

Geography 325
Urban Geography: Metropolitan Systems
Fall 2003
(9:30 – 10:45 am, TR, GU 204)

Course Objectives:

This course explores the linkages among cities, and the linkages of cities to their surrounding regions. Students will explore models of urban location and development, the impact of transportation on city form, and notions of urban markets and hierarchies. In addition, the course considers urbanization trends outside of North America.

Catalog Description:

Introduction to urban areas and their distribution. Locational characteristics of cities as centers of manufacturing, distribution and services. Historic growth patterns and planning strategies for future development. Prerequisite: GEOG 104 (or 114) or permission of instructor.

Instructor:

Dr. H. W. Bullamore
Office: 234 Gunter Hall
Office Phone: 301-687-4413 (voice mail available)
Office Hours: 11:00 – 12:00 M-F
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Text:

Michael Pacione, Urban Geography: A Global Perspective, Routledge, 2001.
Additional readings may be assigned.

Evaluation:

100 First Midterm	Course Grades:
100 Second Midterm	A 90+ % (360-400 points)
100 Individual Project	B 80+ % (320-359 points)
100 Final Exam (8:00 am, Dec 15)	C 67+ % (268-319 points)
20 Field Trip	D 58+ % (232-267 points)
400 Total points	

Exams will include fifteen multiple choice questions, four concept identification items, place location items, and two short answer paragraph essay questions. There

will be some choice in the selection of concepts and essay questions. The Final Exam is a third unit exam and is not a comprehensive exam.

The project for this course will be individually designed by the student, and approved by the instructor before work begins on the project. The project will produce a written paper, with appropriate documentation and professional presentation utilizing field work and statistical data sources. Appropriate documentation means a bibliography with professional citations in the text of the paper as needed. The minimum bibliography is eight items (but this may include your text and your statistical data sources). Internet sources may serve as bibliographic items. Professional presentation means a title page, abstract, table of contents, text with table and maps, and bibliography, neatly presented with due care for spelling and grammatical matters. The complete report should result in at least a twenty page report with a text of at least twelve pages. Field work means that you have visited the site of your research and gathered information in a systematic manner: structured observation or interview would be most common. Statistical data means data from a consistent source—such as government reports—that allows you to describe your topic in a consistent and precise manner. The source may be census reports, county business patterns, local reports, or online sources.

The specific topic of the project is your choice. The most successful project will try to demonstrate or empirically test the ideas of this course. For example: you might look at the retail structure of a group of towns to show what is available in small towns or to show how a retail hierarchy works. Alternatively, you could try to prove that Cumberland is a great place to live. You could investigate travel patterns of shoppers, or try to identify the market area of a shopping area. Questions related to automobile use, or mass transit could be considered as well.

The project has three required steps: Proposal (5 points): A one paragraph proposal is due September 30. It should identify the purpose of the project and your statistical data source. Rough Draft (10 points): A more or less complete draft of the paper text is due December 4. Table of Contents, title page, abstract, and illustrations are not required. Final Version (85 points): The complete version is due December 11.

There will be an optional field trip for the course on Thursday, October 2, 2003. The all day trip will visit a number of urban places in the Washington region and assess their economic and social health and their role on the community. The trip is optional, but students who participate will receive 20 points.

Policies:

Students are expected to attend each class. Excessive absence may affect course grade.

Academic honesty is expected in all matters related to this course. Please consult the Pathfinder for a definition of aspects of dishonesty. Academic dishonesty on any exam or the project will lead to course failure.

Disruption of class or any behavior which interferes with an effective learning environment will not be tolerated, and will result in expulsion from the classroom. Please consult the Pathfinder. Please turn off or silence cell phones and pagers in class.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Part I: Principles of Urban Geography

Sept 2	Issues for Urban Geography	Chp 1
Sept 4	Globalization and Urbanization: 20 th Century Trends	
Sept 9	Defining Urban Places	Chp 2
Sept 11	Trends in Urban Geography	
Sept 16	The First Cities: Urban Hearths	Chp 3
Sept 18	Pre-industrial and Urban-Industrial Cities	
Sept 23	Urbanization, Urban Growth, and Urbanism	Chp 4
Sept 25	Mega Cities and Primate Cities	
Sept 30	Stages of Urban System Development	Chp 5
Oct 2	No class: Field Trip to Washington area	
Oct 7	Regional Perspectives: Less Developed Regions	
Oct 9	Midterm Exam I	

Part II: Theoretical Approaches

Oct 14	City System and City Functions	Chp 6
Oct 16	Central Place Theory	
Oct 21	Applications of Central Place Theory	
Oct 23	Megalopolis: Global Trends	
Oct 28	Transportation and Urban Development	Chp 13
Oct 30	Transportation Planning	
Nov 4	Industrialization and Decentralization	Chp 14
Nov 6	Global Urban Systems: Gravity Models	
Nov 11	Regional Development Theory	
Nov 13	Midterm Exam II	

Part III: Comparative Urbanization

Nov 18	Urbanization and Development	Chp 21
Nov 20	Rural to Urban Migration	Chp 23
Nov 25	Planning in India	

Dec 2	Urban Labor Markets	Chp 24
Dec 4	Squatter Settlements: Urban Housing Strategies	Chp 25
Dec 9	Urban Environmental Problems	Chp 26
Dec 11	Transportation Needs and Problems	Chp 28

Final Exam , Monday, December 15, 8:00 – 10:30