

# Syllabus for Social Geography

GEO2410 – Section O391 (Fall 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: Tuesdays (3:00 pm – 4:55pm) and Thursdays  
(4:05 pm – 4:55 pm)

Office Hours: Mondays 2:00 pm – 5:00pm (or by appointment) in 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Turlington Hall (Geography Department) Room #3126A

## 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 environment. 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*. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Policy:** Attendance is not mandatory; however, students are expected to attend class regularly. Attending lectures will familiarize students with content and course materials that are conducive to earning the highest possible grade.

**Exams (20%):** There will be two multiple-choice based exams on Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Exams are based on vocabulary and key concepts. Exam 1 covers the first six weeks of material and exam 2 covers weeks 7 through 15.

**Discussion Posts (20% total or 5 discussion posts worth 4% each):** There are five discussion posts due before 11:59 pm on the following Sundays: September 9<sup>th</sup>, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup>, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, and November 9<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Quizzes (20% total or 4 quizzes worth 5% each):** Quizzes must be completed by 11:59 pm on the following Sundays: September 16<sup>th</sup>, October 14<sup>th</sup>, October 29<sup>th</sup>, and November 12<sup>th</sup>. Quizzes will be based on the previous 2 weeks of course content. Quizzes are 10 question, timed 30-minute multiple-choice and short answer exams.

**Paper Peer Review (20%):** Students will submit a **COMPLETED** rough draft of their final paper including in-text citations and bibliography on Sunday, November 19th before 11:59 pm. Students will be assigned one fellow student's paper draft to review and comment on. Students must submit their comments and corrections by Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> before 11:59 pm. In addition to comments and corrections, students will submit a completed rubric detailing reasons for final grade. Please see "Paper" section for further details.

**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 before 11:59 pm on December 4th.

Assignment	Due Date/Time	Grade Percentage
Discussion 1	September 9th before 11:59pm	4
Quiz 1	September 16th before 11:59pm	5
Discussion 2	September 23rd before 11:59pm	4
Quiz 2	September 30th before 11:59 pm	5
Test 1	In-class October 2nd	10
Discussion 3	October 7th before 11:59 pm	4
Quiz 3	October 14th before 11:59pm	5
Discussion 4	October 22nd before 11:59 pm	4
Quiz 4	October 29th before 11:59 pm	5
Discussion 5	November 5th before 11:59 pm	4
Submit Peer Review Draft	November 19th before 11:59 pm	
Test 2	In-class November 28th	10
Complete peer review	November 30th before 11:59 pm	20
Final Paper	December 4th before 11:59 pm	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: Course Introduction

Week 2: Introduction to geography, Social Geography and the Sociospatial Dialectic

Week 3: The Economic Context of City Life, Structuralist Approaches to Social Geography,

Week 4: Patterns of sociospatial differentiation, Spatial and institutional frameworks

Week 5: Structures of building provision and the social production of the urban environment,  
The cultures of cities

Week 6: Social dimensions of urbanism; Neighborhoods, community, and place;

Week 7: Segregation and congregation

Week 8: Environment and behavior in urban settings; Bodies, sexuality, and the city;

Week 9: Mobility and the city; Urban change and conflict

Week 10: Introduction to political ecology and environmental justice,

Week 11: Urban political ecology; Green urbanism and sustainability

Week 12: Final papers due

## Reading and Assignment Guide Calendar:

August						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
19	20	21	22	23	24	25

Course Intro						
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Intro to GEO & USG Ch. 1		Harvey Ch.1		1

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Harvey Ch. 5						USG Ch. 2
9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Discussion 1 due						
Suburbanization			USG Ch. 4			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Quiz 1 Due						
USG Ch. 5			USG Ch. 5			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Discussion 2 Due						
USG Ch. 6			USG Ch. 3/ Review			
30						

October						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1		2	3	4	5
						6

Mid-Term			USG Ch. 7			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Discussion 3 due						
USG Ch. 9			Harvey Ch. 2			
14	15	17	18	19	20	21

Quiz 2 due

		USG Ch. 8		Gentrification			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

Discussion 4  
due

		Harvey Ch. 4		USG Ch. 10			
29	30	31					

Quiz 3 Due

		USG Ch. 11					
		November					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
				1	2	3	4

USG Ch. 12

5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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Discussion post  
5 due

		USG Ch. 13		Intro to EJ/PE			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	

Quiz 4 Due

		Urban PE		Green Urbanism/ Sustainability			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	

Submit Draft  
for Peer  
Review

		No Class		No Class			
26	27	28	29	30	31		

Course  
Conclusion-  
Complete Peer  
Review

		Final Exam					
		December					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	

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2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Final Paper due

No Class