Course Syllabus – Urban Growth and Structure

Course Information
Course number –GEOG - 3331
Course title – URBAN GROWTH AND STRUCTURE
Term –SPRING 2014
Section – 001
Classroom – GR 3.606
Time –Monday/Wednesday 1:00 - 2:15 pm

Professor Contact Information
Name – Dr. Irina Vakulenko
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Office location – GR 3.213
Office hours – Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 -11:00 am; 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 changes in the nature and outcomes of urbanization processes for people, 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 structure affect each other.
- Explain how processes of urban change affect development, neighborhood structure and growth, governance of urban space.
- 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.
- Enhance communication competence through mastering presentations skills for the audience, which possesses less knowledge.
- Demonstrate the ability to support ideas, findings, and/or claims by providing relevant evidence.
- ***This class will fulfill your C3 written and oral communication course requirement, should you choose to apply for the Certificate*** (http://oue.utdallas.edu/home/c3/).

Required Textbooks and Materials

Urbanization. An Introduction to Urban Geography, 3rd edition by Paul Knox and Linda McCarthy, Pearson, 2012. ISBN-13: 9780321736437.

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	1/13/14	An Introduction to the Changing Field of Urban Geography.	Chapter 1
2	1/15/14	Theories of Urban Origin and Patterns of Early Urbanization.	Chapter 2
3	1/22/14	Urban Expansion from the Regions of Urban Origin.	Chapter 2
4	1/27/14	Historic cities of the world - **15%**	Presentation/paper is due.
5	1/29/14	US Urban System: Industrialization and Reorganization of Urban Space.	Chapter 3
6	2/3/14	US Urban System: Rise of Suburbia	Chapter 3
7	2/5/14	MDCs Urban System: From WWII to 1970s.	Chapter 4
8	2/10/14	MDCs Urban System: From 1970s to the present.	Chapter 4
9	2/12/14	**Test 1 – 15%**	
10	2/17/14	Urban Development Process: Patterns of Investment and Market Responses.	Chapter 8
11	2/19/14	Neighborhood Change and Housing Markets	Chapter 9
12	2/24/14	Neighborhood Change and Residential Mobility	Chapter 9
13	2/26/14	History of Urban Governance	Chapter 10
14	3/3/14	Perspectives on Governance, Politics, and Urban Change	Chapter 10
15	3/5/14	Roots of Urban Planning	Chapter 11
16	3/17/14	Planning for Healthy and Livable Cities	Chapter 11
17	3/19/14	**Test 2 – 15%**	
18	3/24/14	Social Interaction and Residential Segregation	Chapter 12
19	3/26/14	Recent changes to the Foundations of Residential Segregation	Chapter 12
20	3/31/14	Architecture and the Dynamics of Urban Change	Chapter 13
21	4/2/14	Theoretical Interpretations of Urban Life	Chapter 14
22	4/7/14	New Forms of Urbanism	Chapter 14
23	4/9/14	**Test 3- 15%**	
24	4/14/14	Urbanization in LDCs: Trends and Theories of Urbanization and Development.	Chapter 5
25	4/16/14	Patterns of Urban Form and Land Use in LDCs.	Chapter 6
26	4/21/14	Modern cities of the world – **20%**	Presentation/paper is due.
27	4/23/14	Urban Problems and Responses in LDCs.	Chapter 7

28	4/28/14	Problems of Urbanization in Historical Perspective	Chapter 15
29	4/30/14	Poverty, Violence, and Environmental Problems and Solutions.	Chapter 15
30	**TBA**	**Final Exam is TBA– 20%**	

Grading Policy

You are required to take 2 tests during the semester, each consisting of multiple choice questions, map /chart / table analysis, and an essay /short answers. Each test will count **15%** toward your final grade. A 3 page paper or 3-5 slides presentation* on one historic city is due on 1/27/14 (**15%** of final grade). Average of Tests 1 and a historic city presentation/paper will make your **Midterm Grade** to be posted on **March 8, 2014**. You are also expected to write a 5 page paper or make a 10 minutes modern city presentation* during the class on **4/21/2014**. This individual assignment will count **20%** toward your grade. The Final Exam on **TBA** 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 classes) **and** a perfect set of notes (any 1-2 missed classes topic should be researched individually based on suggested material). Audience participation is encouraged. Consistent contribution to the class discussion in the form of interesting questions and/or comments may earn you **another bonus point**.

No makeup tests. (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.