

Urban Landscapes ~~ Geography 3400

Autumn 2009

4 Credit Hours

Olin Hall #142, Tues. & Thurs. 12p – 1:50p

Course overview:

Description: Cities are at the center of all human activity, including: economic, social/cultural, political, environmental, transportation, development, and population growth. This course explores on-going change of cities, the differences and similarities between urban places and within cities, and major issues across local and global scales. These topics will be examined through readings, discussion, first-hand observation, and writing. Class participation is essential.

Objectives: At the end of this course you should be able to:

[1] Understand the foundational concepts of cities from a geographical perspective, including

- The patterns and underlying processes of urban change
- Urban perspectives at various scales (global, national, regional, neighborhood, individual)
- Core urban problems and contemporary issues
- Differences and similarities of cities around the world
- How cities form, function, and are interconnected

[2] “Observe” many urban principles in practice, either in the Denver context, or from past experiences in other cities. “Identify” various and specific urban problems and explore the points of view and possible solutions. “See” how urban landscapes came to be.

[3] Graduate students: speak and write knowledgeably on key urban geographic concepts from the academic literature, as well as explore urban literature relevant to your research interests.

Contact information:

Instructor: Dr. Eric Boschmann

Office: Boettcher Center West, #106

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Readings:

Book: Hubbard, P. 2006. *City*. New York, NY, Routledge.

Most of the course reading will come from various other sources. See the calendar for the approximate reading schedule. A bibliography of readings is provided.

Course requirements: (graduate students have separate requirements)

- Participation	15%
- Written assignments #1 (5%); #2, #3 (10% each)	25%
- Project and presentation (November 17 and 19)	30%
- Exam (November 12)	30%

Participation

Effective learning in this course is contingent upon your active participation in class. The classroom will be an open and non-intimidating setting in which to express your thoughts and ideas with others. While some material must be conveyed via traditional lecture, full-class student engagement through a variety of activities will be the norm. Part of your participation includes: coming to class prepared, absorbing the readings (but not memorizing them), and pursuing topics that especially interest you.

Written assignments*

There are 3 written assignments.

[1] *Describing/detailing a familiar urban area*

[2] *Urban issue position paper*

[3] *Urban observation and interpretation*

Due DATE: September 24

Due DATE:

Due DATE:

Project

Students are to explore one aspect of urban change, in depth, in a city of your choice. The medium for your project is flexible: e.g. journalism style, research paper, poster presentation, etc. Students will present their projects in class on November 17 and 19. A written document must also be submitted.

More details and discussion forthcoming

Exam

An open book/notes in-class exam is scheduled for November 12. This exam will cover all the reading material and class discussions from this quarter.

Key Resources

As you work on various assignments, the list below contains key urban-related academic journals. Use a library database system to search topics, such as *Web of Science*, or search these journals directly. It is important that you build your knowledge from this type of resource. Internet sources (e.g. Wikipedia) are useful first stops on your search.

Urban Geography

Urban Studies

City

Urban Affairs Review

Journal of Planning Education and Research

Journal of the American Planning Association

Cities

International Journal of Urban and Regional Research

Journal of Urban Affairs

Policies

University of Denver Honor Code

As a significant portion of your learning-work for this course is conducted outside of class time, you are expected to complete independent and original work, representative of your personal learning achievements, and fully adhering to our University community's Honor Code.

The use of technology in class can be a major distraction to yourself and people around you – including me! Therefore, please NO COMPUTERS or text-messaging during class time. Also, please put cell phones on *silent* mode and pack i-Pods/MP3s away until end of class.

For Autumn 2009: H1N1 Flu – Academic Continuity Plan

- The primary mode for course communication outside of the classroom is through Blackboard. In the event of temporary University closure, contingency plans are to deliver course materials via Blackboard.
- If you become ill: please do not come to class. In the case of minimal absences due to illness, accommodations can be made for missed exams, quizzes, or assignments, but a medical note is required. Lecture notes should be secured from another student. In the case of excessive absences due to illness, please contact the Registrar regarding the following options: course withdrawals/incompletes, medical stop-outs, tuition refund policy/appeal, and academic exceptions.
- If I as your instructor become ill: I will communicate with you via Blackboard and e-mail if class is cancelled. Missed material will be delivered via Blackboard.

Get to know your fellow students. Someone you can rely upon if you miss class:

Name:

e-mail:

Phone:

Name:

e-mail:

Phone:

* Formatting for all writing assignments: 1.5 spacing, 12-point Times font (or similar), and 1-inch margins.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE TOPICS & READINGS

I. Urban origins, history, thought, and images	
September 15 (Tu)	Course Introduction
September 17 (Th)	Beginnings Reading: Engels; Brunn et. al Ch. 1 (skim)
September 22 (Tu)	Urban Thought Reading: Hubbard 1
September 24 (Th)	Representation Reading: Hubbard 2 (skim) PREPARE: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. be ready to share your Assignment #1 with class 2. bring examples of city 'representation' → images in film, art, writing, music
II. Urban Geography and the U.S. city	
September 29 (Tu)	IIa: Urban Evolution: The American Urban System Readings:
October 1 (Th)	Muller; Garreau; Greene and Pick; (optional) Frey et. al
October 6 (Tu)	Field Trip #1: A view from on high
October 8 (Th)	IIb: Urban economies: Socio-economic organization and change Readings: Wyly et al.
October 13 (Tu)	“Living Together” (Brookings) Jackson “Crabgrass Frontier” p 231-245 (look at rest of book)
October 15 (Th)	Creative Class: Florida; Hubbard 6 Gentrification: Lees et al.; Fishman
October 20 (Tu)	Field Trip #2: LoDo to Five Points on foot
October 22 (Th)	IIc: City/regional planning, regionalism Readings: TBD [possibilities are Jane Jacobs and Myron Orfield]
III. Urban Geography in the global context	
October 27 (Tu)	World Cities Reading: Hubbard 5
October 29 (Th)	World Urbanization Reading: Bockerhoff; C&E Ch 8
November 3 (Tu)	Cities in MDC's Small groups present selected chapters from Brunn et al. Cities in LDC's Readings: WSJ; Davis; C&E ch 10 (especially pages 124ff).
IV. Urban Futures	
November 5 (Th)	Cities, environment, and natural disasters Benton-Short and Short (2008) Chapter 4 and 6; Campanella (2006)
November 10 (Tu)	Urban sustainability and Urban Futures Benton-Short and Short (2008) Ch 12; Kotkin “Conclusion”
November 12 (Th)	Exam (open book/note)
November 17 (Tu)	PRESENTATIONS
November 19 (Th)	PRESENTATIONS
Final Exam Slot: Saturday, Nov. 21 12 -1:50 (not needed)	

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Engels, Friedrich, 1845. "The Great Towns" from *The conditions of the working class in England*. Excerpt from: *The City Reader*, R. LeGates and F. Stout, eds. London: Routledge, p. 46-55
- Brunn, S., M. Hays-Mitchell, and D. Zeigler, eds., 2008. *Cities of the world: World regional urban development*, 4th edition. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.
- Hubbard, P. 2006. *City*. New York, NY, Routledge.
- Muller, P. 2004. "Transportation and urban form: Stages in the spatial evolution of the American metropolis". In: S. Hanson and G. Giuliano, eds. *The Geography of Urban Transportation*, 3rd edition. New York: Guilford Press, Ch. 3.
- Garreau, J. 1991. *Edge City: Life on the New Frontier*. New York: Doubleday, pp. 3-15.
- Greene, R. and J. Pick, 2006. "Defining the metropolis". Chapter 3 in: *Exploring the urban community: A GIS approach*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.
- Frey, W., J. Wilson, A. Berube, and A. Singer, 2004. Tracking metropolitan America into the 21st century: A field guide to the new metropolitan and micropolitan definitions. *The Brookings Institute, Metropolitan Policy Program*. www.brookings.edu/metro
- Wyly, E., et. al, 1998. A Top 10 List of Things To Know About American Cities. *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research* 3(3): 7-32.
- "Living together: A new look at racial and ethnic integration in metropolitan neighborhoods, 1990-2000.", in *Redefining Urban and Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000*, Vol. 3. Washington, DC.: Brookings Institute Press.
- Jackson, Kenneth. 1985. "The baby boom and the age of the subdivision", Ch. 13 in: *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*. New York and London: Oxford University Press.
- Florida, R. 2003. Cities and the creative class. *City & Community* 2(1):3-19.
- Lees, L., et al. 2008. "Gentrification: Positive or Negative?" in: *Gentrification*. New York: Routledge: 195-236.
- Fishman, Robert, 2005. The fifth migration. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 71(4):357-366.
- Brocknerhoff, M. P. 2000. An Urbanizing World. *Population Bulletin*. Washington, DC, Population Ref. Bureau. 55.
- [C & E] Yeong-Hyun, K. and J.R. Short, 2008. *Cities and Economies*. London and New York: Routledge.
- [WSJ] "The rise of the underground", by Patrick Barta. *Wall Street Journal* March 14, 2009, page W1.
- Davis, M. 2004. Planet of Slums. *New Left Review* 26(March/April): 5-34.
- Benton-Short, L. and J. R. Short 2008. *Cities and nature*. London, Routledge.
- Campanella, T. J. 2006. Urban Resilience and the Recovery of New Orleans. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 72(2): 141-146.
- Kotkin, J. 2005. *The city: A global history*. New York, Modern Library.

Additional and optional readings:

Kaplan, et al. 2004. *Urban geography*. Hoboken, NJ, Wiley.
[a standard urban geography textbook]

Jacobs, Jane 1961. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Vintage Books.

Orfield, Myron, 1997. *Metropolitics: A regional agenda for community and stability*. Washington DC: Brookings Institute Press.

State of the world: Our urban future 2007. The Worldwatch Institute. New York: Norton.

Beaverstock, et al. 1999. A roster of world cities. *Cities* 16(6): 445-458.

Pacione, M. 2005. City profile: Dubai. *Cities* 22(3): 255-265.

Peck, J. 2005. Struggling with the Creative Class. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 29(4): 740-770.

Rennie Short, J., C. Breitbach, et al. 2000. From world cities to gateway cities: Extending the boundaries of globalization theory. *City* 4(3): 317-240.

Robinson, J. 2002. Global and world cities: A view from off the map. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 26(3): 531-554.