

GEOGRAPHY 324

Urban Geography: Internal City Patterns

Spring 2011
(T Th 9:30 – 10:45, Gunter Hall 204)

Catalog Description:

GEOG 324. Urban Geography: Internal City Patterns. 3 cr.

Introduction to urban North American land use and social activities. Theories of internal urban patterns, present patterns, and implications for the future. Housing patterns, commercial and industrial activities, urban transportation, political fragmentation, and the potential role of urban planners. Spring. Prerequisite: GEOG 104, or permission of instructor.

Institutional Learning Goals in this Course:

1. Liberal Knowledge and Skills of Inquiry, Critical Thinking, and Synthesis: In this course, students will utilize empirical data, conduct their own analysis, and prepare written synthesis as appropriate. In addition, selection of empirical data for a term project will require evaluation of different indicators, development of a testable hypothesis, and drawing appropriate conclusions.
2. Core Skills: While mastering the content oriented objectives below, students will also find improvement in their written, oral, and cartographic communication skills. Students will also examine statistical tables and be asked to draw conclusions from them. Problem solving skills will be addressed in role playing situations, through evaluation of government policies, and in examining theoretical work of selected geographers. Students will construct maps and charts.
3. Acquisition and Application of Specialized Knowledge: Selected concepts introduced in this course provide foundation knowledge for upper level geography courses where GEOG 104/114 has been identified as the prerequisite.
4. Values and Social Responsibility: Students will be frequently confronted with alternative value systems of diverse cultures in the urban region. Implications for decision-making within and between cultures will be developed. Selection of a place a residence typically involves consideration of class, ethnicity, and lifestyle. Several topics present the opportunity to consider the NIMBY or LULU approach to urban living (Not In My Back Yard/ Locally Unwanted Land Use).
5. Appreciation of Cultural Identities: This course serves to introduce students to cultural diversity through the approach of contemporary urban geography. Language, religion, migrant status, race, and ethnicity are discussed along with other lifestyle and cultural differences.

Specific Course Objectives:

- At the conclusion of the course, all students should be able to:
1. Utilize data from the United States census to test a hypothesis.
 2. Describe both residential and nonresidential land use patterns in a typical North American cities and provide a theoretical explanation for the land use patterns.
 3. Describe the level and character of residential segregation in North American cities, and evaluate efforts to produce integrated neighborhoods.
 4. Explain the impact of migration on cities in terms of diversity and economic impact,

- including trends in the last decade.
5. Illustrate the process of filtering and gentrification in housing, and describe the differential impacts on social groups.
 6. Explain how housing in the United States is subsidized for various social groups, and the role of publicly owned housing.
 7. Describe the changes facing the Central Business District and efforts at revitalization planning.
 8. Identify major issues facing North American cities today.

Instructor: Dr. H.W. Bullamore
 234 Gunter, 687-4413 (voice mail available)
 e-mail: hbullamore@frostburg.edu
 Office Hours: 9:00 - 10:00 M, W, and F, and 11:00 – 12:00 Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment

Text: David Kaplan, James Wheeler, and Steven Holloway, Urban Geography, Second Edition, 2009.
 Additional readings may be assigned.

Evaluation:

Points: total 460 points

| | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------|
| 100 | First Midterm (Mar 3) | Final Grades: |
| 100 | Second Midterm (Apr 14) | A: 90% or more (414 pts) |
| 100 | Final Exam (11:15 am, Thursday, May 12) | B: 80%-89% (368 pts) |
| 100 | Census Project (due May 5) | C: 67%-79% (308 pts) |
| 20 | Field Trip (Apr 7) | D: 58%-66% (267 pts) |
| 20 | Homework: Your Neighborhood (Feb 24) | F: less than 58 % |
| 20 | Homework: Housing Search (Mar 31) | FX: if miss any exam/project |
| 20 | Homework: Urban Problems (May 3) | No NC or CS grades allowed |

All **three exams** will be primarily short answer/essay. A few objective (multiple choice and place location) questions will be included. Exams include both theoretical and applied essays.

Each student must complete a **census profile** of an U.S. metropolitan area. Each report shall include at least two census tract based data maps of the entire metropolitan area. Text is to be between 2,000 and 3,000 words. See detailed guidelines and scoring rubric are posted on Blackboard.

Three **short homework** assignments will require a brief report on the activity. Specific guidelines for each assignment are on Blackboard. Submission by email is encouraged.

The **field trip** will be held Thursday, April 7. The class will journey to the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania metropolitan region. This is intended to be an enjoyable, observation-oriented trip. This will be an all day trip leaving at 7:15 a.m. and returning in the late afternoon. This is an optional trip. I will provide documentation for other instructors as required. Field trip attendees will earn 20 bonus points.

Specific field trip objectives include:

1. University and high tech centers as growth engines

2. Allegheny neighborhood renewal/gentrification
3. Gold Triangle/CBD revitalization
4. East European ethnic neighborhood
5. Industrial landscape of steel and brownfields

Policies:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend each class. A student with **six or more absences** (for any reason) will suffer loss of a letter grade.

Academic honesty is expected in all matters relating to this course. Academic dishonesty on exams or the census project will lead to course failure. The Department of Geography Plagiarism policy (on Blackboard for this course) applies to all written work submitted including the project and homework assignments.

Disruptive behavior in class or on the field trip will not be tolerated. Since cell phones and pages may be disruptive, they should be turned off or set to silent during class. Please consult the Pathfinder.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Part I: Social Landscapes and Housing

| | | | |
|-----|----|---|----------------|
| Jan | 25 | Introduction: Approaches to Urban Geography | Chap. 1 |
| Jan | 27 | Dynamic Nature of Urban Places | |
| Feb | 1 | Communities | Chap. 8 |
| Feb | 3 | Traditional Models of Urban Spatial Structure | |
| Feb | 8 | Contemporary Complex Models | |
| Feb | 10 | Urban Morphology Principles | |
| Feb | 15 | Housing Markets in the United States | Chap. 9 |
| Feb | 17 | In the Library | |
| Feb | 22 | Residential Mobility | |
| Feb | 24 | Housing Search | Homework 1 due |
| Mar | 1 | Urban Development and Revitalization | |
| Mar | 3 | Exam 1 | |

Part II: Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Change

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|----------------------------|
| Mar | 8 | Urban Population Diversity | Chap.10 |
| Mar | 10 | Residential Segregation and Ghetto Development | |
| Mar | 15 | Urban Poverty | |
| Mar | 17 | Revitalization | |
| Mar | 29 | Segregation in Urban America | |
| Mar | 31 | Immigration and Recent Aspects of Urban Change | Chap.11, Homework 2 due |
| Apr | 5 | Neighborhoods and Immigrant Communities | |
| Apr | 7 | Class Field Trip | |
| Apr | 12 | Immigration and Suburban Diversity | |
| Apr | 14 | Exam II | |

Part III: Enhancing Urban Livability

| | | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Apr | 19 | Urban Government | Chap.12 |
| Apr | 21 | Metropolitan Fragmentation | |
| Apr | 26 | Opportunities for Change | |
| Apr | 28 | Urban Planning | Chap.13 |
| May | 3 | Urban Quality of Life | Homework 3 due |
| May | 5 | Future Trends in Urban Geography | Census project due |
| May | 10 | American Cities | |

Exam III: Final Exam Scheduled Time (11:15 am, Thursday, May 12)