The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Department of Geography  

Geography 140  
Our Urban Environment: Introduction to Urban Geography  
Bolton Hall B87 (basement)  

Fall 2019: 3:30-4:45 p.m., Mondays and Wednesdays (3 credits)  

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Office hours: Mon. & Wed. 3:00-3:30 p.m., and by appointment  

Course Outline  

Cities are products of many forces. They are engines of economic development and centers of cultural innovation, social transformation, and political change. At the same time, there are important variations among cities in everything from employment opportunities to patterns of land use, racial composition, and social behavior.  

This course is an introduction to cities, to the approaches to studying them, and to the explanations offered for urban processes and forms. Major topics in this course focus on urban development and change, both at the scale of particular cities and at the scale of systems of cities including in the United States, Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Particular attention is paid to the changing relations between economic, political, social and cultural, technological, and environmental processes and the changing urban environment.  

The course objectives are for students to:  
1. recognize and analyze the interconnections between a variety of factors associated with individual behavior, collective action, and societal development within the context of cities and urban development.  
2. identify and critically evaluate the function, structure, and development of human groups and cultures, organizations and institutions, and their infrastructures and interrelationships within the context of cities and urban development.  
3. display effective communication skills including reading, writing, listening, speaking, and information literacy (in terms of being able to identify when and what information is needed and then to find, evaluate, and effectively use it).
Topics and Readings

Introduction

Wed. Sep. 4  Course introduction.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Preface; Ch. 1, 3-6 + 9-16.

Mon. Sep. 9  Introduction to the approaches within urban geography; Overview of how geographers have examined the city - the major theoretical traditions and methodological approaches within urban geography.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 1, 6-8.

The Historical Development of Urban Areas

Wed. Sep. 11  Urban origins and evolution I - the changing relationships between societal changes and changes in urban form and function: Mesopotamian, Greek, and Roman cities.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 2, 19-33.

Mon. Sep. 16  Urban origins and evolution II - the changing relationships between societal changes and changes in urban form and function: Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque cities.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 2, 33-40.

Wed. Sep. 18  The industrial city in Britain and North America: economic specialization, transportation innovations, and suburban growth.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 2, 40-45; Ch. 3, 53-55 + 67-69 + 78-83.

Mon. Sep. 23  Early industrialization in America: The Case of Lowell, MA.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, 50-53.

Wed. Sep. 25  The twentieth century city and the birth of city planning, I.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, 47-49 + 65-66; Ch. 11, 269-273; Ch. 13, 328-329.

Mon. Sep. 30  The twentieth century city and the birth of city planning, II.
Exam 1 review in class.
Required Readings:  Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, 53-55 + 66-67 + 79-83; Ch. 11, 264-269.

Wed. Oct. 2  ***** EXAM 1 - IN CLASS *****
Urban Economic Structure and Activity

Mon. Oct. 7  Urban development in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 5, 127-137; Ch. 7, 168-177 + 179-180.

Wed. Oct. 9  Urban land use theory: the location of residential and economic activities within metropolitan areas.
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, 58-65 + 69-78.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 3, 72-74 + 83-85; Ch. 4, 107-113; Ch. 12, 304-306.

Wed. Oct. 16 The use and usefulness of models of urban economic and residential structure: The case of Cape Town, South Africa.
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 6, 145-150; Ch. 7, 177-179.

Mon. Oct. 21 Patterns of economic and residential activities within Latin American cities.
*** Mental map drawing instructions at beginning of class ONLY ***
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 6, 141-145; Ch. 7, 178-179.

Wed. Oct. 23 Patterns of economic and residential activities within Chinese cities.
*** Mental maps due at beginning of class ONLY ***
*** 1 bonus point ***
*** Individual Student Position Paper instructions distributed ***
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy, Ch. 6, 159-164.

Social Interaction within Urban Areas

Mon. Oct 28  The urban experience: mental maps and perceptions of the urban environment.
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 14, 358-361.

Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 9, 207-211 + 218-222.

Mon. Nov. 4 Social interaction, residential segregation, and institutional influences on the housing market.
Exam 2 review in class.
Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 9, 211-217 + 223-231; Ch. 12, 293-303 + 307-321.

Wed. Nov. 6 ***** EXAM 2 - IN CLASS *****
**The Urban Political Arena**

**Mon. Nov. 11** Political fragmentation within metropolitan areas and the politics of urban development and redevelopment; Metropolitan Planning.  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 10, 233-241; Ch. 11, 280-288.*

*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 10, 241-245; Ch. 11, 277-280.*

**Mon. Nov. 18** Recent government intervention in urban development and redevelopment: Contemporary public-private partnerships.  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 8, 189-200; Ch. 10, 245-251.*

**Wed. Nov. 20** ***** NO CLASS, WEDNESDAY BEFORE THANKSGIVING *****

**Mon. Nov. 25** Inter-urban competition for private-sector investment and jobs.  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 10, 251-257.*

**Wed. Nov. 27** Architecture and urban design  
***INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUBMISSIONS DUE BY BEGINNING OF CLASS***  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 13, 323-345.*

**Geographical Perspectives on Problems of Urbanization**

**Mon. Dec. 2** Deindustrialization, corporate restructuring, and urban distress: The case of Flint, Michigan  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 4, 88-99; Ch. 15, 376-377.*

**Wed. Dec. 4** Poverty, homelessness, and crime.  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 15, 371-397.*

**The Future of Cities**

**Mon. Dec. 9** The future of cities and their changing economic base and spatial structure.  
**Exam 3 review in class.**  
*Required Readings: Knox & McCarthy: Ch. 4, 99-107; Ch.5, 117-123; Ch. 6, 139-141; Ch. 15, 407-410.*

**Wed. Dec. 11** ***STUDENT PAPER DEBATE IN CLASS***

**Mon. Dec. 16 Exam 3, 3:00 p.m. -4:15 p.m.**
Course Requirements, and University and Departmental Policy

The format of this course comprises primarily lectures with some in class discussion. Students are expected to attend all lectures, participate in any class discussions, read the required materials, complete the position paper and debate, and take all exams.

The exams are based on material from both the lectures and the required readings. The lectures provide the most important and up-to-date part of the course material during the semester—the lectures represent the structure of the course, and so should not be missed—a good grasp of your comprehensive lecture notes will help you do well in the three exams. The material in the lectures and required readings complement each other, however—one is not a substitute for the other—students need to both attend the lectures and take good notes and cover the required readings in order to excel in the three exams.

If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain copies of class notes from other class members. I do not lend out my own lecture notes to students. I encourage you, however, to come to my office hours or make an appointment to meet with me if you would like me to go over lecture material with you.
Grades in this course will be assigned based on your performance, as follows:

**Exam 1** (25% of semester grade): In class – Wednesday, October 2.
Covering material (lectures and required readings) from the beginning of the semester up to the first exam (50 multiple choice questions).

**Exam 2** (25% of semester grade): In class - Wednesday, November 6.
Covering material (lectures and required readings) between the first and second exams (50 multiple choice questions).

**Exam 3** (25% of semester grade): Exam Week–Monday, December 16, **3:00-4:15 p.m.**
Covering material (lectures and required readings) between the second and third exams (50 multiple choice questions).

**Position Paper and Debate** (25% of semester grade):
Instructions provided in class. Position paper due by the beginning of class on Wed. Nov. 27 (20% of semester grade). In class debate: Wed. Dec. 11 (5% of semester grade).

**Bonus Point** (additional 1%): Due at or before **beginning of class:** Wednesday, October 23.
Mental map drawing instructions given at the beginning of class on Monday, October 21 only.

A **makeup examination** will be provided for the exams only for students with unavoidable or legitimate absences (for example, verified illness, subpoenas, jury duty, and military service). It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor of such circumstances before the exam. Students are expected to notify us as far in advance of the examination as possible; two days notice is normally required. Please send an e-mail or leave a detailed message on the instructor’s voicemail or the Department of Geography’s voicemail if you are unable to contact the instructor in person.

For all students requesting a makeup examination, it is the responsibility of students to provide written verification setting out why they were not able to take the exam on the day and at the time in the syllabus. In order to be fair to all students, it will **not** be possible to provide a makeup examination for students who fail to provide written verification and to notify us before the exam (except in exceptional cases). The exceptional cases for allowing a makeup without prior notification include unexpected reasons (e.g. car accident on the way to the exam, very sudden illness requiring an emergency room visit just prior to the exam, etc.). If an unexpected event such as this prevents the student for notifying the instructor before the exam, the student is required to contact the instructor as soon as possible and to provide written verification (e.g. police report of a car accident, emergency room documentation, etc.).

Unless a legitimate reason (a verified illness, hospital stay, jury duty, etc.) prevents it, the makeup examination must be taken before the next class meeting. Once a makeup examination is arranged for a student, it is the student’s responsibility to show up at the time and place arranged. A subsequent makeup examination will not be arranged if the student fails to show up for reasons, such as not being able to find the room for the makeup examination.

Make-up exams are usually essay format.
Investment of time (hours) by the average student necessary to achieve the learning goals of the course (3 credits = 144 hours):

- Time in the classroom (face to face instruction): 31.25
- Time for position paper preparation and reading and studying for exams: 109.00
- Time taking exams: 3.75
- Time completing bonus mental map: 0.25

Grades are assigned using the following scale:

- **A** 93-100% Achievement of outstanding quality.
- **A-** 90-92 Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
- **B+** 87-89 Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
- **B** 83-86 Achievement of high quality.
- **B-** 80-82 Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
- **C+** 77-79 Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
- **C** 73-76 Work of acceptable quality.
- **C-** 70-72 Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
- **D+** 67-69 Work slightly below the quality expected.
- **D** 63-66 Below the quality expected.
- **D-** 60-62 Barely above failing.
- **F** ≤ 59 Failure.

Students in L&S can register credit/no credit for one course per semester (with a maximum of eight courses) for courses, other than Honors courses, that are not in the student’s major. Students who register credit/no credit for this course must earn a grade of “C-” or better to receive credit.

There will be no extra credit offered in this course.

**Registration Policies for late registration, change, add/drop and withdraw**

If your payment is received after the first week of your earliest session, a late payment fee will be added to your tuition assessment.

The deadlines for making changes to your schedule for grading and records purposes are:

- Add: September 16.
- Drop or withdraw without course transcript notation (no W): September 30.
- Drop or withdraw with course transcript notation (W): November 10.

Departments have the right to enforce class attendance policies, and may administratively drop students who do not meet these requirements. In particular, students who fail to attend a class during the first week of the semester may be dropped so that another student may be accommodated.

Students must obtain, in advance, instructor approval to enroll in courses that have any time conflict or overlap. Failure to do so may result in the student being administratively dropped from this course.
**Participation by Students with Disabilities:** If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Accommodations for Religious Observances:** Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance.

**Academic Misconduct:** The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. 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.

Academic dishonesty is any act by a student that misrepresents the student's own academic work or that comprises the academic work of another. Examples include cheating on examinations, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as one's own any work done by another), depriving another student of necessary course materials, or sabotaging another student's work.

To avoid charges of Plagiarism and academic misconduct proceedings, you must accurately and fully cite any sources you use in your written work, including your PowerPoint presentations. It is perfectly acceptable to quote or paraphrase another’s work if you appropriately credit the source. If you quote from another author, you must place the quotation in quotation marks, and with the quotation provide the author’s name and date of publication in parenthesis with the page number(s) as well as the full citation in your bibliography (Last name, first name, date of publication, title of publication (if book; if an article or book chapter, then provide the title of the article or book chapter and the name of the book (with authors/editors) or journal, publisher, place of publication, page numbers (for articles and book chapters)). If you paraphrase another author’s words, then you do not need to use quotation marks, but you must still provide the author name and date of publication in parenthesis as well as the full citation in your bibliography. Please note that long quotes indicate a lack of effort and should be avoided. Direct quotations should be short and used only when absolutely necessary.

Examples of plagiarism involving not crediting a source correctly that will be penalized whether intentional or unintentional (from Colin Purrington, http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/preventing-plagiarism):
Plagiarism in this class is taken very very seriously and is always penalized—it is the responsibility of the student NOT to plagiarize either intentionally or unintentionally. The following is a rewording of UWM’s academic misconduct policy sanctions at: http://www4.uwm.edu/acad_aff/policy/academicmisconduct.cfm:

Group A sanctions are imposed by the instructor and include the following: an oral reprimand, a written reprimand to the student, a requirement to repeat the work, or the work being graded on its merits (for example, receiving a very low grade for mindlessly cutting and pasting).

Group B Sanctions include the following: an F for the course, immediate removal of the student from the course, personal probation, and/or a written reprimand to be included in the disciplinary file of the student.

Group C Sanctions include the following: disciplinary probation, suspension, or even expulsion.

Classroom courtesy: Being courteous in the classing includes not talking in class with fellow class members or in any way disturbing class lectures; this includes sleeping, reading newspapers or other material not directly related to the class, texting, or using your laptop for other than class related activity. If the class is interrupted to address an individual behavior problem, the first time is a warning, the second time is dismissal from the class.
Complaint Procedures: Students may direct complaints to the head of the department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community that creates an unacceptable working environment.

Incompletes: An “incomplete” grade will be assigned only in extraordinary cases when unexpected conditions prevent a student from completing the requirements of the course within the term of enrollment. A notation of “incomplete” may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantial cause beyond the student’s control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. An incomplete is not given unless students prove to the instructor that he/she is prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above.

Financial obligation: The submission of your registration form and your subsequent assignment to classes obligates you to pay the fee-tuition for those classes or withdraw your registration in writing no later than the deadline listed in the Schedule of Classes.

You should also be aware of services that are available to you at UW-M that help protect students and keep UW-M a safer place, such as the BOSS (Be On the Safe Side) shuttle and the free escort service by the campus police at night.