

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Urban Studies Programs
Fall 2019
URBAN STUDIES 250: EXPLORING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT
Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:15 p.m. Lubar Hall S220

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<i>Office Hour</i>	Wednesday 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

With steady increase of population in urban areas around the world, cities have become the center of academic as well personal interest. This course will address the complex nature of the urban world and the interconnected influence of urbanization on social, political, economic, environmental and cultural spheres of human life. We will learn how to approach the city using theories and case-studies, including a few techniques for researching the “urban”. Divided into several small units, this course will introduce students to various (usually broad, interdisciplinary) approaches that scholars have used to study the urban conditions. We will also learn about the changing nature of cities in the age of globalization and the future of urbanization.

The urban environ consists of the social, economic, political, cultural and physical aspects. We will start with the physical/spatial environment and further consider the economic, political, social and cultural environment of the urban life.

There are several issues and themes within urban studies and this course aims to survey a diverse, but not exhaustive, selection of the same. By the end of the semester, every student should be able to identify some of the major challenges faced by American and international cities today. The overarching objective is to provide students with the basics of the foundation of urban studies concepts and current events; further, this course will give students a sense of the many issues within urban studies requiring research and intervention and thus aid in identifying potential future areas of study and focus.

Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

- comprehend and apply the multi-disciplinary nature of urban studies.
- have an introductory knowledge of scholarly discourse on a selection of topics relevant to the urban environment.
- demonstrate and analyze a selected city within the context of the course themes.
- engage in informed academic discussion on a range of themes relevant to the urban environment.
- access and utilize scholarly resources in urban studies efficiently.

Class Structure

Class will meet weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 – 3:15pm. During class, content will be provided via lectures, intended to promote discussion on the assigned readings, key concepts, and current events related to the weekly topics. A portion of each class period may be utilized for students to complete prompted written responses, give oral presentations, participate in small group activities, or for administering pop quizzes.

Each class will be assigned a theme, and lectures and discussions will be based upon assigned readings, typically a journal article or book excerpt. Assignments will be diverse in order to reach all learning and contribution strengths and will include short presentations, discussions, quizzes, and papers. The selected themes can be found in the class schedule below. In general, for this course, student assessment (grades) are based on your ability to process, understand, and communicate the course content as well as your ability to express your individual perspective and opinions about the themes. Communication with the instructor regarding missing a class, questions about assignments, and so forth are highly encouraged if and whenever needed.

Grading Components

Research Presentation	: 15 percent	City Case Study	: 20 percent
City Analysis Report	: 25 percent	Reflection Essay	: 30 percent
Quiz	: 10 percent	*Extra Credit	: 5 percent
Total: 100 percent			

Research Presentation: Student will select one (1) research paper/book chapter from a list that I will provide in the first week of the semester. You will be presenting only once for 10 minutes (approx.) in the class and submit a writeup.

City Case Study: Each student will select a city in the first week of the class. Using the lectures and methods of studying cities discussed in the class, students will submit several small writeups for selected sections.

City Analysis Report: Each student will write a mini research paper after identifying a research question and data related to any topics discussed in the class.

Reflection Essay: Students, after going through the readings for selected classes, will write a synthesis of their understanding of the topic.

Quiz: Students will take online quiz based on the lecture and readings.

Extra Credit: Will be announced in due time.

Grading Scheme

This course is of 200 points. The distribution below suggests the grades based on the points you will earn in this semester.

A	90% and above	B	Over 80%	C	Over 70%	D	Over 61%
A-	Over 87%	B-	Over 77%	C-	Over 67%	D-	Over 59%
B+	Over 83%	C+	Over 73%	D+	Over 64%	F	Below 59%

Class Schedule

Week 1

September 3: Introduction to the Course, Syllabus discussion

No reading!

September 5: Conceptualizing the Urban

M. Gottdiener. 2016. "The City" and "The City and Beyond" in *Key Concepts in Urban Studies*. 3-14.

M. Gottdiener. 2016. "Urbanization and Urbanism" in *Key Concepts in Urban Studies*. 162-65.

Week 2

September 10: Urban Classical Theory

S. Parker. 2015. "Chapter 2" in *Urban Theory and Urban Experience*. 8-27.

September 12: Researching the Urban

Cheng et. al. 2013. "Methods and rules for the study of cities" in *Introduction to Cities*. 72-96.

Week 3

September 17: History of Urbanization (before Industrialization)

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 2" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 21-27 and 34-46.

September 19: Urbanization of the United States

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 3" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 53-76.

Week 4

September 24: Urbanization in the Less Developed World

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 7" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 171- 195.

September 26: Urban Form and Landuse

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 5" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 115- 137.

Week 5

October 1: Architecture

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 10" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 245- 271.

October 3: Urban Planning

R. Hutchison. 2010. "Planning Theory" in *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*. 603-606.

R. Hutchison. 2010. "Urban Planning" in *Encyclopedia of Urban Studies*. 903-907.

Week 6

October 8: Urban Economy

M. Pacione. 2009. "Chapter 14" in *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*. 283-300.

October 10: Economic Restructuring

S. Kratke. 2015. "New Economies, New Spaces" in *Cities and Economic Change* 57-73.

Week 7

October 15: Urban Labor Market

A. Bertaud. 2014. *Cities as Labor Market*. NYU

https://marroninstitute.nyu.edu/uploads/content/Cities_as_Labor_Markets.pdf

October 17: Urban Informality

M. Lombard and P. Meth. 2017. "Informalities" in *Urban Theory: New Critical Perspective* 158-171

Week 8

October 22: Urban Regeneration I

S. Sutton. 2008. *Urban Revitalization in the United States: Policies and Practices*. 23-39.

October 24: Urban Regeneration II

M. Pacione. 2009. "Chapter 16" in *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*. 334-348

S. Sutton. 2008. *Urban Revitalization in the United States: Policies and Practices*. 41-53.

Week 9

October 29: Suburbanization

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 6" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 140-164.

October 31: Neighborhood Change

P. Know and L. McCarthy. 2005. "Chapter 13" in *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. 341-346 and 358-364.

Week 10

November 5: Segregation

S. Green et. al. 2017. *Racial Residential Segregation and Neighborhood Disparities*

<https://furtheringfairhousing.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/racial-residential-segregation-and-neighborhood-disparities.pdf>

J. R. Logan and B. Stults. 2011. *The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census*.

<https://s4.ad.brown.edu/Projects/Diversity/Data/Report/report2.pdf>

November 7: Gentrification

HUD. 2016. *Ensuring Equitable Neighborhood Change: Gentrification Pressures on Housing Affordability*.

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Insights-Ensuring-Equitable-Growth.pdf>

Week 11

November 12: Housing

E. T. Molina. 2017. "Introduction" in *Housing America: Issues and Debates*. 1-11

National Low Income Housing Coalition. 2017. *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes*. https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Gap-Report_2017.pdf

November 14: Poverty

The Brookings Institute. 2008. *The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America: Case Studies from Communities Across the U.S.* 3-15 and 159-165.

https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2016/06/1024_concentrated_poverty.pdf

Week 12

November 19: School Education

J. Boschma and R. Brownstein. 2016. "The Concentration of Poverty in American Schools" *The Atlantic* Feb 29. 2016

<https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/02/concentration-poverty-american-schools/471414/>

The Urban Institute. 2018. *Segregated Neighborhoods, Segregated Schools?*

<https://www.urban.org/features/segregated-neighborhoods-segregated-schools>

November 21: Crime

L. Wacquant. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Ghetto and Prison Meet and Mesh". *Punishment and Society* 3(1) 95-133.

Week 13

November 26: Urban Politics and Political Economy

S. Parker. 2015. "Chapter 7" in *Urban Theory and Urban Experience*. 120-129.

November 28: Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 14

December 3: Sustainability

Chen et al. 2013. "Urban Environment and Sustainability" in *Introduction to Cities*. 296-320.

December 5: Open Topic

Week 15

December 10: Research Paper Presentation

December 12: Research Paper Presentation

**** I reserve the right to change any part of the syllabus, schedule, readings and assignments. You are responsible for everything on this syllabus as well as any changes that are made during the semester, Be sure to remain up-to-date regarding any syllabus changes announced in class, or in D3L, as you will be responsible for them ****

Class Policies

Participation and Attendance: Students are required to attend all lectures and to participate in classroom discussions and debates. You will be responsible for all assigned readings, all videos, and everything discussed in class. Please bring the assigned texts to class each day (only the texts with assignments for that day). **Students should come to class having thoroughly read the materials assigned for that day.** This will significantly increase your ability to understand and contextualize material presented in lecture, and it will greatly facilitate interesting and constructive classroom discussion, questions, and debate. Please avoid being chronically late for the class.

Technology in the Classroom: Use of cellphone during class is **not allowed** and you may consider bringing a laptop or a tablet solely for notetaking purpose and not checking social media websites. You may access the reading materials in class using laptop/tablet if you decide not to have a printed copy of it. I highly encourage you bring a laptop since we will look at several websites dealing with data and interpret them in class. If you don't own a laptop, loan it from the library.

Email: I will send all email correspondence to your university email addresses i.e. **ePantherID@uwm.edu** email address. If you prefer not to use this email account, you are responsible for setting your PantherLink account to forward emails to your preferred address. I will do my best to reply to your emails within 24 hours, but occasionally, this may be a challenge. Email etiquette is very important. All your academic emails should be formally addressed along with a brief subject line. Best practice is to use the course number/title as the subject matter.

Tech Platform: This is an in-person class. It will, however, be supplemented using the online portal Canvas. If you do not know how to navigate the site, I strongly suggest you come see me ASAP so I can show you how to use the site. I will post announcements, the syllabus, assignments and readings on this site. Besides this, the Canvas will have a discussion section where you can post your queries, comments, etc. related to the class and I encourage other students to answer before I respond.

This course will be using CANVAS extensively. I expect you to have a very good knowledge of this platform. If you encounter any issue related to CANVAS or other tech stuff, please contact UW-M Help Desk at 414-229-4040 for assistance.

Office Hour: If the office hour (see first page) do not work with your schedule, please contact me to set up an appointment. My job/intension is to help you with the work of this course. I will happily go over assignments and concepts discussed in class, brainstorm ideas for projects, or point you in the direction of campus/Milwaukee resources.

Late Work and Non-Submissions: Late work will not be accepted unless discussed well ahead of time. If you are unable to meet a deadline for valid reasons, please talk/write to me. Please note: All non-submissions will automatically be graded an 'F'.

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

Important University Resources

There are many resources students have access to and are encouraged to take full advantage, whenever needed. I intend to provide an environment where your academic success as well as overall professional and personal development can be achieved. I am also accessible for any help or redirection to resources that would be beneficial for you.

The Writing Center: In this course and in many others, you would need to write extensively. Get yourself oriented with academic writing by using the resources available on this link: <http://uwm.edu/writing-center/>.

Norris Health Center: Your on-campus health and mental health services are here to assist you in identifying, understanding and responding to your health care needs through medical and mental health care and health promotion programs <https://uwm.edu/norris/>

LGBT Resource Center: Support and get supported by peers; make the campus more inclusive and better place <https://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>

Military and Veteran Services: Supports all military and veteran students, from enrollment to work/study internships, to graduation and job placement <http://uwm.edu/veterans/>

Women's Resource Center: The WRC is a safe space dedicated to empowering women and establishing gender equity <https://uwm.edu/womensresourcecenter/>

Office of Equity and Diversity Services: The mission of the Office of Equity/Diversity Services (EDS) is to effectively integrate equal opportunity and diversity into UWM's institutional climate. UWM's policies provide equal opportunity in its admissions, employment, educational programs, and activities without regard to race, color, religion, sexual orientation, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status <http://uwm.edu/equity-diversity-services/>

University Policies

1. *Students with disabilities*: Notice to these students should appear prominently in the syllabus so that special accommodations are provided in a timely manner. <http://uwm.edu/arc/>

2. *Religious observances*: Accommodations for absences due to religious observance should be noted. <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm>

3. *Students called to active military duty*: Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted. Students: <http://uwm.edu/active-duty-military/>
Employees: <https://www.wisconsin.edu/ohrwd/download/policies/ops/bn9.pdf>

4. *Incompletes*: A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLET E_GRADES.pdf

5. *Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment)*: Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina duct_P olicy.pdf

6. *Academic misconduct*: Cheating on exams or plagiarism are violations of the academic honor code and carry severe sanctions, including failing a course or even suspension or dismissal from the University. <http://uwm.edu/academicaffairs/facultystaff/policies/academic-misconduct/>

7. *Complaint procedures*: Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discrimina duct_P olicy.pdf

8. *Grade appeal procedures*: A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm>

9. *LGBT+ resources*: Faculty and staff can find resources to support inclusivity of students who identify as LGBT+ in the learning environment. <http://uwm.edu/lgbtrc/>

10. *Other*: The final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, etc. <http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm>

Important Dates*

September 2	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) for the term without charge or for full refund.
September 3	First day of classes. Start of the Late Enrollment Period - \$50.00 late enrollment fee assessed for students enrolling in classes for the first time in the term.
September 6	Deadline for graduation applications for undergraduate students. Submit application via PAWS.
September 16	Last day to add full-term classes, change sections, or change the grading basis for classes (e.g., graded to credit/no credit or audit, or vice versa) without approval.
September 17	Deadline for graduation applications for graduate students. Submit applications via PAWS.
September 30	Last day to drop full-term courses without a "W" on record. Tuition and fees apply.
November 10	Last day to drop or withdraw from full-term courses. Tuition and fees apply.
November 27	November 27 to December 1 Thanksgiving Break. No Classes.
December 12	Last day of classes.
December 13	Study day.
December 14	Final Exam Period December 14, 16-21.
December 15	Graduation Ceremony.
December 21	Last day of the term. Date of degree conferral for graduating students.
December 30	Final entry deadline for instructor grading (final grade run date). All grades not entered into PAWS by 4:30 pm will result in a value of NR, or not reported. After this point, all grade entries need to be submitted as a grade change. More information on instructor grading on the Registrar's Office website .

*Adopted from the UWM website:

<http://uwm.edu/onestop/dates-and-deadlines/important-dates-by-term/>

Please comply with the changes and consult the official website.

This document is not responsible for any changes and should not be regarded as the final dates for any official purposes.

Website accessed on August 31, 2019.