

### Exercise 5

**MY Neighborhood**  
(cultural region)

Select a neighborhood with which you are familiar. **Describe it in terms of a cultural region.** What makes it a unique area? Provide maps and visual documentation.

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION

**17 = A**

**2 = B**

**0 = C**

**0 = D** with option to rewrite

**0 = F** with option to rewrite

**3 = Not submitted**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- ❖ **COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD OPEN to Dec. 20.** Sign in with your Hunter NetID and password
  - Check your Hunter email account for notice from the Dean of Students.
- ❑ **TODAY, Mon., Dec 12:** Last class lecture. Exercise 5 - *My Neighborhood* is due.
- Missing exercises are scored a zero so let me know if you plan to submit missing exercises and I will enter an INC for your grade.
- ❑ **Thurs., Dec 15 from 2-4 PM: Final Exam**
  - **Four essays** focused on the major themes of cultural geography from a choice of 8 topics, plus definitions.
  - **Last day** to hand in "Geography in the News" extra credit option (see syllabus).

GEOG 247 Cultural Geography

# Urbanization

## Inside the City

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## Origin of the City

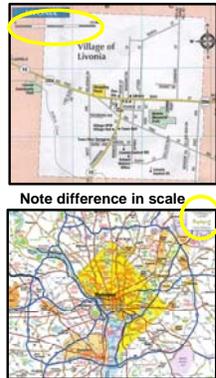
- ❖ **Key elements in the rise of the first cities:**
  - ✓ Agricultural surplus (1<sup>st</sup> Urban Revolution)
  - ✓ Focus of political and religious power
  - ✓ Function with regard to site and situation
  - ✓ Stratified social-economic system from division of labor.
  - ✓ The first urbanized areas were powerful political units: City-States.
- ❖ **Overtime, cities evolved in form and function.**
  - **2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Revolution: Industrialization.**  
Mass production of goods required laborers. Laborers lived near the factory and needed services.
  - **3<sup>rd</sup> Urban Revolution: Globalization.**  
Economic dominance requires the concentration of financial services and excellent communication network.
- ❖ **In all cases, cities remained a source (focus) of economic and political power.**

## Modern Urbanism

- ❖ **Urban areas have:**
  - **Permanency** over a large area (footprint; built up area)
  - **Large concentrations of people** (headcount and density)
  - **More than one "function"** (reasons for being)
  - **Social heterogeneity** (variety of people: ethnicity, wealth, education, religion, politics, occupation, skill level)
- **They are surrounded by:**
  - a **suburb** (less than urban) that is dependent on the urban area
  - an **exurb** (area beyond the urban area) where residents live in a rural setting but are city-oriented.
  - a **hinterland**, the area serviced by the city and which, in turn, services the city (two way street).

## Social Aspects of Population Size

- If you live in a **rural settlement**, you know most of the other inhabitants and may even be related to many of them. (Everyone says hello.)
- But if you live in an **urban settlement** you can know only a small percentage of the other residents. (You don't interact with strangers.)
  - You meet most of them in specific roles or for purposes.
  - These relationships (interactions) are based on necessity or convenience.



### Social Aspects of High Density



- **High density produces social consequences for urban residents.**
  - Each person in an urban settlement plays a special role or performs a specific task to allow the complex urban system to function smoothly.
- **At the same time, high density also encourages people to compete for survival in limited space.**
  - Social groups compete to occupy the same territory, and the stronger group dominates.



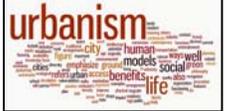

### Social Heterogeneity

**Social heterogeneity is a composition from dissimilar parts and these parts are always changing.**

Different individual items make up a what appears to be a homogenous mass.



**urbanism**



- ✓ A person has **greater freedom** in an urban settlement than in a rural settlement to pursue an unusual profession, sexual orientation, or cultural interest.
- ✓ **Individuals can find people with similar interests** regardless of values and preferences.
- Despite the freedom and independence, **people may feel lonely and isolated.** People become faces in the crowd.
- ❖ **Social stratification can develop within the heterogeneity.**

### Urban Evolutions

**Rural-to-urban migration:**  
Cities were always a draw to people from the countryside.

- ❖ **Cities lured people from rural areas, developing a unique culture and as attitudes changed, eventually becoming incubators of social and political change.**

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### Urban Migration Pull-Push Factors

**Pull factors:** opportunities in cities

- high urban wages paid by corporations
- access to governmental services
- access to health care facilities
- availability of consumer goods

**Push factors:** poor conditions in the rural areas

- health issues (medical care, water supply, sanitation)
- fragmentation of farm land
- limited job, educational, and economic opportunities
- in some areas, personal safety

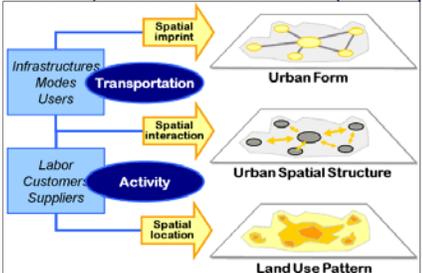
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### Growth of Cities and their Impact

- ❖ **Concentrations of people lead to social change.**
  - Factory environment/production much different from home crafts and guild industries.
  - **Industrial city environment created intense struggle between management and labor.**
  - Social issues developed especially with regard to living conditions of the working class.
  - Urban dwellers require more support and rural dwellers (urban money economy).
  - By the end of the 1800s accelerated movements to address these issues and to create change developed (social, economic, political).

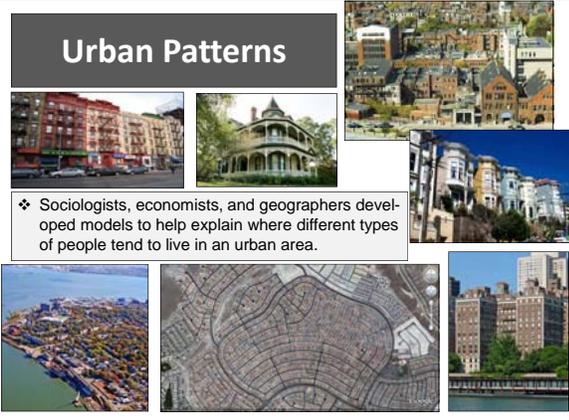
### PATTERNS within a CITY

**A city takes its interior form from the works of people: infrastructure, interaction and land use (human imprint).**



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## Urban Patterns



❖ Sociologists, economists, and geographers developed models to help explain where different types of people tend to live in an urban area.

## PATTERNS within a CITY

**There are two types of spatial patterns found within a city:**

1. Physical patterns
2. Social patterns

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## PATTERNS within a CITY

**Physical Patterns:**

- a. Site and situation**
  - original site factors now modified by time and use
- b. Microclimate development**
  - concrete and asphalt (warmer temperatures)
  - tall buildings (more wind)
  - paved-over surfaces (less humidity)
- c. Altered hydrology from landscaping**
  - surface streams and lakes changed
  - groundwater removal
  - reduced recharge zones

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## PATTERNS within a CITY

❖ There are six social patterns identified within a city:

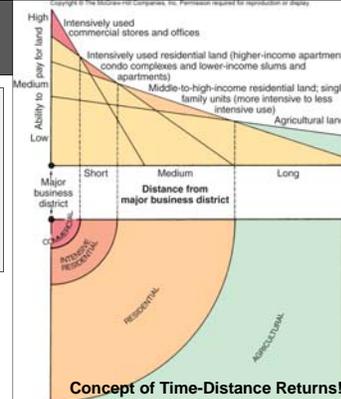
1. Functional interior land use
2. Population density
3. Social geographies
4. Urban land use models
5. Neighborhoods
6. Gentrification

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## PATTERNS within a CITY

**Social Patterns 1:**  
Functional interior land use.

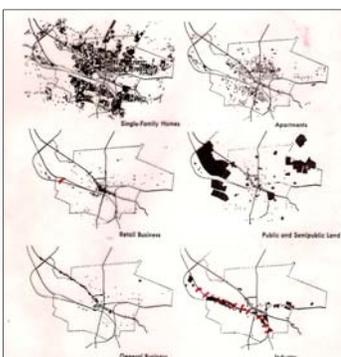
The parts of an urban area can be mapped individually.



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## PATTERNS within a CITY

The component parts of functional interior land use - **social, retail and industrial** - can be identified, located and mapped individually.



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## PATTERNS within a CITY

### Social Patterns 2: Population density

Density **decreases** with distance from city center. Influenced by the transportation infrastructure.

## PATTERNS within a CITY

### Social Patterns 3: Social geographies.

The many different social geographies can be mapped. Together they provide a view of a city's neighborhoods especially when there is overlap. Here is where a GIS mapping system comes in handy by layering data.

## PATTERNS within a CITY

### Social Patterns 4: Urban land use models

## Geographic Applications of the Models

❖ **Urban models help us understand where people with different social characteristics tend to live within an urbanized area.**

- Effective use of the models depends on the **availability of data** at the scale of individual neighborhoods.

In urban areas census tracts tend to correspond to neighborhoods.

## Social Area Analysis: Indianapolis

**Distribution of renters in illustrates the concentric zone model.**

**The distribution of high income households is an example of a sector model.**

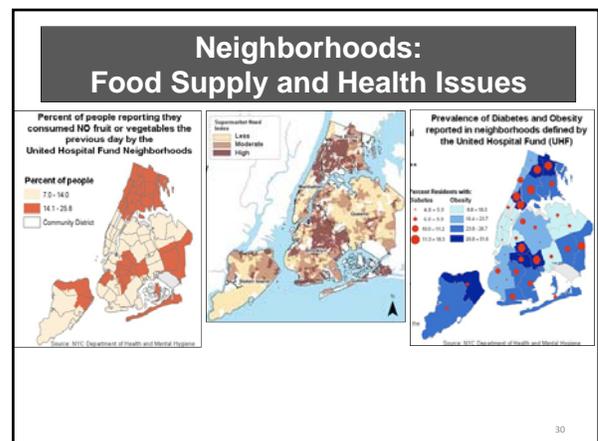
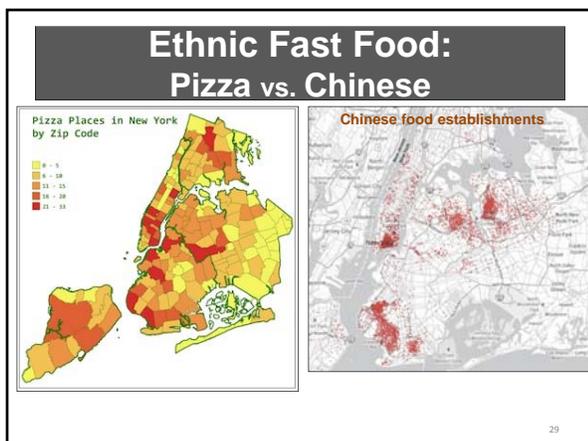
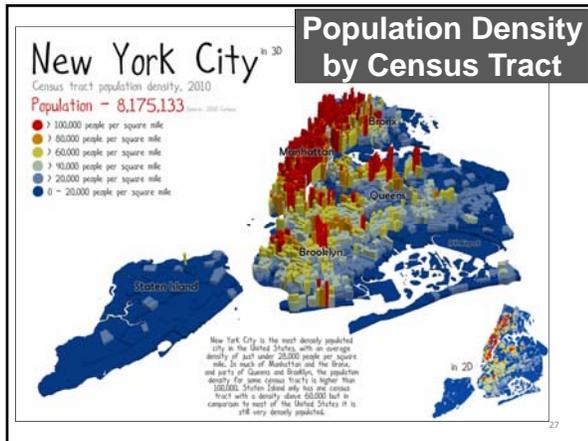
**The distribution of ethnic groups is an example of a multiple nuclei model.**

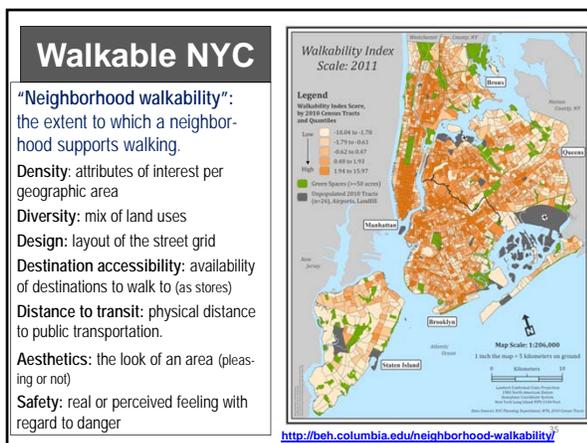
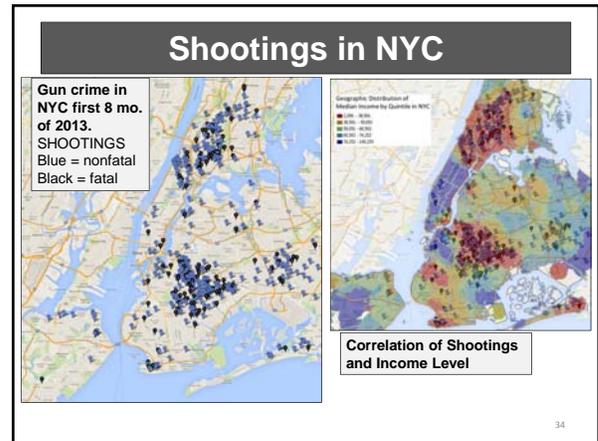
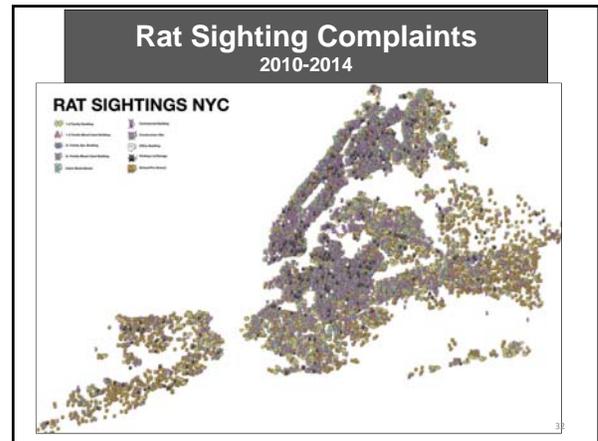
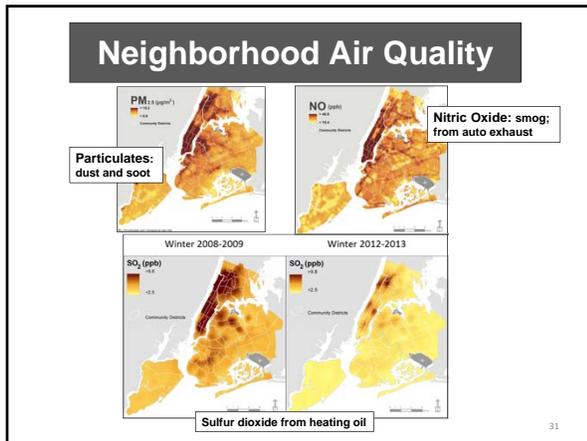
## PATTERNS within a CITY

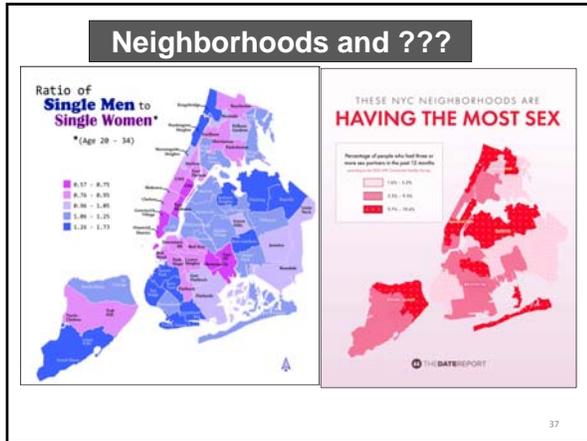
### Social Patterns 5: The Neighborhood.

**A small area of a city where people share values and concerns and interact with each other.**

- Social culture region** – an area where many of the residents share social traits as education, income and family structure
- Ethnic culture region** – an area occupied by people of similar ethnic backgrounds sharing traits of language, religion and motherland.
- Business district** – area of concentrated commercial services and tertiary activities
- Industrial area** – area of concentrated manufacturing activities and services (secondary sector).







### Changing Concentration of Hipsters

**BUSINESS INSIDER SAYS:** In the past few years, hipsters have become so ubiquitous in areas of NYC that they've come to define certain neighborhoods: places like Williamsburg, Bushwick, and Greenpoint are completely associated with hipsters.

As rents rise and areas change, hipsters tend to move to new areas.

**HIPSTERS:** pretentious, overly trendy members of a subculture: fashion, shopping, diet, cuisine, lingo, social attitude, etc..

### PATTERNS within a CITY

**Social Patterns 6: Gentrification – The displacement of lower-income residents by higher-income residents as buildings in deteriorated areas of the city are restored.**

POSITIVE SIDE	NEGATIVE SIDE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revitalization of run-down areas (visual and economic)</li> <li>• Area in use 24/7</li> <li>• Demographics change (new groups and younger people)</li> <li>• Tax revenue increases</li> <li>• Crime decreases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displacement of lower-income people (rent/cost of items)</li> <li>• Ethnic/racial tensions (between remaining residents and newcomers)</li> <li>• Visible reminders of inequitable distribution of wealth (condos, upscale stores)</li> <li>• "Homogenization" – neighborhoods begin to look alike</li> </ul>

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### Urban-Environmental Problems

❖ **Infrastructure, interaction and land use (urban culture) can lead to environmental problems that are both physical and social.**

- **The way people deal with them is cultural** (perception, technological ability and financial)

➤ **What are some urban-environmental problems?**

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### Urban-Environmental Problems

**Congestion:** large numbers of people, not enough space, accessibility, local transportation, housing, food supply, overwhelmed social services

**Health Issues:** food, water supply, waste management, controlling disease, dealing with dead people

**Quality of Life Issues:** crowding, crime, poverty, health care, pollution, aging infrastructure

**Pollution:** air, water, land and noise

**Hazards:** natural and man-made hazards as storms, earthquakes, air quality, aging infrastructure, fire, urban flooding, terrorism

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