

Course Syllabus – Urban Growth and Structure

Course Information

Course number –GEOG - 3331

Course title – URBAN GROWTH AND STRUCTURE

Term –SPRING 2011

Section – 501

Classroom – GR 2.530

Time –Wednesday 7:00 pm - 9:45 pm

Professor Contact Information

Name – Dr. Irina Vakulenko

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Email – ivakulenko@utdallas.edu (best way to contact me)

Office location – GR 3.213

Office hours – Monday/Wednesday 10:15 am -11:15 pm; by appointment

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. General academic skills of analytical thinking, comparison, essay writing, working with statistical material, map reading will be helpful.

Course Description

This course challenges students to understand the dynamic relationship of urban spatial organization and the built environment to politics, economics, cultures and societies. It explores the changing forms of the city over time and analyzes the variety of ways through which people have recreated urban life through time and across cultures. This course also introduces students to contemporary issues related to the urban built environment in various countries and the implications of political and economic changes.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Upon completing this class students will be able to:

- Describe how cities and urban areas have evolved over time
- Understand how urban culture and urban society affect each other
- Explain how urban economy, governance and politics are connected and even conflicted.
- Discuss the role of urban planning, the causes and consequences of growth, and the approaches used to minimize negative externalities associated with growth and urbanization

Required Textbooks and Materials

Urban Geography. Second Edition. By David Kaplan, Wiley, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0-471-79815-6. There are several readings that are posted on-reserve at McDermott Library. The code can be obtained only from the professor personally.

Suggested Course Materials

Students are expected to take notes during PowerPoint presentations and complete the assignments posted on e-learning.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

| # | Date | Topic | Reading & Assignments |
|----|------|--|--|
| 1 | 1/12 | An Introduction to the Changing Field of Urban Geography | Chapter 1, on e-reserve (L. Mumford) |
| 2 | 1/12 | Trends and Schools of Urban Geography | Chapter 1 |
| 3 | 1/19 | Theories of Urban Origin and Patterns of Early Urbanization | Quiz 1, Chapter 2 |
| 4 | 1/19 | Origin and Development of Cities | Chapter 2, on reserve B. Berry "World's first cities", Chapters 5, 9 |
| 5 | 1/26 | Historic cities of the world. | Presentation / paper is due. |
| 6 | 1/26 | Evolution of American Urban System | Chapter 3 |
| 7 | 2/2 | Evolution of American Urban System | Chapter 3, on e-reserve (K. Jackson) |
| 8 | 2/2 | Urbanization Theories | Chapter 1, 3 |
| 9 | 2/9 | Globalization and the Urban System | Quiz 2, Chapter 4 |
| 10 | 2/9 | Telecommunications and the City | Chapter 5 |
| 11 | 2/16 | Test 1 | |
| 12 | 2/16 | Urban Land Use. CBD and Growth of Suburbs | Chapter 6 |
| 13 | 2/23 | Urban Land Use. CBD and Growth of Suburbs | Chapter 6 |
| 14 | 2/23 | Urban Land Use. Economies of Cities: Basic and Non-Basic economic Activities | Chapter 7 |
| 15 | 3/2 | Foundations of Urban Social landscapes | Chapter 8, on e-reserve (E. Burgess) |
| 16 | 3/2 | Foundations of Urban Social landscapes | Chapter 8 |
| 17 | 3/9 | Urban Housing Markets: Sprawl, Blight, and Regeneration | Quiz 3 Chapter 9 |
| 18 | 3/9 | Segregation, Race, and Urban Poverty. Role of Government. | Chapter 10 |
| 19 | 3/23 | Immigration, Ethnicity, and Urbanism. Politics and Urbanism. | Chapter 11 |
| 20 | 3/23 | Immigration, Ethnicity, and Urbanism. Politics and Urbanism. | Chapter 11 |
| 21 | 3/30 | Metropolitan Governance and Fragmentation. | Chapter 12 |

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| 22 | 3/30 | Metropolitan Governance and Fragmentation. | Chapter 12, on e-reserve F.L. Wright |
| 23 | 4/6 | Urban Planning. Legal Basis and Comprehensive Plans and Tools. | Chapter 13 |
| 24 | 4/6 | Urban Planning. Legal Basis and Comprehensive Plans and Tools. | Quiz 4 Chapter 13 |
| 25 | 4/13 | Test 2 | |
| 26 | 4/13 | Cities in the Developed World. | Chapter 14 |
| 27 | 4/20 | Cities in the Developing World. | Chapter 15, on e-reserve (S. Wheeler) |
| 28 | 4/20 | Presentations on Modern Cities | Presentation / paper is due. |
| 29 | 4/27 | Regional Variations in Urban Structure and Form in the Less Developed World. | Chapter 16 |
| 30 | 4/27 | Cities of the Future. Review. Check your attendance record. <i>Class notes for students eligible for a bonus point are due. Max – 2 bonus pts. are possible.</i> | Quiz5 |
| 31 | 5/11 | Final Exam is on May 12 at 7:00 pm | |

Grading Policy

You are required to take 2 tests during the semester that each consist of multiple choice questions, map /chart / table analysis, and an essay /short answers. Each test will count **20%** toward your final grade. A 3 page paper or 3-5 slides presentation* on one historical city is due on 1/26/11 (**15%** of final grade). Average of Tests 1 and historical city presentation/paper will make your **Midterm Grade** to be posted on **March 4, 2011**. There are 5 articles by prominent American urbanists, a short answer to one question about the article will be offered at each quiz for 2% toward final grade for the total of **10%**. You are also expected to write a 5 page paper or make a 10 minutes modern city presentation* during the class on **4/20/2011**. This individual assignment will count **15%** toward your grade. The Final Exam on **May 11, 2011** will make **20%** of your grade. All graded material will be assigned a numerical value on a scale of 100. Letter grades are given as follows: 97% and over A+; 93% to 96% A ; 90% to 92% A- ; 87% to 89% B+; 83% to 86% B; 80% to 82% B- ; 77% to 79% C+; 73% to 76% C ; 70% to 72% C- ; 67% to 69% D+ ; 63% to 66% D ; 60% to 62% D; Less than 60% F.

***Papers / presentations** requirements are posted on e-learning.

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance is crucial for the successful learning and will be taken each class. A good set of class notes will be extremely helpful if you plan excelling in this course. There is **1 bonus point** for perfect attendance (max 2 missed 1h 15 min periods during the semester) **and** a perfect set of notes (any missed class material should be researched individually based on suggested material). Audience participation is encouraged. 5 interesting questions and/or comments during the semester may earn you **another bonus point**.

No makeup tests, quizzes. (Individual consideration may be given in case of overwhelming circumstances). Late turned in papers will be assessed penalty (e-mail within 24 hours – 10% off, later – 50% off). Although extra help may be provided to students, the professor will not hold alternate lectures or release lecture notes to students.

If you wish to look at the ancillary syllabus material, a link to that material is as follows
<http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.