

Syllabus for Social Geography

GEO2410 – Section 4B08 (Summer B 2018 – 3 credits)

(Satisfies Social Science General Education & Diversity Requirements)

Instructor: Michael Waylen – Ph.D Student in Geography Department

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Course Meeting Times: Monday – Friday. 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00 pm – 5:00pm (or by appointment) in Rolfs Hall
room #100

Course Overview

This course focuses on issues and perspectives in contemporary urban landscapes through understanding historical social processes and spatial patterns that shape everyday life and vice versa. It examines the trends that give rise to urban landscapes, the confluence of social, economic, and political influences that have contributed to its large number and concentrations of occupants, and the contradictory meanings assigned to urban landscapes by intellectuals and planners.

The forces that produced the changed appearance and function of urban settlements also resulted in dramatic changes in their internal spatial structure, that is, in the locations of their residential and nonresidential activities, the buildings that housed them, and the connections among them. Social patterns and the spaces of difference, poverty, and affluence we experience today are endemic from changes in political-economies towards a globalized system. These changes have long lasting impacts on the sociospatial organization of our world. This in turn forever changed the social and economic fabric of the central cities and downtowns of metropolitan landscapes.

This course introduces students to a number of contemporary perspectives in social geography including theories, methodologies, and the interdisciplinary evolution of the subfield relating to issues of race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and environmental issues. As a result, students are encouraged to engage with the spatial meanings, practices, and aspects of everyday life that are produced and reproduced in the urban landscape.

Relevance to Social Science General Education & Diversity Requirements

After taking this course, students will be familiar with historical social processes that shape contemporary urban spatial structures and make informed decisions about where to live. This course is designed to sensitize students to the rich mosaic of diverse residential and nonresidential uses that make the internal structure of contemporary urban landscapes. It is intended to make students more critical of the demographic, social, economic, and political factors that have contributed to urban landscapes. Additionally, students will be introduced to a wide range of theories and methodologies involved in social science knowledge production.

Requirements and Grading

Textbook and Readings: Paul Knox and Stephen Pinch, *Urban Social Geography, An Introduction*. 6th ed.

David Harvey, 1973. *Social Justice and the City*. Blackwell Publishing

Other assigned readings to be made available in PDF on Canvas.

Powerpoint Slides: A set of slides will be made available for each of the lectures on Canvas.

Study/Test Guides: There are no study/test guides, but if you attend class regularly, use the powerpoint slides, and read the material, you will have a good idea of the material on the exams.

Attendance (20%): Attendance is mandatory and contributes a significant percentage of the final grade. Attendance will be taken during class period. Students are allowed one unexcused absence and all other unexcused absences will result in a 1.4 deduction on the final grade. Exceptions will be made in the case of documented illness or other extenuating circumstances.

Exam (20%): There will be one multiple-choice based mid-term exam on Friday, June 20th based on vocabulary and key concepts.

Discussion Posts (20% total or 5% each): There are four discussion posts due before 11:59 pm on the following Sundays: July 8th, July 15th, July 29th, and August 5th. There will be a prompt for each discussion post that students are to address using concepts from the course with a minimum of 250 and a maximum of 500 words.

Paper (20%): Students will write a paper on a selected topic related to social geography. The paper must be double-spaced and Times New Roman twelve-point font. The paper must meet a minimum of 1000 words and not exceed a maximum of 1500 words. The paper will be graded based on content, grammar, punctuation, citations, and works cited. Title page and bibliography/works cited will NOT count towards the total word count. The final paper will be submitted on Canvas by class time (12:30 pm) the final day of classes on August 10th, 2018.

Poster Presentations (20%): Students will give a poster presentation based on their selected paper topic. The poster must be made in Powerpoint and a template will be provided on Canvas for students to use. To simulate a conference setting, students will give a presentation more than 2 minutes long, but less than 5 minutes long, on their research topic and field questions from classmates and the instructor. Poster presentations will be given during class time on August 8th, 2018.

Assignment	Due Date/Time	Grade Percentage
Discussion 1	July 8th 11:59 pm	5
Discussion 2	July 15th 11:59 pm	5
Test	July 20th 12:30 pm-1:45 pm	20
Discussion 3	July 29th 11:59 pm	5
Discussion 4	August 5th 11:59 pm	5
Presentation	August 8th 12:30 pm - 1:145 pm	20
Paper	August 10th 12:30 pm	20
Attendance	-	20

Penalties for late work: All work submitted late, that is after the above due dates and times, is subject to a 10% penalty every day the assignment is late. For tests, makeup exams will only be given with documented illnesses, emergencies, or sponsored university events. Please see university policies for further information:

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

Final Grades: Final grades are out of 100 possible points and letter grades are based on the following scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	<59

General Education/Diversity Requirement: You are required to earn a C grade or better to qualify for credit. C- is not a qualifying grade. Please refer to the undergraduate catalog

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodations must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then show it to the instructor and provide specific written requests when requesting accommodations.

Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These instructions are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> . Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open.

Statement of University's Honor Policy: Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (See student handbook for details). Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Assistance with Personal Health: Phone number and contact site for university counseling services and mental health services: 392-1575m
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> University Police Department: 392-1111 or 911 for emergencies.

Lecture Topics and Required Readings

Week 1: Introduction to geography, Social Geography and the Sociospatial Dialectic

Week 2: The Economic Context of City Life, Structuralist Approaches to Social Geography, Patterns of sociospatial differentiation, Spatial and institutional frameworks

Week 3: Structures of building provision and the social production of the urban environment, The cultures of cities

Week 4: Social dimensions of urbanism; Neighborhoods, community, and place; Segregation and congregation

Week 5: Environment and behavior in urban settings; Bodies, sexuality, and the city; Mobility and the city; Urban change and conflict

Week 6: Introduction to political ecology and environmental justice, urban political ecology

Reading and Assignment Guide Calendar:

July						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

8	Course Intro	9	Intro to GEO	10	No Class	11	USG Ch. 1	12	Harvey Ch.1	13	14
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15	Discussion 1	16	USG Ch.2	17	Harvey Ch. 5	18	Harvey Ch. 5	19	USG Ch.4	20	USG Ch. 5	21
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22	Discussion 2	23	USG Ch. 5	24	USG Ch. 6	25	USG Ch. 6	26	USG Ch.3/Review	27	Test	28
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29	USG Ch. 7	30	USG Ch. 9	31	Harvey Ch. 2	Harvey Ch. 2	USG Ch. 8
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Harvey Ch. 4	USG Ch. 10
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August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
			1		2	3

5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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Discussion 4	Intro to EJ/PE	Urban PE	Posters	Course conclusion	Paper
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