Social Geography
Geography (GEO) 2410: 3 Credits
Section 01FC
Class Number: 13078
Computer Sciences & Engineering (CSE): Room E221
Summer A 2019

Course Meeting Times: (Period 4 MTWRF: 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM)
Instructor: Matthew G. McKay, Department of Geography

Contact Information:
*Phone: (860) 690-6192 (direct/voice mail)
Email: mmckay1@ufl.edu*

Office Location: Turlington Hall (TUR) 3108-B

Office Hours:
Tuesday: 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Thursday: 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
*(Other times by appointment)*

Location of the Department of Geography:
3141 Turlington Hall
330 Newell Drive
Gainesville, FL 32611-7315

Mailing Address:
Department of Geography, University of Florida
3141 Turlington Hall, P.O. Box 117315
Gainesville, FL 32611-7315

Department of Geography: (352) 392-0494
Fax: (352) 392-8855

Department of Geography: Main Office’s Hours of Operation:
Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Office Location: TUR 3141

Geographic Coordinates: 29° 38’ 58” North Latitude, 82° 20’ 37” West Longitude
For questions or to inquire about majoring in Geography, please contact the following professor:

Dr. Mao, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Email: liangmao@ufl.edu
Telephone: Dr. Mao: (352) 294-7516
Web site information: http://geog.ufl.edu/programs/undergrad/

***General Education Requirement (GE): (D) Diversity & (S) Social and Behavioral Sciences

University Catalog Description of Course:

“Introduces geography as a social science. Various social concepts presented from a spatial perspective.
(Source: University of Florida Undergraduate Catalog 2019-20, https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/courses/descriptions/geography.aspx)

Course Description:

The discipline of geography includes two branches --physical and human, and this course focuses exclusively on the latter. This course will entail a process of engaging in concepts and themes that have spatial and social relevance. Contemporary themes pertaining to social geography relevant to this course include theories, methodologies, as well as interdisciplinary perspectives pertaining to individuals and groups that include, but not are limited to, race; ethnicity; class; sexuality; and the environment. Through engaging in the readings and the class lectures as well participating in class discussions, students should make sense of the spatial relevance and meanings of people’s lives that are continuously produced and reproduced in urban environments. While “Social Geography” fits neatly into the branch of Human Geography, topics of concern among scholars, as well as output in the form of publications, are relevant toward geographical and sociological concerns in the Western world’s context (in particular). Topics of relevance will emphasize the urban environment; however, suburban, exurban, and rural environments certainly have relevance in a survey course such as this, which incorporates a focus on breadth of topical material pertaining to social geography.

OBJECTIVE: This course will provide students with the contextual perspective and awareness of the spatial distribution and interaction, respectively, of contemporary urban environments by working toward understanding historical, social, economic, and political decision-making that has had various outcomes on patterns and processes on the current human landscape. Various political and economic processes have led to various outcomes that affect individuals as well as groups on a daily and otherwise regular basis. Political, economic, cultural, and more broadly, social aspects of society influence the “how and why” spatial patterns of society shape urban landscapes as they have and as they do contemporaneously. What is of relevance includes social activities that entail spatial outcomes on the built environment, both among residential and non-
residential areas and environments. Social activities that have spatialized patterns and complex spatial processes help explain the geographies of difference, poverty, and affluence existing in our contemporary society that is greatly influenced by, and that contributes toward, globalization.

**COURSE OUTCOMES:** At the completion of this course, students should be able to: understand and communicate the geographic language of spatial relationships and spatial organization with regard to human activities; 2) relate theoretical spatial applications to real-life situations; 3) gain awareness of human-environment interactions; and 4) be able to articulate the definition of geography and its role as a social science.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**


*Please note:* This textbook is available for FREE, as a PDF file, at the following Web link:

https://chisineu.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/urban-social-geography.pdf

**SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS:** The instructor will submit additional readings digitally or in hard copy as deemed necessary throughout the semester to reinforce the learning objectives. Please check E-Learning (i.e., Canvas) periodically for updates in this regard, and **be ready to DISCUSS these readings in class, as such readings and discussions will affect the students’ “Attendance and Participation” component of their final grade.**

**GRADING:**

1) Attendance and Participation: 15%
2) In-class Writing Assignments: 5%
3) Midterm Examination: 20%
4) Film Review: 30%
5) Two Article Reaction Papers: 30% (15% each)

100% - TOTAL COURSE EVALUATION

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:**

Regular classroom attendance and participation are key components of student success; however, for full credit toward attendance and participation, students are expected to be at every class meeting throughout the entire class session, and must not be reading other materials (including, but not limited to, laptop computers; tablets; iPads; cellular phones, etc.). Participation entails responding to questions directed by the instructor and by participating in peer-initiated discussions as well. Students who use their laptops as an “escape mechanism” in which they stare at their screens on a routine basis during class time will NOT be counted as participating in the class, and they will additionally be counted as ABSENT. Class attendance, for one thing, means actually being mentally and physically prepared to listen to your instructor, as well as to listen to and respect your peers. It additionally means being ready and available to contribute to class discussions that are either instructor-led, or that may involve fellow students’ contributions.
If any student in this class cannot avoid the distraction of focusing on their laptop computer or tablet (which in this course, should ONLY be used, if at all, for note-taking), then please either 1) drop the course immediately; or 2) realize that “zoning out” to focus on your laptops will NOT count toward participation OR attendance during any given session. If one MUST utilize a laptop for taking notes, then they must do so as discreetly as possible (i.e., by minimizing the noise associated with typing and by not using such a device for any other purpose outside of aiding with learning). Distractions noticed by the instructor will be called out and will focus on the offending party in order to halt such a distracting activity within the learning environment. If this agreement and arrangement is not to your liking, please drop the course IMMEDIATELY. It is not fair to your instructor nor to your peers to be heavily focused on electronic gadgets including a laptop computer during instructional time.

IN-CLASS WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:

Typically, these in-class writing assignments will allow students to engage in active learning by writing for 20 to 25 minutes on a topic that will be given in advance, but in which they are expected to apply their learning to date from the course toward the short assignment itself. Depending on the size of the class, the level of verbal class participation, etc., the number of these written assignments remains to be seen.

TWO ARTICLE REACTION PAPERS:

Article Reaction Paper 1: To Be Determined (TBD): (Written Analysis of over 1,000 words)

Article Reaction Paper 2: TBD: (Written Analysis of over 1,000 words)

FILM REVIEW:

One documentary will be shown during the summer session that has a required written component to it, and will relate to the spatial effects of social geography and thus, links to this specific course (even if one has seen such a documentary in another course or even outside the academic environment). The film review will require a written summary and answers to a set of questions (with the film review requiring at least 1,000 words of original text), and will be due one week after the conclusion of viewing the documentary.

Please NOTE: It is important to stress that it is good practice to read your work (once you are ready to submit it to your instructor) and to read your work aloud (such as at home) before submitting it for evaluation. This will facilitate picking up any minor spelling, syntax, grammatical, and various mechanical errors in writing that one can overlook when engaging in the composing and reviewing of written documents.

MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY: A penalty of 15 points will be assessed to a missed examination without a confirmed excuse (i.e., documented verification provided by a certified professional such as a physician, confirmation by Student Health Care Services or the Counseling and Wellness Center, etc.). Exams not made up will automatically be given a grade of E.
FIVE CONFIRMED EXCUSES FOR MISSING AN EXAM:

1) Illness: I will need to see a physician’s (i.e., doctor’s) note and receive emailed notification of your absence. This note does not need to violate your privacy; however, it does need to indicate that you were treated by a medical professional who can attest to your need to miss class during an examination or that would preclude you from taking such an exam when scheduled. Documentation must include information that verifies the number of days away from class that you need(ed) due to illness.

2) Wake/Funeral/Memorial Service Attendance: I will need proof of attendance with the date of the ceremony listed clearly in writing.

3) Mandatory courtroom appearance: This can be for a criminal or civil summons, or it may be for mere jury duty. However, I will need a copy of your official court summons with the date of attendance clearly listed.

4) UF Athletic or Performance participation: I will need appropriate documentation IN ADVANCE.

5) Military service assignments: I will need proper documentation and it is a courtesy to the instructor to provide this information in advance.

FINAL GRADES WILL BE ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:

A = 94.0-100
A- = 90.0-93.9
B+ = 87.0-89.9
B = 84.0-86.9
B- = 80.0-83.9
C+ = 77.0-79.9
C = 74.0-76.9
C- = 70.0-73.9
D+ = 67.0-69.9
D = 64.0-66.9
D- = 60.0-63.9
E = < 60.00

NO CLASS MEETING: Monday, May 27, 2019: Memorial Day

LAST DAY OF CLASS: Friday, June 21, 2019 (Designated final examination date)

GRADING POLICY: This course will adhere to the University of Florida’s policies on grading, as found at the following Web link:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

This is not a correspondence course and thus your physical presence in the classroom is required. You are expected to attend class regularly, and as such, I will take attendance every class session to get to know everyone’s name and to learn more about the students in the beginning of the course. Punctuality and regular attendance are essential components toward student success (given the amount of material discussed during class time), however, you are responsible for all the material covered in class, whether you are present or absent. If this course requirement is not to your liking, there is certainly the opportunity to take this course in a future term/semester.
**NOTE: Please see the following link for more information on attendance, as this course will adhere to the University of Florida’s regulations in this regard.

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

ACCOMMODATING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: If you need course adaptations or accommodations due to a documented disability, if you have emergency medical information that you need to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

If students need classroom adaptations/accommodations, then they must begin the process by registering with the Dean of Students Office.

Additionally, please see the Disability Resource Center for arrangements in this regard (if you have not done so already) in 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall).

Contact information for this center can be found at www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/

OTHER KEY INFORMATION FOR SHORT-TERM/LONG-TERM SERVICES RELATED TO ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, OR PERSONAL ISSUES:

The University Counseling & Wellness Center: (352) 392-1575 (https://counseling.ufl.edu/)

The Student Health Care Center (352) 392-1161

The University Police Department can be contacted at (352) 392-1111 or dial 911 for emergencies.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If I have indicated that you have problems with grammar and writing style with respect to any in-class and/or comments submitted to Canvas as part of class participation, I will encourage you to take evidence of your writing to the Writing Studio and work with the consultants there to assist in strengthening your writing submission for credit. Anyone is eligible to utilize their services, which are FREE of charge, so take advantage of what they are able to assist you with in the process. Even students who earn A and B grades are welcome make an appointment at the Writing Studio. One-on-one assistance and consultation are available.

Contact Information:

The Writing Studio (within the University Writing Program)
302 Tigert Hall
(352) 846-1138
http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-center/
IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CITATIONS AND REFERENCES:

Using others’ words, ideas, images, graphics, illustrations, maps, diagrams or other intellectual property requires proper citations and documentation. One’s own words describing information gathered from elsewhere (in addition to direct quotations) requires proper citation and documentation to avoid plagiarism. You are responsible for knowing the rules of referencing sources for your writing. The following Web link will provide you with the citation style used in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers, which is a top-tiered, peer-reviewed scholarly journal published by the American Association of Geographers. I recommend that you use the following guide as a reference to maintain consistency with your proper citations/documentations that is in accordance with academic scholarship.


ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION:

Students will be expected to evaluate the quality of instruction in this course based upon 10 criteria. Evaluations can be completed online at this site:

https://evaluations.ufl.edu

Evaluations can typically be completed during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students shall be made aware of when the evaluations will be accessible online. The summary results of these evaluations will be available at the following site:

https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/

POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “(W)e, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.
OTHER COURSE POLICY ISSUES:

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:

University classrooms are professional environments and you are expected and required to act accordingly. Class attendance is more than a mere physical presence in the classroom – it means the following rules are expected and required: no reading of novels, magazines, newspapers, notebooks, digital devices, cell phones, or anything else during class. Playing of games, passing notes, having side conversations with neighbors, or using laptops or other digital devices are not permitted. **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXT MESSAGING OR USE OF CELLULAR PHONES DURING CLASS TIME!** You should set your cell phones to mute or vibrate and put them away for class. As the instructor, I reserve the right to interrupt class to ask that the offending student(s) to STOP with whatever activity that it is that disrupts the teaching/learning process, and if necessary, require that they leave the class if said activity continues during a class session or in subsequent sessions. This additionally applies toward unauthorized use of laptop computers as well! Lastly, it is okay to disagree with others about their opinions, but please show due respect accordingly. You are all in this together and my job is to best facilitate the learning environment equally amongst all students. Civility is expected at all times.

CLASS CANCELATION:

In the event that the university is closed due to inclement weather or for some other unforeseen circumstance, then that class meeting’s itinerary is moved to the next scheduled class session. However, it is your responsibility to keep up-to-date with any changes that might occur with adjustments to the class schedule and with respect to due dates.

**THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR MODIFY THE CONTENT COVERED AND THE SCHEDULE FOR DUE DATES AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEMESTER.**

I look forward to working with you all during this Summer A 2019 session. Good luck, learn geography, and have fun in this class too! Much of your education is what you make of it, so do your part to make this experience go as well as it possibly can while you earn credits toward your university degree. Have a great semester!

**IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR PROGRESS DURING THE SEMESTER, PLEASE SEE ME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.** PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER TO ADDRESS CONCERNS. ADDITIONALLY, IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR FIRST LANGUAGE AND THIS MAY PRESENT A PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNICATING IN WRITING IN THIS COURSE, PLEASE SEE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ASSIST YOU WITH MOVING FORWARD. Welcome to “Social Geography”!

I look forward to being your instructor.
Topics to Address (Time-Permitting) This Semester:

1) Introduction of Geography as a Discipline
2) Human Geography: Major Branch of the Discipline
3) Social Geography: How it fits into Human Geography as a subfield
4) Social Geography and the Sociospatial Dialectic
5) Changing Economic Context of City Life
6) Cultures of Cities
7) Patterns of Sociospatial Differentiation
8) Spatial and Institutional Frameworks: Citizens, the State, and Civil Society
9) Structures of Building Provision and the Social Production of the Urban Environment
10) The Social Dimensions of Modern Urbanism
11) Segregation and Congregation
12) Neighborhood, Community, and the Social Construction of Place
13) Environment and Behavior in Urban Settings
14) Bodies, Sexuality, and the City
15) Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change
16) Urban Change and Conflict
17) Recent Developments in Urban Social Geography
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<th>Module:</th>
<th>READING ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</th>
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<td><strong>Introduction:</strong></td>
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<td>Introduction of instructor and meeting of students; discussion of syllabus, course policies and procedures, etc. Pre-assessment; Introduction to subfield with important introductory module</td>
<td><strong>5/15/19:</strong> Read Syllabus &amp; Obtain Course Textbook</td>
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<td><strong>5/16/19:</strong> Chapter 1</td>
<td>Midterm Examination: Friday, 6/7/19: In-class &amp; closed-note, closed textbook, as well as all closed-all-digital-technologies, in addition to being individually worked upon (i.e., no collaboration of any kind)</td>
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<td><strong>5/17/19:</strong> Chapter 2</td>
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<td><strong>Film #1: 5/23 &amp; 5/24</strong></td>
<td><strong>5/24/19:</strong> Chapter 4</td>
<td><strong>Due Friday, 5/24/19 @ 11:59 p.m.: Article Reaction Paper #1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>5/31/19:</strong> Chapters 5, 6, &amp; 7</td>
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