

Urban Studies 250: Exploring the Urban Environment Spring 2017

Course and Instructor Information:

Lecturer: Pete Lund

Office: Bolton 790

E-mail: plund@uwm.edu

Class: T/R 2:00-3:15, Lubar S185

Office Hours: W 1:30-3:30 & by
appointment

Course Objectives and Structure:

Urban Studies 250 is an introductory and exploratory course. As a result, we will cover a broad range of disciplines and topics, rather than focusing intensely on one type of scholarship or an overarching subject of study. In practice, touching lightly on a number of different subjects can sometimes be overwhelming. In order to combat this, the course will be presented using two main approaches. The first is a straightforward lecture, where much of the broad and background information will be delivered. The second is through class discussion. Discussion will use the assigned readings for emphasis, and the readings will hopefully provide a concrete example to pair with the broader discipline-based lectures.

This is a lecture-based course with 75 minute meetings. Each student is expected to complete the assigned reading for each class meeting, as well as completing all the other course requirements in a satisfactory and thorough manner. The specifics of those requirements are found below in the section unsurprisingly titled "Course Requirements". In addition to lectures and readings, opportunities will arise throughout the semester for you to see some of these urban concerns in action.

Reading Materials:

There is *NO* book or course reader for this class. Readings will be comprised entirely of articles or book chapters that have been made available either on D2L or via paper copy distributed in class.

Grades:

Your final grade will be a cumulative total of the individual scores you receive for each course requirement. Grades are given as letters, each corresponding to a numeric score from the following chart:

93-100	A	73-77.99	C
90-92.99	A-	70-72.99	C-
88-89.99	B+	68-69.99	D+
83-87.99	B	63-67.99	D
80-82.99	B-	60-62.99	D-
78-79.99	C+	0-59.99	F

I will do my best to keep your grades current on D2L so that you can see where you stand at any point in the course. However, I do reserve the right to and prefer to construct your final grade based on the entire body of work you provide over the course of the semester. In other words, with effort and/or improvement, you may find that your final letter grade is higher than expected if you simply used the above chart.

Course Requirements:

Attendance (20%): Students are expected to attend *and participate* in all class meetings. One free absence is allowed, but each following unexcused absence will result in a deduction. If you anticipate missing a class, it is always better to alert me ahead of time, preferably as early as possible.

Unit Write-Ups (40%): For each of the 5 major units (History; Urban Economies; Sociology; Human Geography, and Political Science) students will compose a 3-5 page paper responding to a question that will be distributed at the end of the appropriate lecture. Each Write-Up will be worth 8% of the final grade.

Midterm (15%): There will be one midterm exam, held in class on March 16. Students will have the entire 75 minutes to complete the blue book exam.

Final Exam (25%): The final exam will be comprised of two parts. The first part will be an in-class blue book examination similar in structure to the midterm and held on the final class meeting day, May 11th. Part 1 will count for 10% of the final grade. Part 2 will be a take-home response paper of 8-10 pages that will be due by 2:30 pm on Wednesday, May 17th.

Extra Credit (up to 5%): A number of extra credit opportunities will be made available to students throughout the semester. The majority of these opportunities will require an outside time commitment of some sort, so please factor that in to your decision to submit extra credit. It is very unlikely that the full 5% would be attainable in only the last few weeks of the semester.

University Policies:

Following is a link to university policies regarding accommodations for students with disabilities, required military duties, and religious observance obligations; procedures involving complaints and grade appeals; and policies regarding incompletes as well as discriminatory and academic misconduct:

http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/news_events/upload/Syllabus-Links.pdf

Should any of the accommodation policies apply to you, please inform me as close to the beginning of the semester as possible.

Academic misconduct – especially plagiarism – is an offense that I take very seriously. It is also easily avoided. If you ever have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to let me know.

Credit Load: Instructors are asked to give a breakdown of the expected time spent fulfilling the credit load of the course. Courses are asked to fulfill 48 hours of total work time for each credit offered. Therefore, our course has an expected credit load of 144 hours (3 credits x 48 hours per credit). The breakdown is as follows:

36.25 hours class time (29 meetings x 1.25 hours per meeting)

70 hours outside writing work (~35 pages total x 0.5 hours per page)

37.75 hours reading assignments (25 meetings with reading assignments x 1.51 hours per assignment)

GER Shared Learning Goals: As a General Education Requirement (GER) for the Social Sciences, this course will pursue the following shared learning goals:

UW Shared Learning Goals:

(3.1.2) Critical and Creative Thinking Skills including inquiry, problem solving, and higher-order qualitative and quantitative reasoning.

(3.1.3) Effective Communication Skills including listening, speaking, reading, writing, and information literacy.

Social Science Shared Learning Goals

(4.3.b.1) Recognize and analyze intrapersonal, interpersonal, and/or socio-cultural factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, or societal development.

(4.3.b.4) Demonstrate the ability to identify, apply and effectively communicate methodologies designed for conducting inquiry into human behavior, collective action, societies, or cultures.

CLASS MEETING SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

January 24: Introductions. (No readings)

January 26: Introductory Lecture. Read Harris, J. & Zipp, J. 1999. "Black candidates, roll-off, and the black vote." *Urban Affairs Review*, 34(3): 489-498.

January 31: [History Unit Begins] Political History. Read Aims McGuinness "The Revolution Begins Here: Milwaukee and the History of Socialism" in Margo Anderson and Victor Greene, eds., *Perspectives on Milwaukee's Past*, 79-108.

- February 2: Social History Part 1. Read Patrick D. Jones, "The Struggle for Open Housing" (Chapter 7) in *The Selma of the North: Civil Rights Insurgency in Milwaukee*, 169-209.
- February 7: Social History Part 2. Read Genevieve G. McBride, "Helpmeets, Hausfrauen, Hellions, and the Missing Majority in Milwaukee History" in Margo Anderson and Victor Greene, eds., *Perspectives on Milwaukee's Past*, 192-222.
- February 9: [History Unit Ends] Economic Histories and Alternative Approaches. Read Prologue and Chapter 1 "Dreaming the Metropolis" in William Cronon *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* p.5-54.
- February 14: **History Unit Write-Up Due at the beginning of class.**
- [Urban Economies Unit Begins] Econ Basics. Reading TBD.
- February 16: The Many Ways to Measure. Read Dennis Coates and Brad R. Humphreys "Professional Sports Facilities, Franchises, and Urban Economic Development." UMBC Economics Department working paper.
- February 21: Problems with Measurement. Read Marc Levine, "The crisis deepens: Black male joblessness in Milwaukee 2009" working paper for the Center for Economic Development at UWM.
- February 23: [Urban Economies Unit Ends] Microeconomies and the Urban Condition. Read Grewal & Grewal, "Can Cities Become Self-Reliant in Food?" *Cities* 29 (1), February 2012, p. 1-11.
- February 28: **Urban Economies Unit Write-Up Due at the beginning of class.**
- [Sociology Unit Begins] Cultural Sociology. Read Victor Greene, "Dealing With Diversity: Milwaukee's Multiethnic Festivals and Urban Identity, 1840-1940" in Margo Anderson and Victor Greene, eds., *Perspectives on Milwaukee's Past*, 285-316.
- March 2: Traditional Positivism. Read Portes, "Dilemmas of a Golden Exile: Integration of Cuban Refugee Families in Milwaukee" *American Sociological Review* 34 (4), August 1969, p. 505-518.

- March 7: Introduction to Anti-Positivism. Read Jordan, "The Heirloom Tomato as Cultural Object: Investigating Taste and Space"
- March 9: CLASS CANCELED – Study for Midterm
- March 14: [Sociology Unit Ends] Can Anti-Positivism Go Too Far?.
Reading TBD.
- Time Permitting: In-Class review for midterm.
- March 16: **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS**
- March 21 & 23 *Spring Break: No Class Meetings*
- March 28: **Sociology Unit Write-Up Due at the beginning of class.**
- Library Instruction Meeting. No Readings. Class Meeting will take place in one of the Instructional Classrooms in Golda Meir Library.
- March 30: [Human Geography Unit Begins]
Urban Environmental Issues. Read Michael H. Finewood and Ryan Holifield "Critical approaches to urban water governance: from critique to justice, democracy, and transdisciplinary collaboration" in *WIRES Water* 2015 (2) p. 85-96.
- April 4: Transportation. Read Hu "Changing Job Access of the Poor: Effects of Spatial and Socioeconomic Transformations in Chicago, 1990-2010" *Urban Studies* 51 (4), March 2104 675-692.
- April 6: Public Health. Read Lloyd "War is not healthy for children and other living things" *Environment and Planning: Society and Space* 27 (2009), p.403-424.
- April 11: [Human Geography Unit Ends] Demography and Cultural Archaeology. Reading TBD.
- April 13: Variable Class Session. Topics and readings TBD.
- April 18: **Human Geography Unit Write-Up due at the beginning of class**
- [Political Science Unit Begins] Overview of Political Science.

- April 20: Political Economy. Read Dinces, “‘Nothing but Net Profit’ Property Taxes, Public Dollars, and Corporate Philanthropy at Chicago’s United Center” *Radical History Review* 125 (May 2016), p.13-34.
- April 25: City Policy Agendas. Read Sanders “Paying for the Box” (Chapter 2) in *Convention Center Follies*. P. 42-84. Also Read Joel Rast “Annexation Policy in Milwaukee: An Historical Institutional Approach.” *Polity* 39. (2007): 55-78.
- April 27: [Political Science Unit Ends] Nonprofit Organizations. Reading TBD.
- **April 28:** ***Urban Studies Student Forum (begins at 12:00). Attendance at the forum counts toward your attendance grade. A short write up will be due in addition. Students that cannot make the forum must alert me to this as early as possible so that an alternate assignment can be given.***
- May 2: **Political Science Unit Write-Up due by 2pm.**

Class Canceled in lieu of the Forum attendance Requirement
- May 4 & 9: No Class Meetings. Individual Meetings with Instructor regarding final paper during these times.
- May 11: **FINAL EXAM PART 1 – IN CLASS**
- May 17: **FINAL EXAM PART 2 – TAKE HOME PORTION DUE BY 2:30 P.M.**