

GEO 422: Urban Geography

Lecture: TR 9:30 am - 10:45 am, Whitehall Classroom Bldg - Rm. 204

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Zupan

Phone: 859-257-6947

E-mail: sandra.zupan@uky.edu

Office: 1477 Patterson Tower

Office hours: T 11:00 am-12:00 pm, W 9:45 am-11:45 am, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the contemporary development and governance of cities. In order to understand these processes in the urban system we will explore both the structure of the city as well as multiple relationships and processes that compose and (re)shape the city. We will examine the geography of the urban system at several scales, ranging from urban redevelopment of North American cities to the experiences of neighborhoods within diverse global environments.

Our examination of the changing economic, social, political and environmental dynamics of cities will include a range of topics and concepts, including economic restructuring, urban redevelopment and planning trends, neoliberalism, governance, inequalities, contestation and alternative agendas, urban growth and informalities, sustainability, urban political ecology and environmental justice.

Two field trips will be organized in Lexington to explore the diverse, local urban geography, including downtown redevelopment trends and alternative community practices that address the issues of urban poverty, homelessness and hunger. Additionally, I most sincerely invite you to join me in community service opportunities in Lexington – let us learn, experience and become even more passionate about urban geography, while at the same time serving our local community groups and some of Lexington's neediest citizens!

Course prerequisites:

GEO 152, 160, 172, 222, or consent of instructor

COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook for this course. Instead, all required reading materials will be posted as pdf files on the [Blackboard](#) (Bb) website for this course. Therefore, for this course you must be (or become) familiar with Bb. You can access Bb via Link Blue.

Please check Bb several times each week for new postings, announcements, and assignments. You will also be able to access your grades in Bb, so you will always know where you stand in the course. Therefore, please make sure that your email address in Bb is correct.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To become familiar with contemporary socio-economic, political and environmental processes and changes in the urban system.
- To develop your geographic and analytical thinking about relationships and processes which compose, (re)shape and affect the contemporary city.
- To introduce you to research sources and analytical techniques appropriate to an examination of the contemporary urban environment.
- To explore and think critically about the diverse, local urban geography.
- To think geographically and critically about your civic role and place in the city.

COURSE EVALUATION

This course is reading and writing intensive. You are expected to come to class prepared on ALL days so that you can take best advantage of a variety of learning opportunities. To do that, you must not only read the material, but THINK about it. You are expected to take notes on your reading – for example, ask yourself “What are some key points in this reading? What is the author saying here, and what may be missing? What should I take away? What is the significance and validity of the argument and analysis presented? How does this help me better understand urban geography?”

Thus, you are expected to be an ACTIVE participant in the learning process. It is important that you work with assigned reading material BEFORE coming to class. My lectures will assume a familiarity with the readings and will not review (in detail) what you have been assigned to read. Rather, the lectures will supplement the assigned readings. Therefore, note that material that is covered in the readings but not necessarily in the lecture will appear on exams. I strongly encourage you to ASK QUESTIONS about concepts in the readings that may be unclear.

If you are coming to class prepared, but find that you are having difficulty or are falling behind, please see me right away during office hours, or make an appointment – don’t let the problem become too big to overcome, and don’t wait until it’s too late to do anything about it! Please **DO** allow us to work as a team!

Student performance in this course will be assessed as follows:

Exams (60%): There will be two midterm exams and one final exam (see schedule for exam dates). Each exam will consist of essay questions which will be designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of lecture materials and assigned readings. You will be expected to answer each question fully, justify your answers and use appropriate supporting evidence -- the best preparation for the exams will be to complete ALL readings, lectures and engage in class discussions. Exams are NOT cumulative.

Project (15%): The project involves bringing together course materials with your outside research to explore a particular urban issue or problem. For this project, you will be introduced to research sources and analytical techniques appropriate to urban geographic research, such as interviews, participant observation and document analysis. Please focus on ONE of the following local urban geography topics: shifts in urban planning and policy, downtown redevelopment, governance structures, homelessness, and urban gardening.

You will need to develop a research question that is addressable given data availability. There will be three steps in this project: 1) submit a 2-3 page (typed and double-spaced) literature review on your chosen topic, and your fieldwork plan; 2) submit a 2-3 page (typed and double-spaced) report on your fieldwork activities and collected data; and 3) submit final project. Your FINAL project should not be longer than 10-15 pages (typed and double-spaced). Please draw from course themes, incorporate and cite additional geographic literature sources, include a full reference list, and turn in a hard copy of your project at the beginning of the class (see schedule for due dates). Please note that NO LATE project submissions will be accepted.

Field-trip reflections (10%): There will be two field trips in Lexington and for each of the trips you will be required to write and submit your reflection. The first trip will focus on downtown redevelopment trends, while the second one will focus on local community groups which seek to address the issues of urban poverty, homelessness and hunger in Lexington. Your reflections will consist of three parts: a) your summary of the fieldtrip observations; b) your reaction to the trends, practices, challenges, and limitations of what you have observed during the fieldtrip; and c) brief discussion of your current role in the city and consideration of your potential future civic role in addressing the observed issue(s). Please turn in a hard copy of your reflection -- typed, double-spaced, 3-4 pages -- at the beginning of the class (see schedule for due dates). Please note that NO LATE report submissions will be accepted.

Weekly reading reports (10%): In order to facilitate better understanding of the readings, as well as encourage your informed and engaged participation in class discussions you are required to submit weekly reactions to the assigned readings every Thursday. The reports will consist of two parts: a) your detailed answers to my questions based on the readings; and b) your reaction to the readings, and any questions that you would like to discuss in further detail. Please turn in a hard copy of your report -- typed, double-spaced, 2-3 pages -- at the beginning of class on Thursdays. Please note that NO LATE report submissions will be accepted.

Participation (5%): Attendance and active participation in class is essential to succeed in this course. In class we will actively engage with the ideas presented in assigned materials and you are expected to contribute with your thoughtful and informed answers, reactions/reflections and questions.

GRADING CRITERIA

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

Exams (@3):	60%
Project:	15%
Field-trip reflections (@2):	10%
Weekly reading reports (@10):	10%
Participation:	5%
TOTAL:	100%

Guide to grades (as per UK guidelines): **A** 90-100%, **B** 80-89%, **C** 70-79%, **D** 60-69%, **E** 0-59%

*****Midterm grade:** Please note that you will be assigned a midterm grade based upon the criteria completed up until that date.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance and participation: It is your responsibility to attend ALL lectures, and keep abreast of course developments. I will record your active participation in all lectures based on which your participation grade will be assigned. If you miss a class for any reason, make sure you get notes from a classmate – I will NOT give our lecture notes to students.

Excused absences: UK defines the following as acceptable reasons for excused absences: serious illness; illness or death of family member; University-related trips; major religious holidays; other circumstances you find to be "reasonable cause for nonattendance". In any such circumstances, **students will be required to submit official/appropriate documentation.**

Students anticipating an absence for a major religious holiday are responsible for notifying the instructor in writing of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays no later than the last day for adding a class.

Make-up opportunities: When there is an excused - i.e. officially documented absence - students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work and/or exams. It is the student's responsibility to inform me of the absence preferably in advance, but no later than one week after it. Therefore, note that **no late exam/assignment will be accepted unless appropriate verification for excused absence is submitted.**

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS DUE TO DISSABILITY

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address jkarnes@email.uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty is one of the most important aspects of education at UK. Instances of cheating and plagiarism are absolutely unacceptable and constitute academic misconduct. There are significant penalties for students who engage in this activity.

Full details on the procedures and penalties for academic offences can be found on the Office of Academic Ombud Services website at <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/>. You should be familiar with these procedures and penalties.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

In this class, we must work together to create a positive learning environment, and I expect you to respect the rights of other students to learn.

Please come to class on time and stay until the end. If you must come in late or leave early, please sit near an exit and avoid distracting other students or disrupting the lecture or discussions.

Please respect your instructor and fellow students when we are speaking by NOT whispering and engaging in side conversations. Please **turn off your cell phone** and **refrain from using your laptop when you come to class**. Also, please put away any materials that are NOT relevant to this course.

I also expect you to **acknowledge and respect the diversity of participants in the class**. Much of our lecture time will include discussions. At times we will discuss controversial issues and students in the class will not always be on the same side. To ensure that all academic discourse occurs in a context characterized by respect and civility, your task is NOT to dismiss some points of view, perspectives or experiences as incorrect or irrelevant without considering them carefully and critically. The accepted level of civility does NOT include attacks of a personal nature or statements denigrating another on the basis of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, age, or national/regional origin.

You should seek to develop an understanding of the different positions on issues – including positions that differ from your own – and to challenge your own preconceptions. Even if you disagree with points of view expressed by your instructor or fellow students, as citizens of this class you – including everyone else in the class - are responsible for considering different points of view respectfully.

QUESTIONS, CONSULTATION AND OFFICE HOURS

If you have any questions or concerns about the class, please DO contact me and seek consultation and advice, and do so BEFORE the deadlines. You are especially encouraged to take full advantage of my office hours and seek consultation in regards to exams and your project. I am available for discussion during my office hours, by appointment and/or by email. I will do my best to reply to your emails within 24 hours.

My office hours are listed above – please respect them. I understand that you may have a day/time conflict with my scheduled office hours, and if that is the case, please email me for an appointment.

ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SYLLABUS AND COURSE SCHEDULE

We may make adjustments to the syllabus and schedule when necessary. We will announce all changes in class and post them to the Bb site.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

Week	Dates	Lecture topic	Readings	Due dates
INTRODUCTION TO URBAN GEOGRAPHY				
1	Jan 13	Introduction		
2	Jan 18	Urban form and industrialization	Burgess, Hoyt, Engels	
	Jan 20	Urban planning and the space of cities	Howard, Le Corbusier, Jacobs	
3	Jan 25	Suburbanization	Walker and Lewis, Jackson	
	Jan 27	Economic restructuring, urban distress and race	Soja, Wilson	
4	Feb 1	A new urban world: Informalities and shadow cities	Gilbert, Neuwirth	
	Feb 3	A new urban world: Views on moving forward	Neuwirth, UN-Habitat	Project part # 1
URBAN REDEVELOPMENT				
5	Feb 8	Cities and neoliberalism	Brenner and Theodore	
	Feb 10	The new urban policy	Swyngedouw et al.	
6	Feb 15	Gentrification	Smith, Newman and Wyly	
	Feb 17	Midterm exam 1		
7	Feb 22	The new urban planning	McCann, Purcell	
	Feb 24	Field trip: <i>Downtown Lexington Corporation</i>		
URBAN GOVERNANCE				
8	March 1	Governing the city	Harvey, Hackworth	Field trip # 1 reflection
	March 3	Partnerships and participation	Elwood, Raco	
9	March 8	<i>Catch up day on readings and project</i>		
	March 10	Community organizations and collaboration	Elwood, Ghose	Project part # 2
10		<i>No classes this week – Enjoy spring break</i>		
URBAN SUSTAINABILITY AND JUSTICE				
11	March 22	Urban sustainability agendas and justice debates	Krueger and Gibbs, Agyeman et al.	
	March 24	Environmental justice	Holifield, McCarthy	

Week	Dates	Lecture topic	Readings	Due dates
12	March 29	Midterm exam 2		
	March 31	The social conditions of unsustainability	Freidberg	
13	April 5	Inequity in privatized city services	Njeru, Neuwirth	
	April 7	<i>Catch up day on readings and project</i>		
CONTESTATION AND ALTERNATIVE URBAN AGENDAS				
14	April 12	Contesting urban futures	Leitner et al., Mayer	Final project
	April 14	No class (<i>Sandra out of town for conference</i>) - watch on your own: "Rats to Roses"	Sierra Club Chronicles	
15	April 19	Homelessness	Mitchell	
	April 21	Field trip: <i>Catholic Action Center</i>		
16	April 26	Urban redevelopment and community benefits	Parks and Warren	
	April 28	Course conclusion		Field trip # 2 reflection
	May 3	Final exam 8:00 am – 10:00 am		

LIST OF READINGS AVAILABLE IN Bb

Week 1

No readings

Week 2

Burgess, E. (1925). The growth of the city: An introduction to a research project. Excerpts from "The City", in *The Urban Geography Reader*, p. 19-27.

Hoyt, H. (1939). The pattern of movement of residential rental neighborhoods. Excerpts from "The Structure and Growth of Residential Neighborhoods in American Cities", in *The Urban Geography Reader*, p. 28-36.

Engels, F. (1844). The Great Towns. Excerpts from "The Condition of the Working Class in England", in *The City Reader*, p. 50-58.

Howard, E. (1898). Author's introduction and town-country magnet. Excerpts from "Garden Cities of To-morrow", in *The City Reader*, p. 314-321.

Le Corbusier (1929). A contemporary city. Excerpts from "The City of Tomorrow and its Planning", in *The City Reader*, p. 322-330.

Jacobs, J. (1961). The uses of sidewalks: Safety. Excerpts from "The Death and Life of Great American Cities", in *The City Reader*, p. 98-102.

Week 3

Walker, R. and **R. Lewis** (2001). Beyond the Crabgrass Frontier: Industry and the spread of North American cities, 1850-1950. From *Journal of Historical Geography*, in *The Urban Geography Reader*, p. 121-127.

Jackson, K. (1984). Federal Subsidy and the Suburban Dream: How Washington changed the American Housing Market, in *The Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States*, p. 190-218.

Soja, E. (1989). Taking Los Angeles apart: Towards a postmodern geography. Excerpts from "Postmodern geographies: The Reassertion of Space and Critical Social Theory", in *The City Reader*, p. 166-177.

Wilson, W. J. (1996). From institutional to jobless ghettos. Excerpts from "When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor", in *The City Reader*, p. 110-119.

Week 4

Gilbert, A. (2004). "Love in the time of enhanced capital flows: Reflections on the links between liberalization and informality", in *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America and South Asia*, Ch. 2, p. 33-65.

Neuwirth, R. (2005). "Rio de Janeiro: City without Titles", "The Habitat Fantasy" and "The Cities of Tomorrow", in *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, A New Urban World*, Ch. 1, 7 and 10, p. 25-66, 241-249, 309-315.

UN-Habitat (2010). State of the world's cities 2010/2011 – Cities for all: Bridging the urban divide, p. 120-165. Available at <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2917>

Week 5

Brenner, N. and Theodore, N. (2002). Cities and the geographies of 'actually existing neoliberalism'. *Antipode* 34 (3): 349-379.

Swyngedouw, E., Moulaert, F., and A. Rodriguez (2002). Neoliberal urbanization in Europe: Large-scale urban development projects and the new urban policy. *Antipode* 34: 542-577.

Week 6

Smith, N. (2005). New Globalism, new urbanism: Gentrification as global urban strategy. *Antipode* 34(3): 427-450.

Newman, K. and E. Wily (2006). The right to stay put, revisited: Gentrification and resistance to displacement in New York City. *Urban Studies* 43 (1): 23-57.

Week 7

McCann, E. (2001). Collaborative visioning or urban planning as therapy? The politics of public-private policy making. *Professional Geographer* 53 (2): 207-218.

Purcell, M. (2008). "On the ground in Seattle and Los Angeles", in *Recapturing democracy: Neoliberalization and the struggle for urban futures*, Ch. 4, read p. 109-155.

Week 8

Harvey, D. (1989). From managerialism to entrepreneurialism: The transformation in urban governance in late capitalism. *Geografiska Annaler* 71B (1): 3-17.

Hackworth, J. (2006). "Governing the neoliberal city", in *The Neoliberal City: Governance, Ideology and Development in American Urbanism*, Part 1, p. 15-61.

Elwood, S. (2004). Partnerships and participation: Reconfiguring urban governance in different state contexts. *Urban Geography* 25: 755-770.

Raco, M. (2000). Assessing community participation in local economic development – lessons for the new urban policy. *Political Geography* 19: 573-599.

Week 9

Elwood, S. (2002). Neighborhood revitalization through 'collaboration': Assessing the implications of neoliberal urban policy at the grassroots. *GeoJournal* 58: 121-130.

Ghose, R. (2005). The complexities of citizen participation through collaborative governance. *Space and Polity* 1: 61-75.

Week 10

No readings - Spring break

Week 11

Krueger, R. and **D. Gibbs** (2007). "Introduction: Problematizing the politics of sustainability", in *The Sustainable Development Paradox: Urban Political Economy in the United States and Europe*, Ch. 1, p. 1-11.

Agyeman, J., Bullard, R. and **B. Evans** (2002). Exploring the nexus: Bringing together sustainability, environmental justice and equity. *Space and Polity* 6 (1): 77-90.

Holifield, R. (2001). Defining environmental justice and environmental racism. *Urban Geography* 22 (1): 78-90.

McCarthy, L. (2006). In the dark about brownfields. *Papers of the Applied Geography Conferences* 29: 292-301.

Week 12

Freidberg, S.E. (2001). Gardening on the edge: The social conditions of unsustainability on an African urban periphery. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 91 (2): 349-369.

Week 13

Njeru, J. (2006). The urban political ecology of plastic bag waste problem in Nairobi, Kenya. *Geoforum* 37 (6): 1046-1058.

Neuwirth, R. (2005). "Nairobi: The squatter control", in *Shadow Cities: A Billion Squatters, A New Urban World*, Ch. 2, p. 67-99.

Week 14

Leitner, H., Peck, J. and **E. Sheppard** (2007). "Contesting urban futures: Decentering neoliberalism", in *Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers*, p. 1-25.

Mayer, M. (2007). "Contesting the neoliberalization of urban governance", in *Contesting Neoliberalism: Urban Frontiers*, p. 90-115.

Sierra Club Chronicles. "Rats to Roses". Available at, <http://www.sierraclub.org/scp/chronicles/episode7.aspx>

Week 15

Mitchell, D. (2003). "The annihilation of space by law: Anti-homeless laws and the shrinking landscape of rights" and "No right to the city: Anti-homeless campaigns, public space zoning and the problem of necessity", in *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*, Ch. 5 & 6, p. 161-226.

Week 16

Parks, V. and **D. Warren** (2009). The politics and practice of economic justice: Community benefits agreements as tactic of the new accountable development movement. *Journal of Community Practice* 17: 88-106.