

**The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Department of Geography**

Geography 140-001

**Our Urban Environment: Introduction to Urban Geography
MIT 191**

Fall 2009: 3:30-4:45 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays (3 credits)

Instructor:	Dr. Linda McCarthy
Office:	Bolton Hall, Room 449
Office Phone:	229-6405
Dept. Phone:	229-4866
E-mail:	lmccarth@uwm.edu
Mailbox:	Bolton Hall 410 (Department of Geography).
Office hours:	Mon. 4:50-5:20 p.m., and by appointment

Course Outline

Cities are products of many forces. They are engines of economic development and centers of cultural innovation, social transformation, and political change. At the same time, there are important variations among cities in everything from employment opportunities to patterns of land use, racial composition, and social behavior.

This course is an introduction to cities, to the approaches to studying them, and to the explanations offered for urban processes and forms. Major topics in this course focus on urban development and change, both at the scale of particular cities and at the scale of systems of cities in the United States, Europe, "newly industrializing countries," and "less developed countries." Particular attention is paid to the changing relations between economic, political, social and cultural, technological, and environmental processes and the changing urban environment.

Topics and Readings

Introduction

Wed. Sep. 2 Course introduction.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Preface; Ch. 1, pp. 1-3 + 9-19.

Wed. Sep. 9 Introduction to urban geography; Overview of how geographers examine the city - the major theoretical traditions and methodological approaches within urban geography.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 1, pp. 3-8.

The Historical Development of Urban Areas

Mon. Sep. 14 Urban origins and evolution I - the changing relationships between societal changes and changes in urban form and function: Mesopotamian, Greek, and Roman cities.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 2, pp. 21-30 + 34-39.

Wed. Sep. 16 Urban origins and evolution II - the changing relationships between societal changes and changes in urban form and function: Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque cities.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 2, pp. 31-33 + 39-45.

Mon. Sep. 21 The industrial city in Britain and North America: economic specialization, transportation innovations, and suburban growth.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 2, pp. 46-51; Ch. 3, pp. 61-65; Ch. 5, pp. 116-117 + 126-129; Ch. 6, p. 143 (Fig. 6.4).

Wed. Sep. 23 Early industrialization in America: The Case of Lowell, MA.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, pp. 56-58.

Mon. Sep. 28 The twentieth century city and the birth of city planning, I.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, pp. 54-55; Ch. 5, pp. 123-124; Ch. 10, pp. 250-252; Ch. 17, p. 503-506.

Wed. Sep. 30 The twentieth century city and the birth of city planning, II.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 17, pp. 499-502; Ch. 5, pp. 117-119 + 125-126; Ch. 6, pp. 143-148.

Mon. Oct. 5 ***** EXAM 1 - IN CLASS *****

The Development of Inter-Urban Systems

Wed. Oct. 7 City system development in Western Europe and the USA:
Central Place Theory.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, pp. 66-68.

Mon. Oct. 12 Urban system development in “less developed countries”: Sub-Saharan
African cities.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 7, pp. 182-195.

The Dynamics of Intra-Urban Development:

Economic Activity within Cities

Wed. Oct. 14 Urban land use theory: the location of residential and economic activities
within metropolitan areas.

*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 5, pp. 119-123 + 129-132 + 134-135; Ch. 6,
pp. 141-143 + 148-169.*

Mon. Oct. 19 Models of the economic and residential structure and functioning of US
urban areas: Concentric Zones, Sectors, Multiple Nuclei, and Urban Realms.

*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 5, pp. 132-133 + 136-137; Ch. 6, pp. 148-150,
pp. 158-162; Ch. 12, pp. 311-317.*

Wed. Oct 21 The use and usefulness of models of urban economic and residential
structure: The case of Cape Town, South Africa.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 8, pp. 203-206.

Mon. Oct. 26 Internal patterns of economic and residential activities within “non-Western”
cities: Latin American cities.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 8, pp. 198-202.

******* Mental map drawing instructions at beginning of class *******

Wed. Oct. 28 Internal patterns of economic and residential activities within “non-Western”
cities: Southeast Asian cities.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 8, pp. 211-215.

******* Mental maps due at beginning of class *** 1 bonus point*******

Social Interaction within Urban Areas

Mon. Nov. 2 The urban experience: mental maps and perceptions of the urban environment.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 14, pp. 389-395.

Wed. Nov. 4 Residential mobility and neighborhood change.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 13, pp. 341-346 + 358-364.

Mon. Nov. 9 Social interaction, residential segregation, and institutional influences on the housing market.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 12, pp. 297-311 + 318-339; Ch. 13, pp. 346-357 + 364-375.

Wed. Nov. 11 *** EXAM 2 - IN CLASS *******

The Urban Political Arena

Mon. Nov. 16 Political fragmentation within metropolitan areas and the politics of urban development and redevelopment; Metropolitan Planning.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 16, pp. 455-467; Ch. 17, pp. 515-523.

Wed. Nov. 18 Government intervention in urban development and redevelopment: Urban Renewal.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 16, pp. 467-475; Ch. 17, pp. 512-514.

Mon. Nov. 23 Recent government intervention in urban development and redevelopment: Contemporary public-private partnerships.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 11, pp. 284-85; Ch. 16, pp. 475-482.

Wed. Nov. 25 *** NO CLASS, WEDNESDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING *******

Mon. Nov. 30 Inter-urban competition for private-sector investment and jobs.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 16, pp. 482-488.

Wed. Dec. 2 Architecture and urban design

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 10, pp. 245-271.

Geographical Perspectives on Problems of Urbanization

Mon. Dec. 7 Deindustrialization, corporate restructuring, and urban distress:
The case of Flint, Michigan

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 4, pp. 80-86; Ch. 15, pp. 412-413.

Wed. Dec. 9 Poverty, homelessness, and crime.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 15, pp. 407-438.

Conclusion; The Future of Cities

Mon. Dec. 14 The future of cities and their changing economic base and spatial structure.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 4, pp. 86-100 + 106-113; Ch. 18, pp. 525-536.

Fri. Dec. 18 Exam 3, 3:00-4:15 p.m. MIT 191

Required Readings

Paul Knox and Linda McCarthy (2005) *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*, 2nd ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, ISBN 0-13-142450-5.

Course Requirements, and University and Departmental Policy

The format of this course includes primarily lectures with some in class discussion. Students are expected to attend all lectures, participate in any class discussions, read the required materials, and take all exams.

The exams are based on material from both the lectures and the required readings. The lectures provide the most important and up-to-date part of the course material during the semester—the lectures represent the structure of the course, and so should not be missed—a good grasp of your comprehensive lecture notes will help you do well in the three exams. The material in the lectures and required readings complement each other, however—one is not a substitute for the other—students need to both attend the lectures and take good notes *and* cover the required readings in order to excel in the three exams.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain copies of class notes from other class members. I do not lend out my own lecture notes to students. I encourage you, however, to come to my office hours or make an appointment to meet with me if you would like me to go over lecture material with you.

Grades in this course will be assigned based on your performance in three examinations containing 50 multiple-choice questions, as follows:

Exam 1 (33.33% of grade): In class – Monday, October 5.

Covering material (lectures and required readings) from the beginning of the semester up to the first exam.

Exam 2 (33.33% of grade): In class - Wednesday, November 11.

Covering material (lectures and required readings) between the first and second exams.

Exam 3 (33.33% of grade): Exam Week–Friday, December 18, 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Covering material (lectures and required readings) between the second and third exams.

Bonus Point (additional 1%): Due at or before *beginning* of class: Wednesday, October 28.

Mental map drawing instructions given at the beginning of class on Monday, October 26 *only*.

A **makeup examination** will be provided for the exams only for students with unavoidable or legitimate absences (for example, verified illness, subpoenas, jury duty, and military service). It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of such circumstances before the exam. Students are expected to notify us as far in advance of the examination as possible; two days notice is normally required. Please send an e-mail or leave a detailed message on the instructor's voicemail or the Department of Geography's voicemail if you are unable to contact the instructor in person.

For all students requesting a makeup examination, it is the responsibility of students to provide written verification setting out why they were not able to take the exam on the day and at the time in the syllabus. In order to be fair to all students, it will **not** be possible to provide a makeup examination for students who fail to provide written verification and to notify us before the exam (except in exceptional cases). The exceptional cases for allowing a makeup without prior notification include unexpected reasons (e.g. car accident on the way to the exam, very sudden illness requiring an emergency room visit just prior to the exam, etc.). If an unexpected event such as this prevents the student for notifying the instructor before the exam, the student is required to contact the instructor as soon as possible and to provide written verification (e.g. police report of a car accident, emergency room documentation, etc.).

Unless a legitimate reason (a verified illness, hospital stay, jury duty, etc.) prevents it, the makeup examination must be taken before the next class meeting. Once a makeup examination is arranged for a student, it is the student's responsibility to show up at the time and place arranged. A subsequent makeup examination will not be arranged if the student fails to show up for reasons, such as not being able to find the room for the makeup examination.

Make-up exams are usually essay format.

Grades are assigned using the following scale:

A	93-100%	Achievement of outstanding quality.
A-	90-92	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
B+	87-89	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
B	83-86	Achievement of high quality.
B-	80-82	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
C+	77-79	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
C	73-76	Work of acceptable quality.
C-	70-72	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
D+	67-69	Work slightly below the quality expected.
D	63-66	Below the quality expected.
D-	60-62	Barely above failing.
F	≤ 59	Failure.

Students in L&S can register credit/no credit for one course per semester (with a maximum of eight courses) for courses, other than Honors courses, that are not in the student's major. Students who register credit/no credit for this course must earn a grade of "C-" or better to receive credit.

There will be no extra credit offered in this course.

Registration Policies for late registration, change, add/drop and withdraw

If your payment is received after the first week of your earliest session, a late payment fee will be added to your tuition assessment.

The deadlines for making changes to your schedule for grading and records purposes are:

Add:	September 16.
Drop or withdraw <u>without</u> course transcript notation:	September 29.
Drop or withdraw <u>with</u> course transcript notation:	October 23.

Departments have the right to enforce class attendance policies, and may administratively drop students who do not meet these requirements. In particular, students who fail to attend a class during the first week of the semester may be dropped so that another student may be accommodated.

Students must obtain, in advance, instructor approval to enroll in courses that have any time conflict or overlap. Failure to do so may result in the student being administratively dropped from this course.

Participation by Students with Disabilities: If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

Accommodations for Religious Observances: Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance.

Academic Misconduct: The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors.

Academic dishonesty is any act by a student that misrepresents the student's own academic work or that comprises the academic work of another. Examples include cheating on exams, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own any work done by another), depriving another student of necessary course materials, or sabotaging another student's work.

Classroom courtesy includes not talking in class with fellow class members or in any way disturbing class lectures; this includes sleeping or reading newspapers or other material not directly related to the class. If the class is interrupted to address an individual behavior problem, the first time is a warning, the second time is dismissal from the class.

Complaint Procedures: Students may direct complaints to the head of the 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 in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community that creates an unacceptable working environment.

Incompletes: An "incomplete" grade will be assigned only in extraordinary cases when unexpected conditions prevent a student from completing the requirements of the course within the term of enrollment. 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 substantial 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. An incomplete is not given unless students prove to the instructor that he/she is prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above.

Financial obligation: The submission of your registration form and your subsequent assignment to classes obligates you to pay the fee-tuition for those classes or withdraw your registration in writing no later than the deadline listed in the Schedule of Classes.

You should also be aware of services that are available to you at UW-M that help protect students and keep UW-M a safer place, such as the BOSS (Be On the Safe Side) shuttle and the free escort service by the campus police at night.