University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
Urban Studies 250 LEC 001 - Exploring the Urban Environment  
Fall Semester 2013  

Syllabus

Course Information

Class Meetings: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm  
Class Location: NWQ G558 (Northwest Quadrant, 2025 E. Newport Ave.)  
Instructor: Kari Smith  
Office: NWQ 5488  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:45 - 1:45pm and Thursdays 3:15 – 4:15pm (or by appointment)  
Email: smith837@uwm.edu  
Office Phone: 414-229-5312 (during office hours)

Course Description

This multidisciplinary course will look at the nature of the city, the processes that affect change, and the future of the city. Throughout the course, we will touch on many basic urban themes and theories including culture, transportation, segregation, sustainability, etc. As we build up a background in basic urban theories, written and verbal assignments will provide opportunities to develop your individual perspective, explore specific interests, familiarize yourself with urban scholars and scholarly resources, and make connections between theory and current events (in Milwaukee as well as other national and international cities).

There are a number of issues and themes within urban studies and this course will aim to survey a diverse, though not exhaustive, selection of those themes. By the end of the semester every student should be able to identify some of the major challenges facing American and international cities today. This will include issues related to housing, mobility, violence, the environment, and so forth. The overarching objective is to provide students with the beginnings of a foundation in urban studies theory and current events; further, this course will give students a sense of the many issues within urban studies in need of ongoing research and intervention and thus aid in identifying potential future areas of study and focus.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:  
- have an understanding of the multi-disciplinary nature of urban studies  
- have an introductory knowledge of scholarly discourse on a selection of topics relevant to the urban environment  
- be able to view and analyze a selected city within the context of the course themes  
- be able to engage in informed academic discussion on a range of themes relevant to the urban environment  
- be knowledgeable about and able to access and utilize scholarly resources in urban studies
Class Structure

Class will meet weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 – 3:15pm. During class periods, content will be provided via lectures with some video excerpts, intended to prompt discussion on the assigned readings, key concepts, and current events related to the weekly topics. A portion of each class period will be utilized for students to complete prompted written responses, give short oral presentations, or for administering pop quizzes.

Each week will be assigned a theme and lectures and discussions will be based upon assigned readings, typically a journal article or book excerpt. Class assignments will be diverse in order to reach all learning and contribution strengths and will include short presentations, discussions, quizzes, and papers. The selected themes can be found in the class schedule below.

In general for this course, student assessment (grades) are based on your ability to process, understand, and communicate the course content as well as your ability to express your individual perspective on and opinions about the themes. Communication with the instructor regarding missing class, questions about assignments, and so forth is highly encouraged if and whenever needed.

Required Course Materials

All readings will be provided electronically via the library eReserve system, the D2L website, or, if needed, by email. Students are responsible for downloading and reading all assigned reading (and printing if they prefer to review hard copies) prior to the week’s first class session (Tuesday) in order to prepare in advance for class discussion. Students are also responsible for promptly informing the instructor if they have any difficulties accessing class materials so that they can be emailed or otherwise distributed.

If there is a need to change or revise reading assignments as the semester progresses, students will be notified and all final reading selections will be provided by the Thursday prior to the week of the assigned reading.

Assignments and Grading

A total of 470 points is required to receive an A in the course and at 350 points are required to receive a C- grade. Following is a description of each of the course assignments.

Attendance/Participation/Preparation: 50 points (10%)

It is critical that students attend all classes in order to successfully complete the graded assignments. Excessive absences, tardiness, and lack of preparation and participation will be noted and addressed.

Most of the semester’s class sessions will begin with a five minute written response activity, each of which is worth one point, with the exception of the first day (2 points), mid-term review (5 points), library instruction session (10 points), and the last four class sessions (3 points each) for a total of 50 points possible. These cannot be made up outside of class.

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Oral Presentations: 50 points each, 100 points total (all students are required to do one reading synopsis and one city connection presentation) (20%)

Each oral presentation should be 5-7 minutes in length; supporting materials (i.e. PowerPoint, handouts) are not required but can be used if appropriate, particularly for City Connection.

- **Reading Synopsis:** Student should provide a summary of the reading assignment including the main points, conclusions, and relevance to the weekly theme. Students should include their analysis and/or opinion on the paper and/or the author’s position.
- **City Connection:** Student should present elements of the theme and/or reading for that week within the context of a city of their choice (national or international). Images encouraged.

**City Analysis Paper: 150 points (30%)**
Choose three of the course themes and present an analysis of those themes for a city of your choice (national or international). Detailed length and content guidelines are provided on D2L.

**Mid-Term Exam: 50 points (10%)**
This exam will be written and may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**Final Exam: 50 points (10%)**
This exam will be written and may include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

**Pop Quizzes / Homework Assignments: up to four, 100 points total (20%)**
Four unannounced quizzes or homework assignments of various formats and point allocations will be given in class throughout the semester. Missed quizzes and homework cannot be made up at a later time (no exceptions).

Additional Points and Extra Credit Opportunities
Beyond in-class contributions, students wishing to complete extra credit assignments must discuss this with and receive approval from the instructor prior to completing the assignment. Extra credit and additional points activities cannot be used to substitute for the two required Oral Presentations, City Analysis Paper, or Mid-Term Exam (i.e. if a student has not completed the mandatory assignments they are not eligible for extra credit).

**Oral Contributions to Class Discussions: 3 points per day, up to 75 points total**
Each student who contributes verbally during class time will receive an additional three (3) points added to their daily written response for up to 75 additional points throughout the semester.

**Up to two additional pre-approved assignments: 25 points each**
Students interested in additional extra credit can discuss possible assignments with the instructor. Each assignment should include a 750-1000 write-up and can include, for example, writing a reading response to an approved source or attending an Urban Studies Program event.
### Grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Participation/Preparation (assessed via daily responses and other in-class activities)</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Presentations (two presentations, 50 points each)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>City Analysis Paper</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pop Quizzes / Homework</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>500</td>
<td>100%</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 – 100</td>
<td>470 – 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 94</td>
<td>450 – 469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88 – 90</td>
<td>440 – 449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 88</td>
<td>420 – 439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 84</td>
<td>400 – 419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78 – 80</td>
<td>390 – 399</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 78</td>
<td>370 – 389</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 74</td>
<td>350 – 369</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>68 – 70</td>
<td>340 – 349</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>64 – 68</td>
<td>320 – 339</td>
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<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>300 – 319</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
<td>299 and below</td>
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### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 3&lt;br&gt; Thursday, September 5</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course and Urban Studies</td>
<td><em>Begin reading for Week 2</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 10&lt;br&gt; Thursday, September 12</td>
<td>Cities and the Urban Environment</td>
<td>• The Modern City and Its Problems, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4 <em>(Howe)</em>&lt;br&gt; • Urban Studies and Planning <em>(LeGates)</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuesday, September 17&lt;br&gt; Thursday, September 19</td>
<td>Urban Image and Urban Design</td>
<td>• The City Image and Its Elements <em>(Lynch)</em>&lt;br&gt; • Ambiguities of Urban Design <em>(Madanipour)</em></td>
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² All reading assignments subject to change as needed and based on class progression; final selections will be provided by the Thursday of the week prior.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Topic</th>
<th>Reading and Activities</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 4 | Tuesday, September 24 | Urban Housing and Neighborhoods | • The Case for a Right to Housing³ (<i>Hartman</i>)  
• Why Can’t We Just Convert Vacant Buildings Into Housing for the Homeless⁴ (<i>The Atlantic Cities</i>)  
• The neighborhood unit (<i>Perry</i>)  
• Socio-cultural factors and house form (<i>Rapoport</i>) <i>(optional)</i> |
| 4 | Thursday, September 26 |  |  |
| 5 | Tuesday, October 1 | Public Space | • Needs in Public Space (<i>Carr, et al.</i>)  
• Questions to Ask a Space (<i>Fleming</i>)  
• Using Information and Communication Technologies to Foster Social Encounters (<i>Melgaço</i>) |
| 5 | Thursday, October 3 |  |  |
| 6 | Tuesday, October 8 | Mobility, Transportation, and Infrastructure | • Urban Design Compendium, Chapter 4 Making the Connections  
• The Best Bike-Sharing Program in the United States: How D.C., of all places, made it happen⁵ (<i>Vanderbilt</i>)  
• Additional reading excerpts and short videos will be provided via online discussion |
| 6 | Thursday, October 10 |  |  |
| 7 | Tuesday, October 15 | Urban Violence and Safety | • Urban Violence and Insecurity: An Introductory Roadmap (<i>Moser</i>)  
• Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (<i>City of Virginia Beach</i>)  
• The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety (<i>Jacobs</i>) |
| 7 | Thursday, October 17 |  |  |
| 8 | Tuesday, October 22 | Review Discussion | No new reading this week |
| 8 | Thursday, October 24 | Mid-Term Exam |  |
| 9 | Tuesday, October 29 | Accessing/Utilizing Scholarly Resources, Prep for City Analysis Paper | Class will meet in the Golda Meir Library for a library instruction session |
| 9 | Thursday, October 31 | Student-Requested Topic | To be determined |
| 10 | Tuesday, November 5 | Urban Culture and Heritage | • Culture (<i>Williams</i>)  
• Urban Heritage Management in Vietnam, Preface and Chapter 1 (<i>Urban Solutions</i>)  
• Whose Culture? Whose City? (<i>Zukin</i>) <i>(optional)</i>  
• Additional reading excerpts and short videos will be provided via online discussion |
| 10 | Thursday, November 7 |  |  |

⁵ [http://www.slate.com/articles/life/doers/2013/01/capital_bikeshare_how_paul_demaio_gabe_klein_adrian_fenty_and_other_dc_leaders.2.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/life/doers/2013/01/capital_bikeshare_how_paul_demaio_gabe_klein_adrian_fenty_and_other_dc_leaders.2.html)
<table>
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Resource</th>
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| 11   | Tuesday, November 12 | Urban Ecology, Sustainability, and Agriculture | • Planning Sustainable and Livable Cities *(Wheeler)*  
• Liveable Cities: The Benefits of Urban Environmental Planning (Section 2 only) *(The Cities Alliance)* |
|      | Thursday, November 14 |  |  |
| 12   | Tuesday, November 19 | Urban Poverty and Segregation | • The Measurement of Poverty *(White)*  
• Challenges of Spatial Planning in a Divided City: Mitrovica *(Poblet and Mitchell)* |
|      | Thursday, November 21 |  |  |
| 13   | Tuesday, November 26 | Urban Planning Practice and Theory | • City Planning Primer *(U.S. Dept of Commerce)*  
• Milwaukee Department of City Development website: [http://city.milwaukee.gov/DCD](http://city.milwaukee.gov/DCD) |
|      | Thursday, November 28 |  | Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class |

**City Analysis Papers Due by Midnight, Wednesday, November 27th**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tuesday, December 3</td>
<td>Urban Revitalization</td>
<td>• The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City <em>(Porter)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday, December 5</td>
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| 15   | Tuesday, December 10 | Public Participation | • Ladder of Citizen Participation *(Arnstein)*  
• Public Participation and Shaping Urban Development: The Case of the Atlantic Yard and Nets Arena Project in Brooklyn *(Cohen and Eimicke)* *(optional)*  
• Brooklyn Matters (film excerpt to be viewed in class)*

**Thursday, December 12th – Last day to turn in Extra Credit**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Monday, December 16</td>
<td>12:30 – 2:30</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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**Classroom Civility**

Students and faculty alike should strive to create a class environment that reflects mutual respect and the importance of learning. If a student’s behavior threatens to disrupt that environment, the faculty member has a responsibility to seek resolution to the problem. Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and their fellow students during class time. Side conversations while the instructor or other students are talking will not be tolerated! If a student is disruptive, the professor reserves the right to ask the student to leave the classroom.

In order to maintain an environment conducive to education, the use of cell phones (including for text messaging), pagers, walkmans, MP3 players, or any other electronic devices is prohibited during class time. These devices must be turned off during class time. Text messaging during class is not appropriate and will not be allowed. Use of laptops or tablets is allowed during class, so long as you are working on class-related material (note taking, reading the book or article in electronic format). Use of laptops and tablets for non-classroom related activities (Facebook, game playing, watching TV, etc.) is unacceptable.
Academic Conduct

You are expected to do your own work in this class and properly cite any ideas or quotes from other sources. Citations should follow a generally accepted format (APA, MLA, Chicago). Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct will be dealt with in accordance to the guidelines of the university. Academic dishonesty includes failing to cite published work or someone else’s ideas, purchasing a paper from another student or online, using another student’s work as your own, directly copying from a source without quoting the author, submitting your own work from another class, etc.

The university’s policy on plagiarism and academic integrity can be viewed online at http://www4.uwm.edu/osl/dean/conduct.cfm. Any student caught engaging in plagiarism will receive a failing grade for this course, NO EXCEPTIONS!

Desire2Learn (D2L)

This course has a D2L site that will be used for communication throughout the semester. Check in weekly for announcements, updates, and links to relevant articles and other resources. Assigned readings (or links to the assigned readings) will be posted on D2L on the content page under the topic heading for the week they are assigned. Students may see these materials there anytime, using a standard web browser (see below). D2L will also be used for posting grades. If you have trouble with D2L or have not used it yet, please see the following information on accessing and navigating D2L.

Using UW-Milwaukee Desire2Learn (D2L) course web sites

Recommended browsers: For a PC-compatible computer, use either Internet Explorer or Firefox. For Apple (Mac) computers, Safari or Firefox are recommended. The browser needs “Sun Java Runtime Environment” (Java-scripting) enabled for a recent version of Java.

NOTE: A complete and up-to-date list of recommended browsers and settings can always be found at: http://kb.wisc.edu/helpdesk/page.php?id=3210. Please contact the UWM Help Desk, as described below, if you have questions about these requirements.

To find and browse the D2L course web site

1. From to the UWM home page (http://www.uwm.edu) click on the dropdown menu to select D2L Course Access – OR – go directly to the D2L login page at http://D2L.uwm.edu.
2. Click on the button that says “UWM ePanther” to access D2L utilizing your UWM ePanther account.
3. On the Desire2Learn Welcome screen, type in your ePanther Username (your ePanther campus email, but without the “@uwm.edu”) and Password. Then hit [Login].
4. On the D2L MyHome screen, go to the drop down menu (“Select a course”) at the top of the screen. You’ll see your active courses here.
5. Click any course title to see the Course Home page. Click “Content” in the navigation bar to begin exploring the site.
6. If you have any difficulty getting into the course web site, please close down your web Browser completely and open it up again. Then try logging on again, using the instructions above. If you do not know your ePanther username or password, please get help as indicated below.
7. When you are finished looking around your D2L course sites, always click on “Logout” which can be found in the drop down menu under your name in the top right corner of the screen. This is especially important if you are in a computer lab. Otherwise, the next person who uses the machine will be using your D2L account!

**What to do if you have problems with Desire2Learn (D2L)**

If you have any difficulties with D2L, including problems with your login (e.g., you forgot your password, or if you just can’t get on), please contact the UWM Help Desk.

You can contact the Help Desk by doing one of the following:

- Report the problem via online web form at GetTechHelp.uwm.edu
- Call the UWM Help Desk at (414)229-4040 if you are in Metro Milwaukee (or just dial 4040 on a UWM campus phone).
- Go to Bolton 225 (this lab is not open all day or on weekends – call (414)229-4040 for specific hours)
- From outside the 414 or 262 area codes, but from within the USA, you may call the UWM Help Desk at 1-877-381-3459.
The Secretary of the University maintains a web page that contains university policies that affect the instructor and the students in this course, as well as essential information specific to conduct of the course. The link to that web page is: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

**University Policy on Credit Hours.** It is expected and necessary for students to spend time outside of scheduled classtime to prepare for and study materials from course sessions. The amount of time that students spend on coursework outside of classtime can be expected to be relatively proportionate to the number of credit hours that the course is valued at.

The credit hour policy states:

“Study leading to one semester credit represents an investment of time by the average student of not fewer than 48 hours for class contact in lectures, for laboratories, examinations, tutorials and recitations, and for preparation and study; or a demonstration by the student of learning equivalent to that established as the expected product of such a period of study.”

Based on federal and university expectations, as Urban Studies 250 is a 3-credit course, students should expect and prepare to spend a *minimum* of 144 hours outside of classtime on preparation and work related to the course. Taking into consideration that the number of hours demanded of students outside of class will fluctuate based on the scheduling of exams and major assignments, students should anticipate investing 6-7 hours per week on the course outside of class.

**Students with Disabilities.** Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate material and test accommodations can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/sac/SACltr.pdf

**Religious Observances.** Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S1.5.htm

**Students called to active Military Duty.** Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty are found at the following (Editorially Revised, 3/25/09): Students: http://www4.uwm.edu/current_students/military_call_up.cfm

**Incompletes.** You may be given an incomplete if you have carried a course successfully until near the end of the semester but, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond your control, have been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of course work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing the course for just cause as indicated above. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S31.pdf

**Discriminatory Conduct** (such as sexual harassment). Discriminatory conduct will not be tolerated by the University. It poisons the work and learning environment of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience and well-being of students, faculty and staff. Policies regarding discriminatory conduct can be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S47.pdf
**Academic Misconduct.** Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others’ academic endeavors. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm

**Complaint Procedures.** Students may direct complaints to the Urban Studies Programs Director or the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the Urban Studies Programs Director, the Associate Dean for Social Sciences in the College of Letters & Sciences, or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy. Policies may be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S49.7.htm

**Grade Appeal Procedures.** A student may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides or in the case of graduate students, the Graduate School. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. Procedures for student grade appeal can be found at: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S28.htm

**The S.A.F.E. Campaign.** Safety Awareness for Everyone describes initiatives to increase campuswide awareness of how to stay safe. One of UWM’s S.A.F.E. campus goals is to create a culture of awareness among students, faculty, staff, and parents. The Campus Health & Safety Web site at www.campussafety.uwm.edu (red link at the bottom of the UWM home page) centralizes emergency and routine safety information and communications. All faculty, students, and staff are encouraged to enroll in the S.A.F.E. Alert system to receive emergency-information text message alerts. Sign up at the above site.

**Other.** The final exam requirement, the final exam date requirement, etc. can be found at the following: http://www4.uwm.edu/secu/docs/other/S22.htm

For information on how to access other university policies, students can consult the UWM website or inquire with the instructor or other university faculty or staff.

(Editorially Revised, 8/26/11)