

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**  
**Urban Studies Programs**  
**SPRING 2020**  
**URBAN STUDIES 250: EXPLORING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**  
**Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:15 p.m. Bolton Hall 281**

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<i>Office</i>	Bolton Hall, 792
<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	: 20 percent	City Analysis Report	: 20 percent
City Case Study	: 40 percent	Reflection Essay	: 10 percent
Online Quiz	: 10 percent	Extra Credit	: 5 percent
<b>Total: 100 percent</b>			

Research Presentation: A group of students will select one (1) research paper on their own based on any topic discussed in the semester. You will be presenting only once for 15 minutes (approx.) in the class.

City Analysis Report: 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 one final report for selected sections.

City Case Study: Each student will write a small paper after for selected classes using data related to topics discussed in the class.

Reflection Essay: Students will submit several essays throughout the semesters based on the understanding of the readings for assigned classes.

Online 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

#### **January 21: Introduction to the Course, Syllabus discussion**

No reading!

#### **January 23: 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.

**Reflection Essay 1 Assigned: Due by January 25.**

### Week 2

#### **January 28: Urban Classical Theory**

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

**Reflection Essay 2 Assigned: Due by January 31.**

#### **January 30: Researching the Urban**

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

### Week 3

#### **February 4: 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.

#### **February 6: Urbanization of the United States**

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

**City Case Study 1 Assigned: Due by February 15**

### Week 4

#### **February 11: Urbanization in the Less Developed World**

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

#### **February 13: Urban Form and Landuse**

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

**Reflection Essay 3: Due by February 13**

### Week 5

#### **February 18: Architecture**

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

#### **February 20: 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.

**Reflection Essay 4: Due by February 20**

### Week 6

#### **February 25: Urban Economy**

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

**City Analysis Report Component I Assigned: Due by May 3.**

#### **February 27: Cities and Urban Economic changes**

N. Kleniewski. 2006. "Chapter 12" in *Cities, Change and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.

## Week 7

### March 3: Urban Renewal

TBA!

### March 5: Urban Local Financing

N. Kleniewski. 2006. "Chapter 13" in *Cities, Change and Conflict: A Political Economy of Urban Life*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning.

**City Case Study 2 Assigned: Due by March 14**

## Week 8

### March 10: Urban Labor Market

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

[https://marroninstitute.nyu.edu/uploads/content/Cities\\_as\\_Labor\\_Markets.pdf](https://marroninstitute.nyu.edu/uploads/content/Cities_as_Labor_Markets.pdf)

**City Analysis Report Component II Assigned: Due by May 3.**

### March 12: Urban Informality

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

**Reflection Essay 5: Due by March 12**

## Week 9

Spring Break! No Class

## Week 10

### March 24: Suburbanization

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

**City Case Study 3 Assigned: Due by April 3**

### March 26: Neighborhood Change

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

**Reflection Essay 6: Due by March 26**

## Week 11

### March 31: 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>

**City Analysis Report Component III: Due by May 3.**

### April 2: Independent Research Day

More instructions will be available later.

## Week 12

### April 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>

### April 9: 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](https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Gap-Report_2017.pdf)

**City Analysis Report Component IV: Due by May 3.**

**Week 13**

**April 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](https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2016/06/1024_concentrated_poverty.pdf)

**City Analysis Report Component V: Due by May 3.**

**April 16: Crime**

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

**Week 14**

**April 21: 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>

**April 23: Public Space**

J. Sewell. 2018. “Public Space in North American Cities” in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*.

**Week 15**

**April 28: Sustainability**

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

**April 30: Green Urbanism**

TBD!

**Week 16**

**May 3: City Analysis Report Due**

**May 5: Research Paper Presentation**

**May 7: Research Paper Presentation**

*\*\*\* I reserve the right to change any part of the syllabus, schedule, readings and assignments and due dates. 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 Canvas, 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\\_INCOMPLETE\\_GRADES.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_31_INCOMPLETE_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\\_Discriminatory\\_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.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\\_Discriminatory\\_Policy.pdf](https://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S_47_Discriminatory_Policy.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\*

January 20	Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) for the term without charge or for full refund.
January 21	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.
January 24	Deadline for graduation applications for undergraduate students. Submit application via PAWS.
February 3	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.
February 4	Deadline for graduation applications for graduate students. Submit applications via PAWS.
February 17	Last day to drop full-term courses without a "W" on record. Tuition and fees apply.
March 15-22	Spring Break!
April 5	Last day to drop or withdraw from full-term courses. Tuition and fees apply.
May 7	Last day of classes.
May 8	Study day.
May 9	Final Exam begins May 9, 11-16.
May 16	Last day of the term. Date of degree conferral for graduating students.
May 17	Graduation Ceremony.
May 21	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 <a href="#">Registrar's Office website</a> .

\*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 January 20, 2020