

Geography 340: Geography of the North American City

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Lecture Schedule:
Wednesday & Thursday: 2:30pm-3:50pm
Cornett Building B111
Office Hours: 12-2pm Wednesdays

Course Description:

Welcome to GEOG 340—Geography of the North American City! This course offers a broad introduction to the field of urban geography from both a local and global perspective. The objective of this class is to examine the core themes of contemporary urban geography, including historical development of urbanism and urban planning; the political economy of cities; city representations of urban space; urban social inequalities; gentrification; residential segregation; social movements; and the geographies of the megacity in the era of globalization. Various studies will be considered, along with first-hand fieldwork training, to foster a deeper appreciation of the imaginative geographies of the urban experience.

READINGS

All readings in this course are based on two sources: 1 - assorted journal/newspaper articles you can freely access via the internet; 2 - specific sources that will be available for you on MOODLE.

You are expected to retrieve these readings for each class, since the material in the readings will make an important part of exam content and will support lecture materials. Additionally, we have certain journal articles available to download on the course Moodle system (see below).

We will be specific about what pages to read and will highlight the most important sections during lectures: this should help you manage your reading during this course.

COURSE WEBSITE

In this course we will be using the Moodle system. All assignments, lectures, readings, and major announcements will be housed on this website. It is mandatory to use this space for the course. If you have any troubles connecting or navigating the site please let us know!

COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile phone. We will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please start thinking about this important activity during the course.

SCHEDULE & READINGS

The required readings for each day are outlined below. To help you manage your time, we will emphasize specific page ranges. We recommend you complete the required readings before each lecture.

Week: Day	Activity - Readings	Additional Notes
W1: S3	Syllabus review" Reading: NONE	
W1: S4	Lecture: "What is a city?" Reading: Zukin, S. 2009. "The City that Lost its Soul", from <i>Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places</i> , pg. 1-30. [Moodle]	- A contemporary take on the transformation of a great city, NYC
The Evolving Urban Form I		
W2: S10	Lecture: "Exploring Urban Systems 1: Introduction to Urban Morphology" Reading: CCiT, Chapter 2, Bunting and Filion, <i>Epochs of Canadian Urban Development</i> , [Moodle]	- A comprehensive look at urban morphology through distinct periods of time-space

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W8: O22 **Lecture: Interpreting suburban geographies"**

Reading: Keil, R., 2012. "Suburbanization and Global Cities", in Derudder, B., *International Handbook of Globalization and World Cities*, pg. 408-417 [Moodle]

W11: N12	<p>Lecture: Aboriginal Communities in the City"</p> <p>Reading: Norris et al. 2013, "The Urbanization of Aboriginal Populations in Canada: A Half Century Review" [Moodle]</p>	- an in-depth look at the history and culture of urban aboriginal populations in Canada and US.
W11: N13	<p>Lecture: Aboriginal Communities in the City (cont.)"</p> <p>Reading: Andersen and Peters, 2013. "Indigenizing Modernity or Modernizing Indigeneity?" [Moodle]</p>	
W12: N19	<p>Lecture: Young and Old"</p> <p>Reading: CCiT, Chapter 21, Mark Rosenberg and Kathi Wilson, Young Cities, Old Cities and Cities in the Balance: Spaces and Places of the Younger and Older Population [Moodle]"</p>	- A comprehensive look at how the city is planned and unplanned around the emerging realities of aging populations.
W12: N20	<p>Lecture: Planning for the Aging City"</p> <p>Reading: Goodyear, Sarah. (2014). What does "livable" mean to older Americans? <i>Atlantic Cities</i>. April 25.</p>	
Nov 21	Term Paper Due [Option 1 due date]	
W13: N26	<p>Lecture: Consumption and Retail in the City"</p> <p>Reading: Ritzer, G, 1999. "A Tour of the New Means of Consumption in an Enchanting a Disenchanted World. [Moodle]"</p> <p>Reading: Byrnes, M., 2013. Victor Gruen Wanted to Make Our Suburbs More Urban. Instead, He Invented the Mall, <i>Atlantic Cities</i>, online: http://www.theatlanticcities.com/arts-and-lifestyle/2013/07/victor-gruen-wanted-make-our-suburbs-better-instead-he-invented-mall/6249/</p>	- Some interesting views on the impacts of shopping malls!"
W13: N27	<p>Lecture: Looking to the Future of Urban Geog."</p> <p>Reading: CCiT, Bourne. "Conclusions" [Moodle]"</p>	- A look through our crystal ball.
Review		
W14: D3	No Readings	
DEC 5	Term Paper Due [Option 2 due date]	
Final EXAM [TDB Take home]		

much time offering editorial advice or academic feedback. Please note that you receive bonus marks for Option 1 this is merely a way for me to be more efficient with my time and for you to have some control over the course schedule.

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Category	Mark
Thesis statement	8
Analysis: Critical Comment and Thinking	15
Writing, Clarity	8
Connection to Class Materials	4
TOTAL	35%

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Assignment #2 - Critical Reflections (value: 30 %)

In this assignment you are required to produce 4 critical reflections of the lectures/re: videos. These reflections have specific time frames and mark allotments - see below.

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The role of this assignment is to encourage an effective and consistent reading and writing process. That is, you are expected to stay on top of readings and keep your mind sharp during the writing process.

For more details on expectations see the Assignment #2 folder on Moodle.

Please upload your reflections in the appropriate Moodle Drop Box. Do not need a paper copy.

Assignment Schedule

Reflection #1 | Value 5%, DUE: Sep 26th [by noon].

This is a choice of topics pertaining to week 2-4

Reflection #2: | Value 5%, DUE: Oct 20th [by noon].

This is a choice of topics pertaining to week 5-7

Reflection #3 | Value 5%, DUE: Nov 7th [by noon].

This is a choice of topics pertaining to week 8-10

Reflection #4: | Value 5%, DUE: Nov 28th [by noon].

This is a choice of topics pertaining to week 11-13

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Assignment Requirements:

- max page limit of 1 page single spaced;
- for all reflections you must cite and use APA style only.

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COURSE POLICIES

1. The lectures are held three times weekly, and I will be available after each lecture to answer questions in person. You can also come see me during office hours. You may e-mail me in case of emergencies or issues of confidential nature.
2. All cell phones should be turned off before class begins. If the use of a computer furthers your learning, feel free to bring a laptop to class. I will not tolerate use of computers during lectures for personal purposes such as e-mail, surfing the Internet, watching videos etc.
3. Some instructors have strict no food policies in their classrooms. I do not mind if you bring snacks in class. Personally I find small snacks help keep me focused during long lectures.