

GEOG 24600

URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Fall 2018

Tu/Fri, 9.15-11 am

Room: HN 1022

Instructor: Dr. Rafael de Balanzo Joue

Office hours: Friday 11am-noon

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce students to **urban geography** – a part of geography concerned with processes of urbanization and their **urban systems dynamics**. Today, most people on Earth live in cities or, in other words, humanity is predominantly urban. From the first urban settlements to contemporary global urban centers some of which reaching dozens of millions of residents, cities have always provided people with distinct and often contradictory experiences. Cities are sites where economic activities and economic deprivation are concentrated to the largest degree; they are centers of great intermixing of people, infrastructure, urban culture, and lifestyles; and yet urban spaces are segregated by class, gender, race, and sexuality. After becoming familiar with the historical development of urban systems and cities with a main (but not a sole) focus on Western cities, we will examine different aspects of **urban economic and social geographies** in order to gain insights into workings of modern cities.

COURSE OUTLINE:

The weeks are organized thematically. Students will rotate the responsibility for providing an overview of the week's readings as well as propose discussion questions. The brief overview and questions are meant to encourage a deeper discussion of what we have found engaging, puzzling, important, or disturbing about the material. While some students of *Leader's group* will have this responsibility week to week, everyone must read ALL of the readings and come prepared to discuss the material. In addition to these discussions, students are expected to have midterm and final exams, respond to the reading assignments on BB, and participate in a group project to be presented to the class at the end of the semester. Students will work in small groups on a research project to explore more deeply the themes we've discussed in class. They will work in teams to study an area and contemporary issue in New York City using participant observation and academic research as methodologies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion of this course students will acquire basic knowledge of historical and contemporary urban dynamics as well as how and why social and economic spaces within cities are differentiated. They will become familiar with fundamental concepts related to urban geography and its relationship with other aspects of human experience. Students will furthermore develop skills for

critical thinking about urban processes that is important for understanding the complexity of today's cities as well as their understanding from different, and sometimes, conflicting perspectives. Students will improve their reading and writing skills by working papers and book readings. They will acquire research skills by completing assignments and working on team projects under the supervision of the instructor. Finally, they will improve their public speaking and communication skills by presenting class readings and preparing and presenting class projects.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Acquire basic knowledge of historical and contemporary urban dynamics as well as how and why social and economic spaces within cities are differentiated.
- Describe fundamental concepts related to urban geography and its relationship with other aspects of human experience.
- Develop skills for critical thinking about urban processes that are important for understanding the complexity of today's cities
- Improve reading and writing skills by working with the textbook and other assigned readings.
- Improve research skills by completing assignments and working on team projects under the supervision of the instructor.
- Improve public speaking and communication skills by presenting class readings and preparing and presenting class projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Assigned Discussion Participation (individually): Please come to discussions/lectures prepared to engage with the topic at hand, to ask questions and to listen and respond to others' questions and comments. Regular attendance is the best way for you to ensure your success in this course. Students are required to regularly participate on the discussion board on Blackboard and develop a presentation in class. This participation will be mandatory.

- Students are expected to complete their assignments according to the guidelines without exception.
- The purpose of these assignments is to create a collaborative learning environment, where everyone shares their understandings of the materials with others in the class and as a way of contributing to public bodies of knowledge.

2. Urban Geography Laboratory (UGEOGLab) (individually and in teams):

UGEOGLab1: Urban Spatial and Economics Dynamics (Kondratieff Exercise)

UGEOGLab2: Urban Strategic Plan (Workshop and Comparison)

UGEOGLab3: Urban Metrics

3. Urban Geography Final Project and Presentation (teams): Students will work in teams to study an area and contemporary issue in New York City using participant observation and academic research as methodologies.

GRADING:

Midterm Exam	20%	Covers course material up to the date of the midterm exam.
UGEOG Laboratory	15%	Individual and team exercises in class.
Class participation Assigned Discussion Assignments	20%	Includes attendance, presentations of the readings, and participation in class discussions. Weekly written responses to the readings (100-250 words, to be posted on BB discussion board by Monday noon time) and other assignments by Thursday noon time. No credit will be given for late responses.
Class project	20%	Students will work on a team research project
Final exam	25%	Covers course material since the date of the midterm exam

No incompletes are allowed except under the most exceptional circumstances and with supporting written documentation. Students must formally request the grade of IN before the final exam and then complete a Contract to Resolve Incomplete Grades in which we will set the terms and conditions for completing the course work. Without this request final grades will be calculated according to the above evaluation criteria. Absent course work will be counted as zero points. For final grades, CUNY grading policy will be used. Please see the online undergraduate catalog <http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/>.

Credit/No credit requirements. The requirements for CR/NC for a final grade are as follows: A student who requests CR/NC must have completed all of the requirements for the course, including taking the final exam. That includes all writing assignments, all quizzes, exams, lab work, assignments, etc., prior to the end of the semester. The student must present the CR/NC form, available at OASIS or online at the Registrar’s homepage, BEFORE the final exam begins, not during, not after. Both the student and the instructor sign the form and each keeps their copy. Students on probation are not eligible for CR/NC. Students are allowed only four (4) CR/NC for their entire Hunter career. The Credit/No Credit policy and form can be found at <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/advising/how-to/file-credit-no-credit-cr-nc>.

Classroom policies:

Lectures will be combined with student discussions. Discussions and questions are encouraged but all opinions must be expressed in a respectful manner.

You are responsible for keeping up with all the postings of additional readings and assignments on the course web page and course schedule. They can be accessed from BB. You are expected to attend all classes, do all required readings, participate in discussions, fulfill all the assignments, and take lecture notes. Late responses to the readings and assignments will be marked down. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to read the assigned literature, complete the assignments, and get lecture notes from your peers. Missed assignments or exams will result in zero points.

Please, absolutely no talking during lectures, no eating, and no cell phones or texting or web browsing. The class begins and ends on time. Important announcements and attendance check will take place in the beginning of the class. When contacting me via email, **indicate course number/title**

in subject line (GEOG 24300 Urban Geography) and sign your full name as it appears in CUNYfirst. It is polite and necessary because I cannot determine who you are based upon your email address.

Most communication about assignments and due dates will take place via BB. Please make sure you have a valid email address registered with BB and make sure you check this address regularly. I cannot identify whose emails bounce back, so please make sure you receive and read your class related emails.

Hunter College statement on Academic Integrity: Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures. Plagiarism, dishonesty, or cheating in any portion of the work required for this course will be punished to the full extent allowed according to Hunter College regulations.

ADA Policy

In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772-4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Hunter College Policy on Sexual Misconduct

In compliance with the CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Hunter College reaffirms the prohibition of any sexual misconduct, which includes sexual violence, sexual harassment, and gender-based harassment retaliation against students, employees, or visitors, as well as certain intimate relationships. Students who have experienced any form of sexual violence on or off campus (including CUNY-sponsored trips and events) are entitled to the rights outlined in the Bill of Rights for Hunter College.

a. Sexual Violence: Students are strongly encouraged to immediately report the incident by calling 911, contacting NYPD Special Victims Division Hotline (646-610-7272) or their local police precinct, or contacting the College's Public Safety Office (212-772-4444).

b. All Other Forms of Sexual Misconduct: Students are also encouraged to contact the College's Title IX Campus Coordinator, Dean John Rose (jtrose@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-650-3262) or Colleen Barry (colleen.barry@hunter.cuny.edu or 212-772-4534) and seek complimentary services through the Counseling and Wellness Services Office, Hunter East 1123.

CUNY Policy on Sexual Misconduct Link:

<http://www.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/Ja/Policy-on-Sexual-Misconduct-12-1-14-with-links.pdf>

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Note: Syllabus is subject to substantial changes with advanced notice. Weekly readings will be posted and announced ahead of time.

Week 1a	8/28	Course overview and Introduction
Week 1b	8/31	UGEOG Lab1/Lab2/Lab3: Introduction and Human Scale Documentary
Week 2a	9/4	Discussion Readings: Urban Crisis & Decline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaeser, E. L. (1998). Are cities dying? <i>The Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>, 12(2), 139-160. http://www.istor.org/stable/pdf/2646967.pdf • Harvey, D. (2014). The crisis of planetary urbanization. <i>Uneven growth: tactical urbanisms for expanding megacities</i>. The Museum of Modern Art.
Week 2b	9/7	UGEOG Lab introduction: Research Final Project Fieldtrip NYC area
Week 3a	9/14 (9/11 and 9/18 no class)	Discussion Readings: Urban Economic Dynamics (Kondratieff Waves) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Batty, M. (2016). Creative destruction, long waves and the age of the smart city. In <i>Sir Peter Hall: Pioneer in Regional Planning, Transport and Urban Geography</i> (pp. 81-97). Springer, Cham. • Beauregard, R. A. (2006). <i>When America became suburban</i>. U of Minnesota Press. Chapter 3: Parasitic Urbanization
Week 3b	9/21	UGEOG Lab2: <i>Urban Workshop: Challenges</i>
Week 4a	9/25	Discussion Readings: Urban Shrinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martinez-Fernandez, C., Audirac, I., Fol, S., & Cunningham-Sabot, E. (2012). "Shrinking cities: urban challenges of globalization." <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i>, 36(2), 213-225. • Pallagst, K. (2013). <i>Shrinking cities: international perspectives and policy implications</i>. Routledge. • Cunningham-Sabot, E., Audirac, I., Fol, S., & Martinez-Fernandez, C. (2013). <i>Theoretical approaches of shrinking cities</i> (pp. 14-30). New York, NY: Routledge
Week 4b	9/28	UGEOG Lab2: <i>Urban Workshop: Strategies</i>
Week 5a	10/2	Discussion readings: Urban Sustainable Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sachs, J, (2015). The age of sustainable development, Columbia University Press, Chapter 12: <i>Resilient Cities</i>, p^o 355-392.
Week 5b	10/5	UGEOG Lab1: <i>Due Kondratieff Economic Waves Exercise</i>
Week 6a	10/9	Discussion readings: Urban Economics Dynamics: NYC Case study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glaeser, E. L. (2005). <i>Urban colossus: why is New York America's largest city?</i> (No. w11398). NBER.
Week 6b	10/12	UGEOG Lab2: <i>Urban Workshop: Urban Metrics</i>
Week 7a	10/16	Discussion readings NYC Urban Sustainable Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steinberg, T. (2014). <i>Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York</i>. New York: Simon and Schuster. Chapter 4. The green Colossus. • Angotti, T. New York City Plan 2030, Article, New York Times. • One New York City Strategic Plan. The Plan for a Strong and a Just City.
Week 7b	10/19	UGEOG Lab1-2: Mid-term exam

Week 8a	10/23	Discussion readings Urban Economics dynamics: Resilience Thinking Theory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodin, J. (2014). <i>The resilience dividend: being strong in a world where things go wrong</i>. Public Affairs. Martin, R. (2011). Regional economic resilience, hysteresis & recessionary shocks. <i>Journal of economic geography</i>, 12(1), 1-32.
Week 8b	10/26	UGEOG Lab2: <i>Due Urban Strategic Plan comparison Assignment</i>
Week 9a	10/30	Discussion readings Urban Economics Dynamics (US case studies comparison) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glaeser, E. L. (2005). Reinventing Boston: 1630–2003. <i>Journal of Economic Geography</i>, 5(2), 119-153. Enelow, N. (2013). The Resilience of Detroit: An Application of the Adaptive Cycle Metaphor to an American Metropolis, <i>Economics for equity and environment</i>.
Week 9b	11/2	UGEOG Lab2: <i>Urban Strategic Plan comparison Assignment</i>
Week 10a	11/6	Discussion readings Urban Dynamics (UK Case studies comparison) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simmie, J. Martin, R. (2010). The economic resilience of regions: towards an evolutionary approach <i>Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society</i>, 3, 27–43
Week 10b	11/9	UGEOG Lab3: <i>Urban Metrics Research Final Project Ex. (Part1)</i>
Week 11a	11/13	Discussion readings Urban Social Dynamics (US-EU comparison) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knox, Paul L, and Steven Pinch. 2010. <i>Urban Social Geography: An Introduction</i>. New York: Pearson Prentice Hall. Chapter 5. Parés, M., Ospina, S. M., & Subirats, J. (Eds.). (2017). <i>Social Innovation and Democratic Leadership: Communities and Social Change from Below</i>. Edward Elgar Publishing. Part II, Chapter 3. NYC versus Barcelona.
Week 11b	11/16	UGEOG Lab3: <i>Urban Metrics Research Final Project Ex. (Part2)</i>
Week 12a	11/20,	Discussion readings Urban Social-Ecological Complex System Dynamics (Spain) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balanzó, R. Rodriguez-Planas (Forthcoming). Urban Crisis and Reorganization: Adaptive cycle and Panarchy: <i>Barcelona City, Ecology and Society Journal</i>.
Week 12b	(11/23 no class) 11/27	UGEOG Lab3: <i>Urban Metrics Research Final Project Ex. (Part3)</i>
Week 13a	11/30	Discussion readings: Key thinkers in urban social geography – Edward Soja <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soja, E.W. (2000) <i>Postmetropolis: Critical studies of cities and regions</i>. Blackwell, Oxford Due Urban Final Urban Geography Research Project
Week 13b	12/4	Final Project presentations
Week 14a	12/7	Final Project presentations
Week 14b	12/11	Post on BB Final Research Project Essay
Week 15	TBA	Final exam Urban Geography