

# URBDP 200: INTRODUCTION TO URBANIZATION

Spring 2015

## Professor:

Mark Purcell  
Gould 410F  
[mpurcell@uw.edu](mailto:mpurcell@uw.edu)

## Office Hours:

By appointment—  
just email me or see me before/after class

## Class meeting time and place:

MWF 10:30-11:20  
Music 126

## Teaching Assistants:

Cheryl Gilge: [gilge@uw.edu](mailto:gilge@uw.edu)  
Susmita Rishi: [srishi@uw.edu](mailto:srishi@uw.edu)  
Evan Carver: [evanhc@uw.edu](mailto:evanhc@uw.edu)

## Sections are on Thursdays:

AA: 10:30-11:20, Gould 100  
AB: 10:30-11:20, Gould 142  
AC: 10:30-11:20, Gould 440  
AD: 11:30-12:20, Gould 102  
AE: 11:30-12:20, Gould 142  
AF: 11:30-12:20, Gould 440



## Course Website:

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/968933>

*“...I am a prisoner of a gaudy and unlivable present, where all forms of human society have reached an extreme of their cycle, and there is no imagining what new forms they may assume. And I hear, from your voice, the invisible reasons that make cities live, through which perhaps, once dead, they will come to life again.”*

*--Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities*

## Introduction

This course introduces you to cities. What are cities? Where do they come from? How do they work? In Calvino’s words, what are the “invisible reasons that make cities live”? And,

crucially, how can cities be *better* than they are today? In investigating these questions, we will explore the spatial, economic, cultural, political, and social aspects of cities, as well as the relations among them. We will also examine case studies drawn from both the global North and South that will help us see how the ideas we explore are being worked out in actual practice. Class sessions will mostly involve (interactive) lectures. Outside class, the primary work will be reading selected texts and writing responses. There will also be a midterm and a final exam. Lastly, in section, you will explore course ideas through a hands-on studio.

## **Learning Goals**

- Develop an understanding of how cities work and how they change, including economic, political, cultural, and social processes
- Develop critical literacy in key debates about the city and its future
- Explore and evaluate possible alternatives to the current city
- Understand global similarities and differences in how cities work

## **Student Responsibilities**

1. Regular attendance and active engagement in class (i.e. listening, contributing to the discussion, taking good notes)
2. Arrive at class on time
3. Complete the reading before the class in which we examine it
4. Complete all assignments on time and ensure that your work meets a high standard. No late work will be accepted.
5. Participate actively and effectively in section

## **Readings**

- Course Reader, available at Rams Copy Center, 4144 University Way NE, (206) 632-6630
- Supplemental reading and viewing materials may be distributed during quarter

## Assessment

Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance on the following:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Participation in lecture	10	Every lecture
Reading Assignments	25	Most classes
Midterm Exam	20	May 1
Final Exam	20	June 8
Section	25	Thursdays

## Academic honesty

The University takes the offenses of cheating and plagiarism very seriously, and so do I. Cheating is using the work of others to improve your work. Plagiarism is representing the work of others as your own without giving appropriate credit. If you are unsure what is OK or not OK, make sure to ask!

## Class Schedule

Week 1	
Monday March 30	Orientation, overview of class, introductions, syllabus <u>Readings</u> : None <u>Assignments Due</u> : None
Wednesday April 1	What is a city? <u>Readings</u> : Mumford, "What is a city?" <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #1
Friday April 3	What is urbanization? <u>Readings</u> : Davis, "The urbanization of the human population" <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #2

Week 2	
Monday April 6	What does it mean to be urban? <u>Readings:</u> Wirth, “Urbanism as a way of life” <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #3
Wednesday April 8	Two experiences of urbanization—North and South <u>Readings:</u> none <u>Assignments Due:</u> none
Friday April 10	Origins of cities: why do humans cluster? <u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i> , 26-46 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #4
Week 3	
Monday April 13	Origins of cities: why do humans cluster? <u>Readings:</u> Childe, “The urban revolution” <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #5
Wednesday April 15	North: How have cities developed over time? Ancient, Medieval, Commercial, and Industrial Cities <u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i> , pp. 46-60 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #6
Friday April 17	North: How have cities developed over time? Ancient, Medieval, Commercial, and Industrial Cities <u>Readings:</u> Engels, “The great towns” <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #7

Week 4	
Monday April 20	North: How have cities developed over time? Suburbanization, Sprawl <u>Readings</u> : Knox, <i>Urbanization</i> , Chapter 6 <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #8
Wednesday April 22	North: How have cities developed over time? Suburbanization, Sprawl <u>Readings</u> : None <u>Assignments Due</u> : None
Friday April 24	North: How do cities grow? Economic Agglomeration, Deindustrialization, Globalization <u>Readings</u> : Archer, Chapter 5 <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #9
Week 5	
Monday April 27	North: How do cities grow? Economic Agglomeration, Deindustrialization, Globalization <u>Readings</u> : None <u>Assignments Due</u> : None
Wednesday April 29	North: How do cities grow? Growth Machines <u>Readings</u> : Logan and Molotch, "Urban fortunes" <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #10
Friday May 1	<b><i>Midterm Exam</i></b>
Week 6	
Monday May 4	North: How do cities sort out their population? Housing <u>Readings</u> : Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i> , Chapter 9 <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #11

Wednesday May 6	North: How do cities sort out their population? Segregation <u>Readings:</u> Massey and Denton, “The continuing causes of segregation” Optional: Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i> , Chapter 10 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #12
Friday May 8	North: How do cities sort out their population? Gentrification <u>Readings:</u> Lees, Slater, and Wyly, <i>Gentrification</i> , Chapter 1 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #13
Week 7	
Monday May 11	North: How do cities sort out their population? Homelessness <u>Readings:</u> Knox and McCarthy, <i>Urbanization</i> , pp. 392-397 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #14
Wednesday May 13	North: Planning and Visions of the Good City—Howard, Le Corbusier <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Howard, “Author’s introduction” and “The town-country magnet”</li> <li>• Le Corbusier, “A contemporary city”</li> <li>• Optional: Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, selection from Chapter 13</li> </ul> <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #15
Friday May 15	North: Planning and Visions of the Good City—New Urbanism <u>Readings:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacobs, “The uses of sidewalks: safety”</li> <li>• “Charter of the New Urbanism”</li> </ul> <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading Assignment #16
Week 8	
Monday May 18	South: Trading Centers and Colonialism <u>Readings:</u> Knox, <i>Urbanization</i> , Chapter 7 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #17

Wednesday May 20	South: Trading Centers and Colonialism <u>Readings</u> : None <u>Assignments Due</u> : None
Friday May 22	South: Industrialization in East Asian Cities <u>Readings</u> : Smith, “Cities in Pacific Asia” <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #18
Week 9	
Monday May 25	<b><i>No Class: Memorial Day</i></b>
Wednesday May 27	South: Urbanization, Migration, and Informal Settlements <u>Readings</u> : Davis, <i>Planet of Slums</i> , Chapters 1 and 2 <u>Assignments Due</u> : Reading assignment #19
Friday May 29	South: Urbanization, Migration, and Informal Settlements <u>Readings</u> : None <u>Assignments Due</u> : None
Week 10	
Monday June 1	South: African Cities—Jesse McClelland <u>Readings</u> : To be distributed <u>Assignments Due</u> : TBA
Wednesday June 3	South: Chinese Cities—Daniel Abramson <u>Readings</u> : To be distributed <u>Assignments Due</u> : TBA
Friday June 5	South: Indian Cities—Susmita Rishi <u>Readings</u> : To be distributed <u>Assignments Due</u> : TBA

Exam Week	
Monday June 8 8:30-10:20am	<b><i>Final Exam</i></b>



## **PARTICIPATION**

While the main part of the course will be mostly lecture format, the lectures will often be interactive. Your attendance and participation in lecture is essential, both for your own understanding of the course material and for the quality of the lectures. To do well in the class it is essential to attend lectures and participate effectively. Here's how to do so: do the reading, do the reading assignment, come to class on time, and be interested and engaged in what is going on. If you do that, things will go well. You will learn a lot, and you will enjoy yourself. If you are engaged and active in class, questions and comments will occur to you. You are not only welcome but encouraged to share these, as long as they are offered in the spirit of thinking deeply about cities and how they work.

## **READING ASSIGNMENTS**

For the majority of lecture classes, you will have a reading to do outside of and before class that prepares you for the lecture. In addition, for each reading you do you will write a "reading assignment." These are an opportunity for you to review the reading and to develop your critical understanding of it.

Here's what will happen: for a given class, I will pose a question about the reading on the course website. You will write an answer and upload it, and we will grade it. These assignments are not designed for you to write a lot of words. In fact, *no more than a sentence* is necessary (something like 3 lines, around 40 words, is plenty). However, don't take that to mean these are unimportant assignments or that they do not require effort. Even though we don't expect verbose responses, we *do* expect insightful and high-quality ones. Even if you are not writing a lot of words, *you should be doing significant thinking* before you write. You should review and reflect carefully on the reading in light of the question, and then provide a precise, clear, thoughtful—and short—answer to the question.

The questions for the assignments are available on the course website (address on p. 1) under the "Assignments" tab.

Collectively the reading assignments are worth 25 percent of your grade. Each reading assignment will be scored on a scale of 0 to 5. The three lowest scores you receive will be dropped from your overall score.

The assignments should be entirely your own work. This is not a collaborative assignment.

## Format

- Each reading assignment must be uploaded (typically in .docx, .doc, or .pdf formats to avoid complications) to the course website.
- It should fit onto one page.
- Make sure your name and the assignment number are on the page.
- The assignment for a particular reading is due before the start of class on the day we first discuss the reading in lecture. See the syllabus for specific dates.

## **EXAMS**

Exams will consist of some mixture of short answers and short essays. The questions will draw on the reading, lectures, and, to a lesser extent, section. The exams will be in-class exams, but they are not about memorizing and regurgitating facts. Rather they will require you, as you study for them, to formulate a rich understanding of how cities work, and then, in the exam, to skillfully articulate your understanding in writing.

## **SECTION**

Section will be awesome, and your TA—Cheryl, Sush, or Evan—will hand out a separate syllabus for that.