
Instructor

E-Mail

Personal Website

Office Hours and Location

Class Meeting Time and Location

Dr. Yujie Hu

yujiehu@ufl.edu

<https://people.clas.ufl.edu/yujiehu/>

Mon. 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Mon. 08:30 – 10:25 am; TUR 2346

Wed. 08:30 – 09:20 am; TUR 2346

 **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

An empirical and theoretical spatial analysis of the various economic, population, and social facets within and between urban settlements. Major topics include: defining urban, systems of cities, globalization, urban land use, urban transportation, urban development theories, urban housing, and ethnicity in cities.

 **GENERAL EDUCATION OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course is a social and behavioral sciences (S) subject area course in the UF General Education Program. Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

These general education objectives will be accomplished through:

- Discussion of the central concepts and theories relating to urban/business geography.
- Discussion of the evolution of urban systems in the U.S.
- Evaluation of the geographic dimensions of urban issues.
- Applications of GIS and spatial analysis in urban studies.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication and critical thinking:

- **Content:** *Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, methodologies and theories used within the subject area.*

Students will acquire the knowledge of central concepts, theories, and methods in urban/business geography. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through quizzes, reading assignments, lab assignments, exams, and a final report.

- **Communication:** *Students clearly and effectively communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning in written or oral forms appropriate to the subject area.* Students will participate in small group discussions on several Friday classes during the semester with assigned groups. These groups will present and discuss the key theoretical and conceptual issues in the lectures and assigned readings on a given subject. Every group will have the chance to present, lead, and participate the discussion. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed through student discussions during class time as well as during presentations of specified topics. Discussion leader grades will reflect how well a student communicates during these tasks.
- **Critical Thinking:** *Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the subject area.* Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis effectively to identify and examine urban issues. Achievement of this learning outcome will be assessed by the reading assignments, discussion leader assignments, lab assignments, and final project (presentation, report, and peer review).

PREREQUISITES

Sophomore standing or higher.

TEXTBOOKS

Recommended textbook:

- Kaplan, D., Holloway, S., and Wheeler, J. (2014). *Urban Geography* (3rd ed.). Wiley.
- Greene, R. and Pick, J. (2012). *Exploring the Urban Community: A GIS Approach* (2nd ed.). Pearson.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas.

EVALUATION OF GRADES

- **In-class quizzes (10%)**
Multiple short quizzes will be administered throughout the course, in class. These may be in a form of multiple choice, short answer, or short essay responses. Each quiz is worth 2 points—1 point for participation and 1 point for the question itself.
- **Reading assignments (15%)**
There will be assigned readings designed to inform class discussions. For each of these assigned readings you should prepare a written summary of 500+ words summarizing and critiquing the reading. A sample written summary will be provided. The summary should be posted on Canvas by the Thursday evening (no later than 8 pm) prior to the Friday class.
- **Discussion leader (15%)**

Students are expected to lead/chair class discussion on the Friday class, which involves a short (10 – 15 minutes) presentation of the key theoretical and conceptual issues in the lectures and readings pertaining to that week and introducing questions for the class to explore. This will often be done in groups of 2-3, and you will have the opportunity to present twice in the semester.

- **Lab Assignments (10%)**

Hands-on lab assignments are provided to help you use GIS to study cities.

- **Exams (20%)**

Two short (one-period), close-book exams, covering all course contents by the day of the exam, will be administered in class. The exam will comprise a mix of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay responses.

- **Final presentation (10%)**

Each student will select a city (must be approved by instructor) and prepare a 15-minute presentation to describe and analyze patterns and issues of the city. Students will be provided with a rubric to guide their presentation.

- **Final report (10%)**

Each student will select a city (must be approved by instructor) and prepare a report describing and analyzing patterns and issues of the city. A suggested format of the report will be provided.

- **Peer review (10%)**

Each student will write a response to assigned final presentations. Students will be provided with a rubric to guide their response.

GRADING SCALE

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93+	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-67	66-63	62-60	59-
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:

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

WRITING REQUIREMENT

This course confers 6000 words towards the Writing Requirement (WR), which ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning.

Course grades have two components. To receive Writing Requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. For more information on the Writing Requirement, see:

<http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/writing-requirement/>.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

- **Attendance & makeup:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.
- **Cell phone and texting:** To encourage uninterrupted participation in class, it is expected that students turn cell phones to silent mode before coming to class.
- **Late submissions:** Late submissions will not be accepted.
- **Grade disputes:** Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.

OTHER INFORMATION

- **Academic honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity. 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 (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-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 or TAs in this class.
- **Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.
- **Counseling and mental health resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should contact the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).
- **Online course evaluation process:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under

GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- **Writing Studio:** The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

SUGGESTED COURSE SCHEDULE

Students should note that there may be changes to the class schedule.

Weeks	Topic
1	Course overview and syllabus walkthrough
2	Introduction to urban/business geography
3	Monday MLK Day; US urban system
4	US urban system - continued
5	Urban land use
6	Exam 1; Urban land use - continued
7	Urban land use - continued
8	Urban transportation
9	Urban transportation - continued
10	Spring break
11	Urban development
12	Urban housing
13	Urban housing - continued
14	Exam 2; Urban ethnicity
15	Final presentation
16	Final presentation

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Exam 1: TBD
- Exam 2: TBD
- The city for final presentation and report: determined by 03/16/2021