

Geography 217: Cities in the Modern World

Winter 2020

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday, 11:35 a.m. – 12:55 p.m.
Macdonald-Harrington (MDHAR) G-10

Prof. Benjamin Forest

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Course overview: This course is an introduction to urban geography. It uses a geographic perspective to understand cities, and the economic, political, social and cultural processes that shape them. The class is divided into two parts. The first part covers the historical development and internal structures of “industrial” cities, and the efforts to bring order to them through urban planning, focusing primarily on North America and Europe. The second part uses critical urban theory and case studies from a range of cities around the world to consider various topics on the theme of social justice and the city.

We will not enforce Law 21 or 62 in our classroom and will do our utmost to prevent anyone else from enforcing it. All students who have come to learn are welcome.

Required texts:

All readings for GEOG 217 are available electronically on myCourses, in compliance with copyright regulations.

Course Evaluation:

Unless otherwise noted, failure to complete either examination or the project will result in a failing grade.

Assignment	Weight	Date Due
Midterm <i>(Deferred exam on March 11 during class time)</i>	35%	Tuesday, February 25 6:00-8:30 p.m. Leacock 132
Final Exam	40%	Exam week TBD
Selection of Cultural Work <i>(5% of project)</i>	25%	February 28 11:30 p.m.
Final Project**		April 14 11:30 p.m. <i>via MyCourses</i>

**Students who submit their selected cultural work by the deadline will earn 5% credit on the project (1.25% of course grade). Conversely, failure to do so will result in a 40% penalty on the project (10% of course grade).

NOTE: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control (e.g., flu pandemic, sharknado, etc.), the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change. Information on university and department policies concerning student assessment can be found at the following website: www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment

Teaching Assistants: The TAs serve primarily as graders for course, and typically will not meet with students. If you have questions about the course material, you should speak with one of the instructors.

Communication and myCourses: All course-related communications with the instructors and the TAs can be done by email. If you do not know how to use email or if you have questions about using it, ask a fellow student for help, or call ICS Customer Support at 514-398-3398.

We will make every effort to respond to email within 48 hours, but may not always be able to do so.

Expectations: Assignments, including the set reading, should be completed in a timely fashion. Illness or family misfortune are legitimate reasons for extensions on assignments or the postponement of exams. In such cases please advise the instructors in advance of the assignment due date or exam whenever possible to make suitable arrangements. You are required to provide adequate supporting documentation. ***All late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 10% per day (including weekends).*** Assignments that are 10 or more days late will receive a zero.

Examinations: The standard rules for closed book, closed note exams apply: You must not receive any assistance during the exam, and your answers must be entirely from your own effort. You are allowed – and encouraged – to form and participate in study groups for the examinations.

Participation: This is a large lecture class, and there is no formal credit for class participation. Nonetheless, we expect you to be *active listeners*: attend class, take notes, and ask questions. Disruptive activities such as excessive talking, using social media, emailing, newspaper reading, and the like will not be tolerated. Students doing so will be told to leave class.

We encourage you to see one or both of us during office hours to discuss questions you have about the course material.

Deferred examination policy: If you are unable to attend an examination due to illness, you will be offered a deferred examination during the lecture period as indicated on the schedule. The deferred examination will be different from, but equivalent to, the original test.

Students will only be allowed to take a deferred examination if they provide a signed note from a *doctor attesting specifically that the student was too ill to take the exam on the scheduled day.* All such notes will be verified by the instructors, and therefore must include the physician's correct phone number. Students who miss the test must notify us by email within 24 hours of the exam (preferably before the exam begins), but do not need to provide the medical note until the date of the deferred exam.

Non-medical reasons, such as a death or serious illness in the family, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but all cases must include satisfactory documentation.

If a student misses the first deferred exam and/or lacks an adequate excuse for missing the original exam, they *might* be allowed to increase the weight of the second exam to partially compensate for the missed exam. The *ability* to do so, and the associated *penalty* are at the sole discretion of the instructors.

Late Assignment Policy: The project for the class has two deadlines (see below). In general, the same guidelines apply to the assignment deadlines as to the examinations: Only properly documented medical excuses will be accepted. Nonetheless, to avoid delays caused by last-minute emergencies, you should complete and submit your assignments before the deadlines. Assignments turned in after the deadline will be penalized 10% (points) per day, including weekends. Assignments that are ten or more days late will receive a zero.

You are encouraged to consult with the instructors about the project before the deadline. *No consultation will be offered after the deadline regardless of circumstances.*

Grading: Grading will be done using the standard McGill grading grid (A=100 to 85; A- = 80 to 84; etc.) Depending on the distribution of scores, we may elect to curve letter grades (*e.g.*, A=100 to 83; A- = 78 to 83; etc.) at the end of the semester.

Project: You will receive detailed directions for the final essay in class. There will be an outline available on MyCourses as well.

The following two statements are required by University policy:

Language Policy: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

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Schedule of Classes

Part I: City Systems & Urban Imaginations (Prof. Benjamin Forest)

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
1. January 6	Introduction	Clarke (1992) "The city: heaven-on-earth or the hell-to-come?" <i>Futures</i> 24 (7): pp. 701-710.
2. January 8	What is a Modern City?	Bairoch (1991) "Urbanism in Developed Countries: 1700-1980" and "The Urban Explosion in the Third World during the 20th Century", in <i>Cities and economic development: From the dawn of history to the present</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press: pp. 213-227; 427-441.
3. January 13	Urban Patterns and Processes	Burns (1997) "Nested Hexagons: Central Place Theory" in <i>Ten Geographic Ideas that Changed the World</i> . (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press): pp.163-181.
4. January 15	Urban Systems	Badcock (2002) "Urban Systems and the Growth of Cities" in <i>Making Sense of Cities</i> . London: Hodder Arnold: pp. 34-60.
5. January 20	The Internal Structure of North American Cities	Harris and Ullman (1945) "The Nature of Cities" <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 242: pp.7-17.
6. January 22	Transportation and Urban Morphology	Knox and McCarthy (2005) "Changing Metropolitan Form" in <i>Urbanization</i> , 2 nd edition (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall): pp. 139-163.
7. January 27	Transportation and Inequality Guest Lecture: Prof. Kevin Manaugh	Golub, Marcantonio & Sanchez (2013) "Race, Space, and Struggles for Mobility: Transportation Impacts on African Americans in Oakland and the East Bay" <i>Urban Geography</i> , 34(5): pp. 699-728.

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
8. January 29	Project introduction	Hall, Pérez, and Levy (2014) “The City of Dreadful Night” in <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> , 4 th edition (West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers): pp. 12-48.
9. February 3	The Industrial City and Its Critics	Relph (1987). “The Invention of Modern Town Planning” in <i>The Modern Urban Landscape</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press): pp. 49-75.
10. February 5	New (Sub)Urban Visions Video: <i>The City</i> (1939)	McCann (1996). “Planning and Building the Corporate Suburb of Mount Royal, 1910-1925” <i>Planning Perspectives</i> 11: pp. 259-301. Beauregard (2006). “Urbanization’s Consequences” in <i>When America Became Suburban</i> (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press): pp. 19-39.
11. February 10	Mass-Production Suburbs	Ruff (2007). “For Sale: The American Dream” <i>American History</i> 42 (5): pp. 42-49. Gans (1967). “The Planners of Levittown,” in <i>The Levittowners: Ways of Life and Politics in a New Suburban Community</i> . Binghamton: Vail-Balou Press: pp. 3-14.
12. February 12	Modernist Urban Design Video: <i>Farwell Oak Street</i> (1953)	Hall, Pérez, and Levy (2014) “The City of Towers” in <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> , 4 th edition (West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers): pp. 237-290.
13. February 17	Urban Planning in a Global Context	Shaw (2009). “Town Planning in Postcolonial India, 1947-1965: Chandigarh Re-Examined” <i>Urban Geography</i> 30 (8): pp. 857-878.

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
14. February 19	Response to Modernist Design Video: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i> (2011)	Jacobs (1961) "Introduction" in <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i> (New York: Vintage Books): pp. 1-25. Bristol (1991) "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth" <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i> 44(3): pp. 163-171.

The midterm exam, which includes course material covered through Lecture 14, will be held at 6 p.m. on February 25 in Leacock 132

Part II: Human Experience in the City (Chris Erl)

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
15. February 24	Thinking, writing, and dreaming about Cities of the Future	Graham, S. (2016). "Vertical noir: Histories of the future in urban science fiction" <i>City</i> 20.3, 389 – 406.
February 25	Midterm Leacock 132, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.	
<i>February 26</i>	<i>No lecture</i>	
February 28	Cultural work selection by 11:30 PM	
March 2 - 6	READING WEEK Relax, enjoy, and work on your essay	
16. March 9	Who even are you? – Identity and The Urban Experience	Hummon, D. (1986). "City Mouse, Country Mouse: The Persistence of Community Identity" <i>Qualitative Sociology</i> 9.1, 3 – 25.
17. March 11 Deferred Midterm	Work, Labour, and the City	Hiebert, D. (1991). "Class, Ethnicity, and Residential Structure: the social geography of Winnipeg, 1901 – 1921" <i>Journal of Historical Geography</i> 17.1, 56 – 86.

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
18. March 16	Urban Spaces, Indigenous Communities, and De/colonization	Marcus, A. R. (1991). Out in the cold: Canada's experimental Inuit relocation to Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay. <i>Polar Record</i> , 27.1, 285 - 296.
19. March 18	Securitization and Policing in the Modern City	Sklansky, D. A. (2006). Private Police and Democracy. <i>American Criminal Law Review</i> , 43.1, 89 - 106.
20. March 23	Sexuality and Urban Life	Ghaziani, A. (2014). Measuring urban sexual cultures. <i>Theory and Society</i> , 43, 371 - 393.
21. March 25	Migrant Cities	Yeoh, B. S. A., & Huang, S. (1998). Negotiating Public Space: Strategies and Styles of Migrant Female Domestic Workers in Singapore. <i>Urban Studies</i> , 35.3, 583 - 602.
22. March 30	Growing Up and Growing Old in the City	Wiles, J., et. al. (2012). The Meaning of "Aging in Place" to Older People. <i>The Gerontologist</i> , 52.3, 357 - 366.
23. April 1	Cities of Deviance	Hubbard, P. (2016). Sex Work, Urban Governance and the Gendering of Cities. In G. Brown & K. Browne (Eds.), <u>The Routledge research companion to geographies of sex and sexualities</u> (pp. 313 - 320). London: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group.
24. April 6	City Builders and the Challenges of Tomorrow	Pasquini, L., et. al. (2015) What enables local governments to mainstream climate change adaptation? Lessons learned from two municipal case studies in the Western Cape, South Africa, <i>Climate and Development</i> , 7:1, 60 – 70.
25. April 8	Power to the urbanites – Citizen Democracy in the City	Cabannes, Y. (2004). Participatory budgeting: a significant contribution to participatory democracy. <i>Environment & Urbanization</i> 16.1, 27 – 46.
26. April 13	<i>Optional Exam Review: Lectures 15 to 25</i>	

The final exam, which includes course material from Lectures 15-25, will be held during the Exam Week (date TBD).