

San José State University
Department of Geography and Global Studies
GEOG 105: Urban Geography, Section 49202
Fall Semester, 2016

Instructor:	Kathrine Richardson
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Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 1-3
Class Days/Time:	T 3:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m.
Classroom:	Clark Hall 224
Prerequisites:	None

Course Description

The course focuses on spatial patterns in the urban environment: city function and morphology; population patterns and functional zonation; and analysis of recent changes. Specifically, this course provides an introduction to the theories of urban geography, and its processes, change, and development. The course begins with the theories of the origins, growth and development of cities. The course then moves onto exploring the contemporary economic functions of cities, spatial structure, and socio-cultural characteristics. Now, with an understanding of urban fundamentals, we then examine existing urban debates and public policy controversies. Throughout the course, we will place special emphasis on the interplay between established or ‘classical’ theories in an effort to explore new processes, problems, and opportunities that are emerging within the urban. It is my hope that by the end of this course, you will have a greater understanding of (and be able to articulate) a variety of the many different theories and fundamental ideas that form the foundations as to what we call ‘urban processes’ or ‘urban development’. I also anticipate that you will have a greater grasp of some of the many different new processes, problems and opportunities that are contributing to why urban geography is an ever changing and dynamic area of study and life.

Course Learning Outcomes

CLO 1. By the end of this course, a student should be able to discuss and critique the many theories and ideas that pertain to the notion of “urban geography”. This will be achieved through in class discussions; the first writing assignment; and writing components within the midterm.

CLO 2. By the end of this course, a student should be able to discuss and critique how the rise of industrialization led to the “city making process” throughout Europe and the newly established United States. This will be achieved through in class writing assignments and discussions and the longer essay components within the midterm.

CLO 3. By the end of this course, a student should be able to research, analyze, and present how urban geography contributes to the contemporary urbanization processes found in a variety of cities in North America. This will be achieved through the in class writing assignments and discussion, writing components within the final exam, and the group research project and presentation.

CLO 4. Discuss and critique how the urban geography helps to achieve greater equality but also inequality through the lens of race, ethnicity, gender, and class when considering urban public policy, urban planning, and community/citizen action. This will be achieved through in class discussion and writing assignments, the field trip; and short and long essay responses on the final exam.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities as described in this syllabus.

Required Text/Readings:

Paul Knox and Linda McCarthy. (2012) *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. Third Edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall. ISBN 13:978-0-321-73643-7. You can find it online through Amazon.com or at the Spartan Bookstore.

Course Assignments, Group Research Paper, In-Class Discussion, and Exams:

I believe that teaching effectively requires discussion and interaction within the class as well as hands-on learning-by-doing activities. As a result, I've tried to structure the course requirements and grade distribution accordingly. There are two exams – a midterm and final – and one presentation session, which is associated with a group project. The rest are weekly discussion questions from the readings that should be done prior to coming to class on the day of assigned discussion.

1st Assignment – Theories of Urbanization (Course Learning Objective 1) [15%]-In the first assignment I want you to provide a short summary (2-3 pages double space, 12 point font) of the some of the different 'classical' theories that contribute to how we see and understand the urban, commenting on whether or not you think that these theories are still relevant today, and possibly what you think are some new ways to see and understand urban processes and development. I will provide a more detailed assignment when we begin to cover Chapter 3 of the text. Date due: **Tuesday, October 11.**

Group Term Project “Contemporary Urbanization Topic/Issue” (Course Learning Objective 3) [20% paper + 5% presentation= 25% total] -

Along with three or four other students (maximum group size = 4), I want you to choose an on-going and contemporary issue in development, and using both academic literature, and especially information taken from current newspapers, magazines, films, TV, and/or video, prepare an in-class presentation about it for the end of term, as well as a collective written report that should be no longer than 13-15 pages double spaced/12point font (excluding figures, tables, references). The issue you choose must be current, and there should be sufficient coverage about it that it can be made into a collective term paper. For the group project, you will need to select a contemporary urbanization issue. The project also entails undertaking a 15-20 minutes presentation about it during the last 2 weeks of the term, and handing in your paper at the end of the last class.

Examples of topics might include: the current housing crisis in the United States; the challenge of connecting the suburban to the urban via mass public transportation; urban agriculture in Cuba; the role of immigrants in an urban community; the effectiveness of LEEDs buildings and the urban environment; the rise of the “Creative City”; musical “scenes” and the urban (e.g. Seattle and the Grunge scene of the 1990s); the restoration of the

“wild” into the urban (e.g. revitalization of riparian systems, urban forests, and so on). The above are just examples of potential topics, but I hope these examples give you some ideas. I think the topics that are most likely to work well will be current and specific. Don’t think that you have to do a project on very large issues like, say, gentrification (although you can if you want). It can be on something on a relatively smaller scale, for example, on a single issue within a certain urban area.

By the fourth week of the class (September 20th) I will make sure that everyone is signed up in a group. It will be your responsibility to meet with other members of your group to decide on a project topic. On **Tuesday, October 4**, I need a 200 word abstract of your proposed group project with 10 bibliographical references. Final presentations will be during the last week of class. Presentations should be 15-20 minutes long. Each presentation will be marked out of 5% (which is part of the total group mark of 25%).

The written version of the group project is due on **Tuesday, December 6**. There is a lateness penalty of one letter mark per working day (e.g. C+ becomes C when late by one day). Projects should be about 3000 - 3500 words long (excluding bibliography, footnotes, and tables). Everyone undertaking a given project will receive the same grade (worth 20% of the final grade).

Exams

1. *Mid-term exam* (Course Learning Objective 1 and 2) [20%] – Take-Home exam will be distributed on **Tuesday, October 18 and will be due in class on Tuesday, October 25**. Questions will be topic specific and require detailed knowledge of a particular lecture area. Part A will be composed of short answer-type questions, e.g. definitions and short answers. Part B. will be an essay-type question. There will be questions on the lecture material, and the readings, as well as some questions that are about both a combination of the readings and the lecture material.

2. *Final exam* (Course Learning Objective 3 and 4) [20%] – The final exam will take place on **Tuesday, December 20 from 2:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** in Clark Hall 224. Again, you will answer two sets of exam questions from four on the paper. The exam covers only material (e.g. assigned readings) from the second half of the course, and the exam questions are structured in the same way as the mid-term.

In-Class Discussion/Exercises and THE FIELD TRIP (Course Learning Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4) [20%] – These are short individual or group exercises, games and other learning activities that will be given in class, and you will be expected to spend portions of your hybrid learning time completing the exercise. You will bring the completed assignment to class on a determined Thursday for in-class group discussion. At least half of our in class experience will be devoted to seat work, group discussion and the rest of the time for class-level presentations, discussions and summarization.

I am also planning to take the class on one to two field trips to various neighborhoods in San Jose and possibly San Francisco. I will provide more information on this later in the term.

My Web Page: I post all of my PowerPoint lectures and related reading materials and assignments on my website, so if you don’t jot something down in class, the notes are online. Please, do not rely on the website to catch everything that I say in class. This is only a baseline. I will mention many different things in class that are not on the PowerPoint lectures. Thus, it is extremely important for you to attend class regularly and participate in the lectures and discussions that we have in class.

So, in order to access my website, go to <http://www.sjsu.edu/people>, and then type in "Richardson". Three people's names should pop up with the last name of “Richardson”. Click on my name (Kathrine Richardson).

My home page should then come up. Once you are at my home page, you will see a picture of me. Above my photo are two options, HOME and COURSES. Click on COURSES. This will then take you to a page with my Geography 105 and other course materials. Click on Geography 105, and this should take you to the Power Point presentations and other class related online materials. If you are having difficulties accessing my website, please come by during my office hours, and I can help you with it.

Grading Policy

Overall graded course requirements total 100 points. There is no “curve” for this course. Pluses and minuses are given. You receive the grade you earn through your own work and the effort you put into the class. Course grades will be determined using the following point values:

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Possible Points</u>
Assignment 1	15
Midterm Exam	20
Exercises/Participation	20
Group Paper	20
Presentation	5
Final Exam	20
TOTAL	100

Grade Scale

Percent	Letter Grade	Percent	Letter Grade
95-100	A	77-79	C+
90-94	A-	74-76	C
87-89	B+	70-73	C-
84-86	B	60-69	D
80-83	B-	<60	F

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>”

Table 1 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (The Instructor has the right to change or alter the proposed schedule with fair notice to class.)	
1	8/30	Course Introduction	xi – Chapter 1
2	9/6	Urbanization and the origins of cities	Chapter 1 & Chapter 2
3	9/13	The origins of cities and early urban empires	Chapter 2
4	9/20	Rise of European cities and Urban Life Project Sign-up	Chapter 2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines (The Instructor has the right to change or alter the proposed schedule with fair notice to class.)
5	9/27	Defining the Urban System: Disciplines, theories, methods, and data Chapter 3 Milton Hershey Documentary
6	10/4	The industrial city in Europe and North America Chapter 3 *Group 200 word abstract due on Thursday, October 9
7	10/11	Urbanization in the U.S. Chapter 4 * 1st Assignment Due on Tuesday, October 11
8	10/18	Urbanization in the U.S. Chapter 4 The End of Suburbia online documentary *Take-home midterm exam distributed today.
9	10/25	Urbanization in the Developed World Chapter 4 Detropia Documentary *Take-Home Midterm due in class today.
10	11/1	The city as a real-estate growth machine Chapter 8
11	11/8	Geographies of Gentrification Chapter 12 Brooklyn Matters (in class DVD)
12	11/15	The city as social space; Chapter 12 new urban forms new urban models
13	11/22	Field Trip
15	11/29	Housing markets and neighborhood change, Geographies of gentrification and homelessness Poverty, Racism, and the urban “underclass” Chapter 9 & Chapter 12
16	12/6	Group Presentations *Group papers due at the end of class
Final Exam	12/20	Final Exam: Tuesday, December 20 2:45 pm-5:00 pm

Citation Style

It is important to properly cite any references you use in your assignments. I would suggest using Kate Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th edition (University of Chicago Press, 2007, ISBN-10: 0-226-82336-9). Copies are available in the SJSU King Library. Additionally, the book is relatively inexpensive, and you may wish to purchase a copy. Please note that Turabian’s book describes two systems for referencing materials: (1) “notes” (footnotes or endnotes), plus a corresponding bibliography, and (2) in-text parenthetical references, plus a corresponding reference list. In this class, students should use in-text parenthetical references.