

URBDP 200: INTRODUCTION TO URBANIZATION

Spring 2019

Professor:

Mark Purcell
Gould 410F
mpurcell@uw.edu

Office Hours:

By appointment –
just email me or see me before/after class

Class meeting time and place:

MWF 10:30-11:20
Sieg 134

Teaching Assistants:

Dorian Bautista: dbautist@uw.edu
Evan Carver: evanhc@uw.edu

Sections are on Thursdays:

10:30-11:20 or 11:30-12:20



Course Website:

<https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1274996>

“...I am a prisoner of a gaudy and unlivable present, where all forms of human society have reached an extreme of their cycle, and there is no imagining what new forms they may assume. And I hear, from your voice, the invisible reasons that make cities live, through which perhaps, once dead, they will come to life again.”

--Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities

Introduction

This course introduces you to cities. What are cities? Where do they come from? How do they work? In Calvino’s words, what are the “invisible reasons that make cities live”? And, crucially, how can cities be *better* than they are today? In investigating these questions, we will explore the spatial, economic, cultural, political, and social aspects of cities, as well as the relations among those aspects. We will also examine case studies drawn from both the global North and South that will help us see how the ideas we explore are being worked out in actual practice in cities. Class sessions will mostly involve (interactive) lectures. Outside class, the primary work will be reading selected texts and writing responses. There will also be a midterm and a final exam. Lastly, in section, you will explore course ideas through discussion and other activities.

Learning Goals

- Develop an introductory understanding of how cities work and how they change, including economic, political, cultural, and social processes
- Develop critical literacy in key debates about the city and its future
- Explore and evaluate possible alternatives to the current city
- Understand global similarities and differences in how cities work

Student Responsibilities

1. Regularly attend and actively engage in lecture (i.e. listen, contribute to the discussion, take good notes)
2. Arrive at lecture on time
3. Complete the reading before the lecture in which we examine it
4. Complete all assignments on time and ensure that your work meets a high standard. No late work will be accepted.
5. Attend and participate actively in section

Readings

- Course Reader, available at Rams Copy Center, 4144 University Way NE, (206) 632-6630
- Supplemental reading and viewing materials may be distributed during quarter

Assessment

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Participation in lecture	10	Every lecture
Reading Assignments	25	Most lecture classes
Midterm Exam	20	May 3
Final Exam	25	June 10
Section	20	Thursdays

Academic honesty

The University takes the offenses of cheating and plagiarism very seriously, and so do I. Cheating is using the work of your peers to improve your work. Plagiarism is presenting the work of others as your own without giving appropriate credit. If you are unsure what is OK or not OK, make sure to ask!

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1	
Monday April 1	<p><u>Topic:</u> Orientation, overview of class, introductions, syllabus</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>
Wednesday April 3	<p><u>Topic:</u> Two experiences of urbanization—North and South</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> none</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> none</p>
Friday April 5	<p><u>Topic:</u> What is a city?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Mumford, “What is a city?”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #1</p>
Week 2	
Monday April 8	<p><u>Topic:</u> What does it mean to be urban? (In-class discussion of the reading)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Wirth, “Urbanism as a way of life”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #2</p>
Wednesday April 10	<p><u>Topic:</u> What is urbanization?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Davis, “The urbanization of the human population”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #3</p>
Friday April 12	<p><u>Topic:</u> So wait, what is this class about again?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> none</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> none</p>
Week 3	
Monday April 15	<p><u>Topic:</u> Origins of cities – why do humans cluster?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, Urban Geography, 26-46</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #4</p>

Wednesday April 17	<p><u>Topic:</u> Origins of cities – why do humans cluster?</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> none</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> none</p>
Friday April 19	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How have cities developed over time? Ancient, Medieval, Commercial, and Industrial Cities</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, pp. 46-60</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #5</p>
Week 4	
Monday April 22	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How have cities developed over time? Ancient, Medieval, Commercial, and Industrial Cities</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Engels, “The great towns”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #6</p>
Wednesday April 24	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How have cities developed over time? Suburbanization, Sprawl</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Knox, <i>Urbanization</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #7</p>
Friday April 26	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How have cities developed over time? Suburbanization, Sprawl</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>
Week 5	
Monday April 29	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How do cities grow? Economic Agglomeration, De-industrialization, Globalization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Archer, Chapter 5</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #8</p>
Wednesday May 1	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How do cities grow? Economic Agglomeration, De-industrialization, Globalization</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>

Friday May 3	Midterm Exam
Week 6	
Monday May 6	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How do cities sort out their population? Gentrification</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Lees, Slater, and Wyly, <i>Gentrification</i>, Chapter 1</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #9</p>
Wednesday May 8	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How do cities sort out their population? Housing and homelessness</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, Chapter 9 • Knox and McCarthy, <i>Urbanization</i>, pp. 392-397 <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #10</p>
Friday May 10	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – How do cities sort out their population? Segregation</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Massey and Denton, “The continuing causes of segregation”</p> <p>Optional: Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, Chapter 10</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #11</p>
Week 7	
Monday May 13	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – Planning and Visions of the Good City: Howard, Le Corbusier</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Howard, “Author’s introduction” and “The town-country magnet” • Le Corbusier, “A contemporary city” • Optional: Kaplan, <i>Urban Geography</i>, selection from Chapter 13 <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #12</p>
Wednesday May 15	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – Planning and Visions of the Good City: New Urbanism</p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs, “The uses of sidewalks: safety” • “Charter of the New Urbanism” <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #13</p>

Friday May 17	<p><u>Topic:</u> North – Planning and Visions of the Good City: Ecological Urbanism (Evan Carver)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Spirn, “Ecological Urbanism”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading Assignment #14</p>
Week 8	
Monday May 20	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – Trading Centers and Colonialism</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Knox, <i>Urbanization</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #15</p>
Wednesday May 22	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – Trading Centers and Colonialism</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>
Friday May 24	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – Urbanization, Migration, and Informal Settlements</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Davis, <i>Planet of Slums</i>, Chapters 1 and 2</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #16</p>
Week 9	
Monday May 27	<p><i>No Class: Memorial Day</i></p>
Wednesday May 29	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – Urbanization, Migration, and Informal Settlements</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> None</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> None</p>
Friday May 31	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – Urbanization and Industrialization in China</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Zhang, “Chinese Cities in a Global Society”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> Reading assignment #17</p>
Week 10	
Monday June 3	<p><u>Topic:</u> South? Urbanization and Informal Settlements in Mexico City (Dorian Bautista)</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Connolly, “The Case of Mexico City, Mexico”</p> <p><u>Assignments Due:</u> TBA</p>

<p>Wednesday June 5</p>	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – Indian Cities, Delhi <u>Readings:</u> Chalana and Rishi, “Making Sense of the Order in the Disorder in Delhi’s Kathputli Colony” <u>Assignments Due:</u> TBA</p>
<p>Friday June 7</p>	<p><u>Topic:</u> South – African Cities: Lagos, Nigeria and Capetown, South Africa <u>Readings:</u> Pieterse and Parnell, “Africa’s Urban Revolution in Context” <u>Assignments Due:</u> TBA</p>
<p>Exam Week</p>	
<p>Monday June 10 8:30-10:20am</p>	<p><i>Final Exam</i> – same room as lecture</p>

READING ASSIGNMENTS

For most lecture classes, you will have a reading to do outside of and before class. This reading will prepare you for the lecture. For each reading, you will also *write* a “reading assignment.” These written assignments are an opportunity for you to review the reading, to process what it is trying to tell you, and to develop your critical understanding of it.

Here's what will happen: for a given class, we will pose a question about the reading on the course website. You will read the question, then read the reading with the question in mind, then write your answer to the question, then upload your answer, and we will grade it.

These assignments are not designed for you to write a lot of words. In fact, usually *no more than a sentence* is necessary (something like 3 lines, around 40 words, is plenty). However, don't take that to mean these are unimportant assignments or that they do not require effort. Even though we don't expect verbose responses, we *do* expect insightful and high-quality ones. Even if you are not writing a lot of words, *you should be doing significant thinking* before you write. You should review and reflect carefully on the reading in light of the question, and then provide a precise, clear, thoughtful—and short—answer to the question.

The questions for the reading assignments are available on the course website on the “Assignments” tab.

There are reading assignments for most of the lecture classes. Collectively they are worth 25 percent of your grade. Each reading assignment will be scored on a scale of 0 to 10. The three lowest scores you receive will be dropped from your overall score.

The assignments should be *entirely your own work*. This is not a collaborative assignment.

Format

- Each reading assignment must be uploaded (in .docx, .doc, .rtf, .txt, or .pdf formats to avoid complications) to the course website.
- Make sure your name and the assignment number are on the page.
- The assignment for a particular reading is due *before* the start of lecture on the day we first discuss the reading in lecture. See the syllabus for specific dates.

PARTICIPATION IN LECTURE

While the main part of the course will be mostly lecture format, the lectures will often be interactive. Your attendance and participation in lecture is essential, both for your own understanding of the course material and for the quality of the lectures. To do well in the class (and particularly on the exams) it is essential to attend lectures and participate effectively. Here's how to do so:

- before the day of the lecture: read the question for the reading assignment on the canvas site, then read the reading with the question in mind, then think carefully about your answer to the question, then write your reading assignment and upload it
- on the day of the lecture: come to class on time, be interested and engaged in what is going on, offer your ideas, and take great notes.

If you do that, things will go well for you in this class. You will learn a lot, and you will enjoy yourself. If you are engaged and active in class, questions and comments will occur to you. You are not only welcome but encouraged to share these, as long as they are offered in the spirit of honest inquiry about cities and how they work.

EXAMS

Exams will consist of short essays. The exam questions will draw on the reading, lectures, and, to a lesser extent, section. The exams will be in-class exams, but they are not about memorizing and regurgitating facts. To answer the questions well, you will need to formulate a *rich understanding* of how cities work, and then, in the exam, to skillfully *articulate* in writing your understanding of how cities work. Your answers will be graded on how completely and cogently they analyze the relevant urban processes.

SECTION

Section will be awesome, and your TA—Dorian or Evan—will provide a separate syllabus for that.