

# **GEOG341 Urban Geography/GEOG743 EES781 Urban Geographic Theory**

Fall, 2009

Class hour: Tuesday and Friday 11:10 a.m.-12.25 p.m.  
Class location: HN1022  
Professor: [Hongmian Gong](#)  
Office and phone: HN1050, 212-772-4658  
Office hours: Tuesday 12:25-1:25 p.m., or by appointment.  
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## **Course Description:**

Spatial analysis of functions of metropolitan areas. Social and economic characteristics of cities and suburbs. Urban land use and the impact of globalization, transportation, and telecommunications.

## **Learning Objectives:**

This course will introduce students to the basics of urban geography, such as definition of cities (including Urban Areas, MSAs, and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the U.S.), central place theory, urban systems, and traditional models of urban spatial structure (including concentric Zone Model, Sector Model, Multiple Nuclei Model, and Urban Realms Model). More importantly, students will be exposed to contemporary urban topics such as global cities, urban economic restructuring, spatial and skill mismatch, homelessness, telecommuting, suburban growth models, and metropolitan governance and planning. Emphasis will be placed on the urban experience of developed countries, especially the U.S., although urban issues and models such as false urbanization and the Model of Latin American Cities are also discussed.

## **Prerequisite:**

GEOG 101, GEOG 150, or permission of instructor.

## **Textbooks and Readings:**

**Required:** Kaplan, Wheeler, and Holloway, *Urban Geography*. Wiley, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-471-79815-6.

**Optional/recommended:** Hartshorn, *Interpreting the City: An Urban Geography*. Wiley, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1992. ISBN: 978-0-471-88750-8.

Additional readings will be given out in Blackboard throughout the semester.

## **Course Evaluation:**

Grade will be based on the following Criteria. One may strengthen the grade by meaningful class discussions.

Midterm exam (Tuesday, Oct. 20, 11:10 a.m. to 12:25 p.m.)	30%
Final exam (Tuesday, Dec. 15, 9 to 11 a.m., same classroom)	30%
Paper and presentation	40%

1. A make-up exam for the Midterm or Final requires instructor's consent ahead of time and will be given in an oral exam format in instructor's office during office hours.
2. Undergraduate students are required to write a 3-page (double spaced) review of two related articles published in an academic journal since 2004 and make a 5 to 7 minutes presentation to the class. Graduate students are required to write a 5-page (double spaced) review of five related articles published in an academic journal since 2004 and make a 8 to 10 minutes presentation to the class.
3. Information (including author, year of publication, title, and journal) on the articles selected for the review is due by November 6.
4. A hard copy of the paper is due by Dec. 11. Late papers will be marked down 5% each day.
5. Student presentations will be in the last two weeks of classes. Presentation date of each student will be announced in class at the end of November. Presentation make-up is not guaranteed and is allowed only if there is time available at the end of the class. Students who did not present or did not get the chance to make up the presentation will receive no point for presentation.
6. Only students averaging C or above in the course are eligible to request an incomplete grade. Granting incompletes to eligible students is at the discretion of the instructor.
7. Class attendance is mandatory. Missing more than three classes in a semester, regardless the reasons, will adversely affect your grade. Students are responsible for obtaining any information presented in class during an absence.

**Course Content:**

Introduction to Urban Geography  
Evolution of the American Urban System  
Globalization and the Urban System  
Urban Transportation  
Telecommunications and the City  
Urban Land Use  
Models of Social Geography  
Landscapes of Production  
Urban Housing Markets  
Segregation and Urban Poverty  
Metropolitan Governance and Planning

**Notes on Class Schedule:**

August 28 (Friday): First class for this course.  
September 18 (Friday): No classes scheduled at Hunter College.  
September 29 (Tuesday): Classes follow a Monday schedule; there is no class for this course.  
November 27 (Friday): Thanksgiving recess, college closed.  
December 11 (Friday): Last class for this course.

**How to Use Blackboard to Access Your Grades and Course Documents:**

1. Follow the instructions on <http://bb.hunter.cuny.edu> to obtain a CUNY Portal account;
2. Log in your Portal account on <http://www.cuny.edu>;

3. To view your grades, under “Tools” on the left, click [View Grades](#), and then click [GEOG341 Urban Geography/GEOG743 EES781 Urban Geographic Theory](#);
4. To access course documents, click [GEOG341 Urban Geography/GEOG743 EES781 Urban Geographic Theory](#), and then click [Course Documents](#) on the left.
5. When you are done, click “Logout” at the top to exit your account, and then close the Internet browser.

**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.