

URBDP 200: INTRODUCTION TO URBANIZATION

Spring 2018

Professor:

Mark Purcell
Gould 410F
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Office Hours:

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

Class meeting time and place:

MWF 10:30-11:20
Anderson 223

Teaching Assistants:

Evan Carver: evanhc@uw.edu
Dorian Bautista: dbautist@uw.edu

Sections are on Thursdays:

10:30-11:20 -or- 11:30-12:20



Course Website:

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1131621>

"...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 discussion and other activities.

Learning Goals

- Develop an introductory 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 lecture (i.e. listening, contributing to the discussion, taking good notes)
2. Arrive at lecture on time
3. Complete the reading before the lecture 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 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 lecture classes
Midterm Exam	20	April 27
Final Exam	25	June 4
Section	20	Thursdays

Academic honesty

The University takes the offenses of cheating and plagiarism very seriously, and so do I. Cheating is using the work of your peers to improve your work. Plagiarism is presenting 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 26	Orientation, overview of class, introductions, syllabus <u>Readings:</u> None <u>Assignments Due:</u> None
Wednesday March 28	Two experiences of urbanization—North and South <u>Readings:</u> none <u>Assignments Due:</u> none
Friday March 30	What is a city? <u>Readings:</u> Mumford, “What is a city?” <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #1

Week 2	
Monday April 2	<p>What does it mean to be urban? (In-class discussion of the reading)</p> <p>Dorian Bautista and Evan Carver</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Wirth, "Urbanism as a way of life"</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #2</p>
Wednesday April 4	<p>What is urbanization?</p> <p><i>No physical class, watch lecture online</i></p> <p>(https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1131621/pages/slides-for-past-lectures)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Davis, "The urbanization of the human population"</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #3</p>
Friday April 6	No Class, Everyone is at a Conference!!
Week 3	
Monday April 9	<p>Origins of cities: why do humans cluster?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, 26-46</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #4</p>
Wednesday April 11	<p>Origins of cities: why do humans cluster?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> none</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> none</p>
Friday April 13	<p>North: How have cities developed over time?</p> <p>Ancient, Medieval, Commercial, and Industrial Cities</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, pp. 46-60</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #5</p>

Week 4	
Monday April 16	<p>North: How have cities developed over time? Ancient, Medieval, Commercial, and Industrial Cities</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Engels, "The great towns"</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #6</p>
Wednesday April 18	<p>North: How have cities developed over time? Suburbanization, Sprawl</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Knox, <i>Urbanization</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #7</p>
Friday April 20	<p>North: How have cities developed over time? Suburbanization, Sprawl</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>
Week 5	
Monday April 23	<p>North: How do cities grow? Economic Agglomeration, Deindustrialization, Globalization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Archer, Chapter 5</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #8</p>
Wednesday April 25	<p>North: How do cities grow? Economic Agglomeration, Deindustrialization, Globalization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>
Friday April 27	<p><i>Midterm Exam</i></p>

Week 6	
Monday April 30	<p>North: How do cities sort out their population? Gentrification</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Lees, Slater, and Wyly, <i>Gentrification</i>, Chapter 1</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #9</p>
Wednesday May 2	<p>North: How do cities sort out their population? Housing and homelessness</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, Chapter 9</p> <p>Knox and McCarthy, <i>Urbanization</i>, pp. 392-397</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #10</p>
Friday May 4	<p>North: How do cities sort out their population? Segregation</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Massey and Denton, “The continuing causes of segregation”</p> <p>Optional: Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #11</p>
Week 7	
Monday May 7	<p>North: Planning and Visions of the Good City—Howard, Le Corbusier</p> <p><i>No physical class meeting: watch lecture on-line</i></p> <p>https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1131621/pages/slides-for-past-lectures</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard, “Author’s introduction” and “The town-country magnet” • Le Corbusier, “A contemporary city” • Optional: Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, selection from Chapter 13 <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #12</p>
Wednesday May 9	<p>North: Planning and Visions of the Good City—New Urbanism</p> <p>Evan Carver</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs, “The uses of sidewalks: safety” • “Charter of the New Urbanism” <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #13</p>

Friday May 11	North: Planning and Visions of the Good City—Ecological Urbanism Evan Carver <u>Readings:</u> Spirn, “Ecological Urbanism” <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading Assignment #14
Week 8	
Monday May 14	South: Trading Centers and Colonialism <u>Readings:</u> Knox, <i>Urbanization</i> , Chapter 7 <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #15
Wednesday May 16	South: Trading Centers and Colonialism <u>Readings:</u> None <u>Assignments Due:</u> None
Friday May 18	South: Industrialization in East Asian Cities <u>Readings:</u> Smith, “Cities in Pacific Asia” <u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #16
Week 9	
Monday May 21	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 #17
Wednesday May 23	South: Urbanization, Migration, and Informal Settlements <u>Readings:</u> None <u>Assignments Due:</u> None
Friday May 25	South: Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Mexico City Dorian Bautista <u>Readings:</u> TBA <u>Assignments Due:</u> None

Week 10	
Monday May 28	<i>No Class: Memorial Day</i>
Wednesday May 30	South: Susmita Rishi, Indian Cities <u>Readings:</u> Chalana and Rishi, "Making Sense of the Order in the Disorder in Delhi's Kathputli Colony" <u>Assignments Due:</u> TBA
Friday June 1	South: African Cities <u>Readings:</u> Pieterse and Parnell, "Africa's Urban Revolution in Context" <u>Assignments Due:</u> TBA
Exam Week	
Monday June 4 8:30-10:20am	<i>Final Exam</i> – same room as lecture

READING ASSIGNMENTS

For the majority of lecture classes, you will have a reading to do outside of and before class. This reading will prepare you for the lecture. For each reading, you will also *write* a “reading assignment.” These written assignments are an opportunity for you to review the reading, to process what it is trying to tell you, and to develop your critical understanding of it.

Here's what will happen: for a given class, we will pose a question about the reading on the course website. You will read the question, then read the reading with the question in mind, then write your answer to the question, then upload your answer, and we will grade it.

These assignments are not designed for you to write a lot of words. In fact, usually *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 on the “Assignments” tab.

There are reading assignments for most of the lecture classes. Collectively they are worth 25 percent of your grade. Each reading assignment will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10. 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 (in .docx, .doc, .rtf, .txt, or .pdf formats to avoid complications) to the course website.
- Make sure your name and the assignment number are on the page.
- The assignment for a particular reading is due *before* the start of lecture on the day we first discuss the reading in lecture. See the syllabus for specific dates.

PARTICIPATION IN LECTURE

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 (and particularly on the exams) it is essential to attend lectures and participate effectively. Here's how to do so:

- before the day of the lecture: read the question for the reading assignment on the canvas site, then read the reading with the question in mind, then think carefully about your answer to the question, then write your reading assignment and upload it
- on the day of the lecture: come to class on time, be interested and engaged in what is going on, offer your ideas, and take great notes.

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 honest inquiry about cities and how they work.

EXAMS

Exams will consist of 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* in writing your understanding of how cities work. Your answers will be graded on how completely and cogently they analyze the relevant urban processes.

SECTION

Section will be awesome, and your TA—Dorian or Evan—will provide a separate syllabus for that.