

**Geography 340 – A01**  
**Geographies of the North American City**  
**University of Victoria**  
**Fall 2017**

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<b>Office hours:</b>	Mondays and Thursdays, 1:00pm—2:15pm
<b>Course time:</b>	Mondays and Thursdays, 2:30pm—3:50pm
<b>Course location:</b>	Elliott Building, Room 162

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to GEOG 340—Geographies of the North American City! This course offers a broad introduction to the field of urban geography with a primary focus on the historical development and contemporary processes of urbanization in Canada and the United States. The main goal of this class is to examine key themes in urban geography, including the historical geography of urbanization, changing approaches to urban planning and governance; the politics of urban renewal; neoliberal urbanism; housing and homelessness; gentrification; cultural diversity, social segregation, and immigrant communities; and utopian speculations on the urban future. We shall explore these issues and more in relation to various North American cities to illuminate the complexities of the urban experience.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Provide a broad overview of the key concepts and perspectives in urban geography
- Examine the main urban geographical processes of urbanization in North America
- Assess the major political, economic, social, and cultural changes that have transformed contemporary urban landscapes in North America

## **CLASS FORMAT**

The format for this course will consist of a combination of lectures, seminar-style discussions of assigned readings, and films. Most class sessions will be lecture-based, but we will also occasionally use class time to discuss the assigned readings, which students are expected to have read prior to class each day. In addition to the standard lecture format, there will also be several in-class activities and films throughout the semester. Aside from the midterm and final exam, the main assignments for the course will be a literature review paper and an urban film project.

## **READINGS**

### **Required Course Texts**

All reading materials will be available on the CourseSpaces page for this class (<http://coursespaces.uvic.ca>).

## **ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING SCHEME**

Your final grade will be based on the following calculation:

Midterm Exam

20

1. Select an urban topic of interest.
2. Conduct a keyword search using the Web of Science database via UVic's library website to find journal articles related to your topic in peer-reviewed geography and urban studies journals. Here is a step-by-step process to conduct a Web of Science search:
  - a. Go to UVic's library website at:

- a particular neighbourhood in the Greater Victoria Region
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## **PLAGIARISM**



\* **NOTE:** Please be prepared to discuss the assigned readings by Wallock, Jacobs, Grant, and the Athens and New Urbanism Charters during class today (Thur., October 5).

**Week 6**

Monday, October 9: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday, October 12: Changing consumerscapes in the commodity world

Parlette, V. and Cowen, D. (2011). "Dead Malls: Suburban Activism, Local Spaces, Global Logistics." *Journal of Planning Literature* 35(4): 794-811. [Note: This reading will not be covered on the midterm exam, but it will be assessed on the final exam.]

**Week 7**

Monday, October 16: MIDTERM EXAM

Thursday, October 19: Regimes of urban governance and the politics of scale

Harvey, D. (1989). "From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism." *Journal of Planning Literature* 14(1): 71(

