Geography 520 – Physical Geography of the City: Autumn 2019

*Draft*

Instructor: Dr. Woonsup Choi
Office hours: Tu 10:00–11:00 and Th 14:00–15:00 or by appointment
Office phone: 414-229-2671
Office: BOL 496
Geography phone: 414-229-4866
Geography Office: BOL 410
Class meeting time and location: MoWe 15:30-16:45 in BOL 281
E-mail: choiw@uwm.edu

***E-mail is the best way to reach me during work hours for PRIVATE matters. Non-private questions should be posted on Canvas-Discussions. Your emails will normally be responded to within 48 hrs.***

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Geography is a discipline that attempts to explain the distribution and spatial patterns found on the surface of the earth. Physical geography focuses on the earth's natural elements. This course deals with the four major spheres of the earth (atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere) that have been the subject of physical geography, but we focus our attention on the influence of cities. The influence of human activities extends all over the globe, but it is particularly visible in cities where the majority of the world population lives. Cities have traditionally been the focus of social science research. However, cities are dynamic places, and, like 'natural' environments, cities possess their own distinct natural and physical systems. In this course, students will learn how the physical geographical processes are modified in and by the cities and also how they affect cities. Such learning will be complemented by a range of practices and activities.

This is a 3-credit U/G course. Geography 120 or 125 is a prerequisite. Both graduate and undergraduate students may enroll in this course.

After successfully finishing this course, students are expected to have:
- refreshed their knowledge of basic physical geography
- gained broad understanding of how cities interact with the natural environment
- critically reviewed empirical studies about urban impacts on the natural environment
- practiced tools and methods for research in the field

Time commitment for the course
- Time in classroom: 1.25hrs*2*15 = 37.5 hrs
- Time for preparing seminars: 5 hrs*7 = 35 hrs
- Time to study for exams: 3 hrs*3 = 9 hrs
- Time for preparation and study: 2 hrs*2*10 = 40 hrs
- Time for plagiarism test: 3 hrs
- Time for research project: 20 hrs
- Time to prepare for reading presentation: 10 hrs (graduate students only)
- Time for graduate term paper: 10 hrs (graduate student only)
Total hours for undergraduate: 144.5 hrs
Total hours for graduate: 164.5 hrs

Course Requirements

Plagiarism test:
Students are required to pass the plagiarism test available at https://www.indiana.edu/~academy/firstPrinciples/index.html. Read examples and practices and take the test. Screen-capture the certificate or the confirmation email and upload on Canvas. No score is earned from passing the test, but you cannot submit any written materials without passing it.

Attendance:
Test material will come directly from lecture, as well as from slides and other visual presentations provided in class. Students who miss class also miss important announcements or changes to the syllabus. Therefore, it is expected that all students make it a high priority to always attend class. Tardiness is strongly discouraged because it is not only disruptive to the instructor, but to fellow classmates as well. I do not regularly check attendance, but I do from time to time in a variety of ways. Recorded absences will affect the participation grade at the end of the semester.

Learning Modules:
The course consists of seven learning modules. Each learning module has its own topic, learning objectives, and activities. I will provide instruction for the modules on Canvas one by one.

- Lecture: I will give lectures on the basic and advanced topics in physical geography in the context of the urban environment. Much of the content is what was taught in Geography 120. Lecture notes and reading materials will be available on Canvas.
- Reading presentation: each student will select an article on a first-come-first-served basis and give a thorough presentation in class. Other students also should have read the paper by the time of class. Reading presentations will occur on a lecture day of the module. After each presentation, all other students are asked to post a substantive comment about the presentation on Canvas-Discussions. I will monitor the comments and use to grade participation.
- Seminar: Each seminar session will cover an article selected by the instructor. The seminar has two parts, initial post and response post. Students are required to read the designated article in advance and write a 1-page seminar paper as an initial post. The seminar paper must contain the student’s elaborate thought of the paper. The seminar paper must be submitted on Canvas-Discussions by 15:30 of the seminar day. Response post is required for any selected initial post by 16:45.

Exams:
There will be three open-book/note exams. The first and second exams are not cumulative, but Exam 3 is. Tests will be based on material presented in class. Some questions will be given from reading presentations.

Class Participation:
I strongly encourage class participation. Student questions about lecture topics are always welcome. In addition, I always make every effort to present ideas and concepts as clearly as possible. However,
some topics are more difficult than others, and I encourage students to ask when concepts are not clear. Any active participation on my record will increase your score.

Research Project:
A research project is a case study of the research methods you learned in the class. You have to choose a case study site and conduct research in similar ways. The final deliverable is an electronic poster presentation in the classroom. At least four academic articles must be cited in the e-poster. More details will be provided later regarding the poster format.

Requirements for graduate students only:
A graduate term paper is a paper version of the e-poster. A term paper will be due at 15:30, 18th of December 2019. The paper should address a particular problem by collecting and analyzing relevant data and must include at least 10 appropriate references. Appropriate references are books (not textbooks) and peer-reviewed journals (not popular news and other magazines). You may use other types of references, as long as you use a minimum number of appropriate references. Term paper proposals are due by the 27th of March on Canvas and must include title, objectives and methods (data, study area, etc.) on a page. You should begin to consult with me in advance regarding your term paper proposal. PAPER LENGTH: 15-20 pages (not including cover page, references cited and appendices). TERM PAPER FORMAT: 2.5 cm margins, 12-point font size, double-spaced, paginated. More details will be provided later.

Study Materials and Resources

- Module 1
  - Lecture
    - Lecture note

- Module 2
  - Lecture
    - Lecture note
    - Parrish and Stockwell, *Eos* 15 January 2015, pp. 10-15
  - Seminar: TBD

- Module 3
  - Reading presentation (choose one):
- **Module 4**
  - Reading presentation:
- **Module 5**
  - Reading presentation:
- **Module 6**
- **Module 7**
  - Lecture

**Additional Assistance and Other Information**

- **Canvas Course Website:** Go to [uwm.edu/canvas](http://uwm.edu/canvas) and log in with your panther account. Canvas will contain important course information and facilitate communication among us.
- **Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class and students involved will receive a zero grade. Severer cases will be submitted to the University for further scrutiny. The scope and disciplines of student academic misconducts are specified in Chapter UWS 14 and UWM implementation provisions (Faculty Document 1686) and
Disciplinary Guidelines can be found in the Office of the Dean of Students, Mellencamp Hall, Rm118.

- **Finality of Grade:** All grades, once released on Canvas or PAWS, are final except in cases of clerical error.
- **Special Accommodation:** Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of disability, religion, or other civic duty should contact Instructor privately as early as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. A student should notify me, within the first three weeks of the beginning of class, of the specific days or dates on which he or she will request relief from an examination or academic requirement for a religious observance. The student notification will be kept confidential.
- **Other Notice:**
  - Late submissions will result in 20% discount, unless otherwise specified for each item. Nothing will be accepted after seven full days from the due date.
  - Make-ups will be allowed at my discretion when a pre-approval has been obtained or in case of emergency with written proof
  - Other unspecified matters will be handled according to the University policies listed on [https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf](https://uwm.edu/secu/wp-content/uploads/sites/122/2016/12/Syllabus-Links.pdf)
  - If you are having any trouble in class, please see me as soon as possible

### Evaluation

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<th>G</th>
<th>Grading scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>A: over 90%, A-: over 87%,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>B+: over 83%, B: over 80%, B-: over 77%,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>C+: over 73%, C: over 70%, C-: over 67%,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research project</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>D+: over 64%, D: over 61%, D-: over 58%,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>F: 58% or below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>105%</strong></td>
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### To be kept in mind

I may not remain perfectly on track with the syllabus (which is a general outline for what we will cover) and I reserve the right to alter the syllabus, but not against your benefit. As we proceed through the class, any changes will be announced in class. Students are responsible for being aware of any and all changes to the syllabus, including any announcements made while the student was absent or tardy. Students agree to accept and comply with these requirements by choosing to remain enrolled after learning of these course conditions.
# Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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| 1    | 4-Sep    | Course introduction  
Introduction to Urban Physical Geography                              |
| 2    | 9-Sep    | Module 1 lecture  
Module 1 lecture                                                        |
|      | 11-Sep   | Module 1 lecture                                                    |
| 3    | 16-Sep   | Module 2 lecture  
Seminar 1                                                               |
|      | 18-Sep   | Module 2 lecture                                                    |
| 4    | 23-Sep   | Module 2 lecture  
Module 3 lecture                                                        |
|      | 25-Sep   | Module 3 lecture                                                    |
| 5    | 30-Sep   | Module 3 lecture  
Seminar 2                                                               |
|      | 2-Oct    | Module 3 lecture                                                    |
| 6    | 7-Oct    | **Exam 1**                                                          |
|      | 9-Oct    | Module 4 lecture                                                    |
| 7    | 14-Oct   | Module 4 lecture  
Seminar 3                                                               |
|      | 16-Oct   | Module 4 lecture                                                    |
| 8    | 21-Oct   | Module 5 lecture  
Module 5 lecture                                                        |
|      | 23-Oct   | Module 5 lecture                                                    |
| 9    | 28-Oct   | **Campus fieldtrip**                                               |
|      | 30-Oct   | Seminar 4                                                           |
| 10   | 4-Nov    | Module 6 lecture  
**Term paper/research project proposal due**                          |
|      | 6-Nov    | Module 6 lecture                                                    |
| 11   | 11-Nov   | Module 7 lecture  
Seminar 5                                                               |
|      | 13-Nov   | Module 7 lecture                                                    |
| 12   | 18-Nov   | **Exam 2**                                                          |
|      | 20-Nov   | Module 7 lecture                                                    |
| 13   | 25-Nov   | Seminar 6                                                           |
|      | 27-Nov   | **Thanksgiving Break**                                             |
| 14   | 2-Dec    | Draft e-poster presentation  
Module 7 lecture                                                          |
|      | 4-Dec    | Draft e-poster presentation                                        |
| 15   | 9-Dec    | E-poster presentation  
Seminar 7                                                               |
|      | 11-Dec   | E-poster presentation                                                |
| 16   | 16-Dec   | **Exam 3 (15:00-17:00)**                                           |
|      | 18-Dec   | **Term paper due (15:30)**                                         |

## Suggested Email Format

- Have the subject start with [Geog 520]
- Make sure who you are writing to in a respectful manner
- Put your name at the end
Don’t email like this

Subject: Additional help

Sent By: *@uwm.edu>

On: March 24, 2009 12:21 PM

To: choiw@uwm.edu

I need to ask if you would have some extra time available to go over stuff from class every week, I understand the concepts, but I’m probably not getting what you want me to understand from the material, I’ll see you on Thursday to further talk about this.