes a close look at various aspects of urban changes and the causes, processes and consequences of such changes at all geographical scales from the neighborhood to the globe. Particular attention is paid to large cities in the US, although many international cities, including large cities in the Global South, are examined in their difference as well as commonality with American cities.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

Students will learn how to critically examine and compare the causes, processes and outcomes of urban changes in the contemporary capitalist world.

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. describe, explain and compare different theories of urban origin and city systems;

2. understand basic concepts and principles of urban economic growth (and decline);

3. understand why cities undergo a constant process of spatial restructuring;

4. discuss the causes and growing poverty and income inequality in large American cities and in global cities around the world; and

5. demonstrate an ability to conduct in-depth research on a city of choice in terms of recent economic and spatial changes.

### Textbook – optional

David H. Kaplan, Steven R. Holloway, and James O. Wheeler, 2014, *Urban Geography*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley (third edition).

#### Recommended Readings

Birch, Eugenie L. and Susan M. Wachter, eds., 2011, *Global Urbanization*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Glaeser, Edward and Abha Joshi-Ghani, eds., 2015, *The Urban Imperative Towards Competitive Cities*, London: Oxford University Press.

Kim, Yeong-Hyun and John Rennie Short, 2008, *Cities and Economies*, London: Routledge.

O’Flaherty, Brendan, 2005, *City Economics*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Storper, Michael, 2013, *Keys to the City: How Economics, Institutions, Social Interaction, and Politics Shape Development*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Throsby, David, 2010, *Economics of Cultural Policy*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Case Studies of Urban Change in the US

Beauregard, Robert A., 2006, *When America Became Suburban*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Katz, Michael B., 2013, *The Undeserving Poor: America’s Enduring Confrontation with Poverty*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Logan, John R. and Harvey L. Molotch, 1987, *Urban Fortunes: The Political Economy of Place*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Maraniss, David, 2015, *Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story*, New York: Simon & Schuster.

Safford, Sean, 2009, *Why the Garden Club Couldn’t Save Youngstown: The Transformation of the Rust Belt*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Sampson, Robert J., 2012, *Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Sharkey, Patrick, 2013, *Stuck in Place: Urban Neighborhoods and the End of Progress toward Racial Equality*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Policy Reports on Ohio Cities

Metropolitan Policy Program, 2010, *Restoring Prosperity: Transforming Ohio’s Communities for the Next Economy*, The Brookings Institution.

Alan Mallach and Lavea Brachman, 2010, *Ohio’s Cities at a Turning Point: Finding the Way Forward*, Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution.

Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, 2003, *Cleveland in Focus* and *Columbus in Focus*, The Brookings Institution.

Useful Web Sites

[International Cities]

UN-HABITAT for a Better Urban Future, State of the World’s Cities: http://www.unhabitat.org/

United Nations Demographic Yearbook, Population of capital cities and cities of 100,000 and more inhabitants, 2015 (Table 8) at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/dyb2015.htm

Globalization and World Cities: http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/index.html

[American Cities]

US Census 2010: census.gov/2010census/

State & County Quick Facts: census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045216/00

American Community Survey (2011-2015): census.gov/acs/www/data/data-tables-and-tools/index.php

## Economic data on American cities: http://www.economagic.com/state.htm

### Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison: http://www.irp.wisc.edu/faqs/faq2.htm

### Evaluation

 Undergraduate Graduate

1. Midterm exam (**Wed Mar 1st in class**) 30% 25%

2. Final exam (**Wed Apr 26th from 12:20-2:20pm**) 30% 25%

3. Eight assignments 15% 15%

4. Book review–grads only (**Wed Feb 8th in class**) - 10%

5. Term paper (**Th Apr 27th)**  25% 25%

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 100% 100%

A 95 – 100% B+ 85 – 89.9 C+ 70 – 74.9 D+ 55 – 59.9

A- 90 – 94.9 B 80 – 84.9 C 65 – 69.9 D 50 – 54.9

 B- 75 – 79.9 C- 60 – 64.9 D- 40 – 49.9

 F 0 – 39.9

Class attendance is required. Extra points from sporadic in-class activities, class participation and bonus questions may be added to your final grade. If you have a documented disability and wish to use accommodations in this course, please discuss it with the instructor early in the semester. The Ohio University Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty.

Exams

The midterm and final examinations consist of a series of short answer responses and essay questions selected from both the lectures and the readings. A study guide will be posted on Blackboard one week before the exam. No make-up exam will be allowed for an unexcused absence. Absence from an exam is excused only upon advance notification and presentation of the appropriate documentation of the reason for absence.

Assignments

Students are expected to submit eight assignments over the course of the semester. A detailed instruction on each assignment, including due date and information sources, will be announced in class.

Assignment topics include:

1. urban primacy index (2 point)

2..US urban thematic maps (2 points)

3. mental map (1 point)

4. two time-space routines (2 point) – one weekday and one weekend day

5. 1-page review of Katharine Bristol’s “The Pruitt-Igoe Myth” (posted on Blackboard) (3 points)

6. economic characteristics of my research city (American Community Survey) (2 points)

7. 1-page critical review essay of video *Lagos Wide and Close*, with particular focus on what can be learned from Lagos (2 points)

8. two city advertisements – one on business and the other on tourism (1 point)

Book Review – graduate students only

Graduate students are expected to read one of the following books (or a book of their own choice after approval by the instructor) and write a five-page book review (due on Friday February 10th). Students are highly encouraged to incorporate this assignment into their term paper research.

Beauregard, Robert A., 2015, *Planning Matter: Acting with Things*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Desmond, Matthew, 2016, *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, New York: Crown Publishers.

Gandy, Matthew, 2014, *The Fabric of Space: Water, Modernity, and the Urban Imagination*, Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Wilson, William Julius, 1996, *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*, New York: Vintage.

Norfield, Tony, 2016, *The City: London and the Global Power of Finance*, London: Verso.

Term Paper – due on Thursday April 27th

Students will write a term paper examining a major urban issue in the contemporary world. The term paper component is designed to provide students with experiences in research and writing. It will also allow students to apply urban concepts and theories to real-world places that undergo economic, demographic, political and/or spatial changes.

Undergraduate students are particularly encouraged to investigate urban changes in their hometown, such as neighborhood gentrification, factory closures, business investment initiatives, public places, and community planning. Each student will have an individual meeting with the instructor to discuss the chosen research topic, research questions, data collection methods, and information sources, such as personal interviews, local newspapers, and local government websites. The length of a term paper may range from 7 – 10 double-spaced pages for undergraduate students and 10 – 15 pages for graduate students (excl. maps, tables and references).

Examples of term paper topics are listed below, yet students are certainly encouraged to come up with their own research topic. Your research topic needs to be approved by the instructor by Friday March 24th.

Students often depend solely on websites for research data and information. Websites are readily available and often resourceful, but some of them might contain unproven facts and extreme, opinionated views. User discretion is highly advised. Meanwhile, Alden Library has numerous books and academic journals that should be more informative and helpful for term paper research than most online sources.

Over the years, students presented their Urban Geography term paper research at various academic events, including the university-wide Research Expo and departmental senior project presentations. In addition, you may consider including the findings and results of this term paper project in your portfolio to demonstrate your ability to conduct research on ongoing urban change.

Examples of term paper research topics:

. urban renewals – downtown business improvement districts, Over-the-Rhine in Cincinnati, Cleveland Healthtech Corridor

. decentralization and deindustrialization in traditional manufacturing towns in the US Northeast/Midwest – the Mistake by the Lake, GM assembly in Moraine

. pro-growth urban initiatives – Columbus 2020, Comeback City, Global Cleveland Initiative, GO Cincinnati Growth and Opportunities Project

. places to promote urban tourism, ethnic traditions and/or historic preservation – ArtWalk in Tremont, Ukraine Village in Parma, The Short North

. economic impact of professional sports teams and (inter)national sports competitions – NBA in Cleveland, college football in Columbus

### . Hispanic and African immigrants in large Ohio cities – Somali World in Columbus, Puerto Rican communities in Lorain, Mexican communities in Toledo

**Course Outline and Reading Assignments**

These lecture topics are subject to change and changes, if any, will be announced in class.

“Chapter” and “pp.” denote readings in your textbook. All “class reading” articles are available on Blackboard. It is necessary that you read the assigned readings. The readings will lead you to participate in class discussion and provide you with an initial background for your term paper research.

**Section I Introduction**

1. The City (chapter 1)

 urban areas

 urban changes

 major approaches in Urban Geography

class reading 1: Sean Posey, 2013, “Ohio’s cloudy future: the decline of the Big Eight and the Buckeye State”

class reading 1-1: Wells Fargo, 2016, “Cleveland retools its economy”

**Section II Urban Systems**

2. Early Cities and Urban Growth (chapter 2)

 theories of urban origin

 global urban development history

urbanization economies – externalities

video: *The City*

3. Urban Systems (chapter 3)

 central place theory

 primate city

 national urban hierarchy

4. Urban Development History of the US (chapter 3)

urban growth in the US

American urban hierarchy

rise and fall of Ohio cities

video: *The World That Moses Built*

**Section III Urban Spaces**

5. Urban Spatial Structure (chapter 7)

 urban land use

 ecological urban models

cognitive maps and time-space routines

6. Urban Sprawl (chapter 8)

 housing markets

residential segregation

suburbanization

7. Urban Planning (chapter 12)

 evolution of modern planning

 management of urban growth

 Pruitt-Igoe public housing project

video: *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*

**Section IV Urban Problems**

8. Decline of Industrial Cities (chapter 9)

 global economic restructuring

 deindustrialization

 urban decline

video: *Roger & Me*

class reading 8: Barney Warf and Brian Holly, 1997, “The rise and fall and rise of Cleveland,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 551, pp.208-221.

9. Urban Poverty and Spatial Mismatch (chapter 9)

urban fiscal crisis

metropolitan fragmentation

spatial mismatch

class reading 9: *Economist*, 2014, “The geography of joblessness”

class reading 9-1: *Atlantic*, 2015, “How to decimate a city”

class reading 9-2: *New Yorker*, 2015, “Starting over: many Katrina victims left New Orleans for good. What can we learn from the?”

10. Global Urban South (chapter 14)

 (post)colonial cities and metropoles’ satellites

 informal sector and slum settlements

urban health penalty

video: *Lagos Wide and Close*

class reading 10: *National Geographic*, 2015, “Africa’s First City”

class reading 10-1: *New Yorker*, 2006, “The Megacity: Decoding the chaos of Lagos”

**Section V Urban Restructuring and the New City**

11. Urban Redevelopment and New Downtowns (pp.226 – 231 of chapter 9)

 gentrification

rent gap theory

Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities

12. Entrepreneurial Urban Politics and the New Economy (chapter 11)

 welfare state vs. entrepreneurial state

growth machine and public-private partnership

urban success story

class reading 12: *Salon*, 2016, “LeBron James, hometown hero: What the King and his championship mean to Cleveland”

13. Urban Cultures (chapter 10)

 urban cultural strategies

 urban tourism

 cosmopolitanism and consumerism

class reading 13: *The New York Times*, 2012, “In Columbus, Ohio, an arts belt is thriving”

14. Urban Impact of Globalization (chapter 4)

 global urbanism

 global cities and globalizing cities

 mega urban projects

class reading 14: *The New Yorker*, 2010, “Dubai reaches for the sky”

1. Jan 9M introduction

2. 11 W

 16 M MLK day no class

3. 18 W

4. 23 M

5. 25 W

6. 30 M

7. Feb 1 W

8. 6 M

9. 8 W

10. 13 M

11. 15 W

12. 20 M

13. 22 W

14. 27 M

15.Mar 1 W midterm

 6 M Spring Break no class

 8 W Spring Break no class

16. 13 M

17. 15 W

18. 20 M

19. 22 W

20. 27 M

21. 29 W

22. 3 M

23. 5 W AAG

24. 10 M

25. 12 W

26. 17 M

27 19 W

Apr 26 W final exam (12:20-2:20pm)

 27 Th term paper