

Geography 217: Cities in the Modern World

Winter 2021

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:35 a.m. – 9:55 p.m.

REMOTE VERSION

GEOG 217 will be taught remotely in Winter 2021. All lectures, videos, and reading material will be available through myCourses

Prof. Benjamin Forest

Virtual Office Hours:

Mondays 12 -1:30 p.m.

and by appointment

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Mr. Chris Erl

Virtual Office Hours:

Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

and by appointment

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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.

Required texts:

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

Assessment:

Unless otherwise noted, failure to complete any examination will result in a failing grade in the course. Per Faculty of Science policy, work submitted for evaluation as part of this course may be checked with text matching software within MyCourses.

Assignment	Weight	Dates
Examination 1	20%	January 27-30
Examination 2	20%	February 24-27
Final Examination	40%	TBD during final exam period
Project: Global Urban Landscapes	20%	Due March 30

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: All course-related communications should be done by email. We will make every effort to respond to email within 48 hours but may not always be able to do so. We encourage you to see one or both of us during office hours to discuss questions you have about the course material.

Expectations: Assignments, including the set reading, should be completed in a timely fashion. Generally speaking, *you will not receive credit for late assignments* unless you have good reasons and have made prior arrangements with the instructors.

Deferrals and Extensions: Remote teaching and the public health situation calls for increased flexibility with regard to examinations. We normally require a signed medical note for a deferral or extension, but we will waive that policy this semester. Yet it is critical to also maintain the integrity and rigour of evaluations.

Although you have 72 hours to complete examinations, the tests are designed to take no more than 3 hours to complete. Under normal circumstances, it is your responsibility to allocate time within the exam period to write and submit the examination, but we **strongly** suggest that you at least make substantial progress on your answers within the first 24 hours.

If you are too ill to complete the exam – or there are other extenuating circumstances – you must notify us within the first 24 hours of the examination period. We will then assign a deferred examination to you. *Once the 24 hour deadline has passed, you are obligated to complete the original exam.*

Late Assignment Policy: To avoid delays caused by last-minute emergencies, you should complete and submit your assignments *well before* the deadlines.

We are using special rule for remote instruction: In general, assignments turned in up to three days after the deadline will receive a mark no higher than B (74). Assignments that are submitted more than three days late but before April 13 will receive a mark no higher than C (64).

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 project during the semester. 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 7	Introduction	Clarke, Ian F. (1992) "The city: heaven-on-earth or the hell-to-come?" <i>Futures</i> 24 (7): pp. 701-710.
2. January 12	What is a Modern City?	Bairoch, Paul. (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 14	Urban Patterns and Processes	Burns, Elizabeth K. (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 19	Urban Systems	Badcock, Blair. (2002) "Urban Systems and the Growth of Cities" in <i>Making Sense of Cities</i> . London: Hodder Arnold: pp. 34-60.
5. January 21	The Internal Structure of North American Cities	Harris, Chauncy D. and Edward L. 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 26	Transportation and Urban Morphology	Knox. Paul and Linda McCarthy (2005) "Changing Metropolitan Form" in <i>Urbanization</i> , 2 nd edition (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall): pp. 139-163.
7. January 28	First Examination <i>Covers Lectures 1-6</i>	

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
8. February 2	Introduction to Project: Global Urban Landscapes	Hall, Peter. (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 4	The Industrial City and Its Critics	Relph, Edward. (1987). "The Invention of Modern Town Planning" in <i>The Modern Urban Landscape</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press): pp. 49-75.
10. February 9	New (Sub)Urban Visions Video: <i>The City</i> (1939)	McCann, Larry D. (1996). "Planning and Building the Corporate Suburb of Mount Royal, 1910-1925" <i>Planning Perspectives</i> 11: pp. 259-301. Beauregard, Robert (2006). "Urbanization's Consequences" in <i>When America Became Suburban</i> (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press): pp. 19-39.
11. February 11	Mass Production Suburbs	Ruff, Joshua. (2007). "For Sale: The American Dream" <i>American History</i> 42 (5): pp. 42-49. Gans, Herbert. (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 16	Modernist Urban Design Video: <i>Farwell Oak Street</i> (1953) Note: The video includes a scene of an (attempted) sexual assault on a minor.	Hall, Peter. (2014) "The City of Towers" in <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> , 4 th edition (West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers): pp. 237-290.

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
13. February 18	Urban Planning in a Global Context	Shaw, Annapurna. (2009). "Town Planning in Postcolonial India, 1947-1965: Chandigarh Re-Examined" <i>Urban Geography</i> 30 (8): pp. 857-878.
14. February 23	Resistance to Modernist Design Video: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i> (2011) Note: The video includes discussions of violence and racism.	Jacobs, Jane. (1961) "Introduction" in <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i> (New York: Vintage Books): pp. 1-25. Bristol, Katherine. (1991) "The Pruitt-Igoe Myth" <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i> 44(3): pp. 163-171.
15. February 25	Second Examination <i>Covers Lectures 8-14</i>	
March 1 – 5 READING WEEK Relax		

Part II: The Planned City, The Human City (Chris Erl)

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
16. March 9	New Cities <i>Guest Lecture by Prof. Sarah Moser</i>	Moser, Sarah. (2020) "New Cities: Engineering Social Exclusions" <i>One Earth</i> 2(2): 125-127. Moser, Sarah. (2018) "Forest city, Malaysia, and Chinese expansionism" <i>Urban Geography</i> 39(6): 935-943.
17. March 11	Red Star City: Urban spaces in the Soviet and post-communist world	Fox, Samantha. (2020). "The Socialist Bratwurst: East German Urbanism and Its Reemergence in the Present" <i>Journal of Urban History</i> . (In Publication – 1 – 24.) 24 pages
18. March 16	Urban Utopia: Imagining a different city	Talen, Emily. (2015). "Do-it-Yourself Urbanism: A History" <i>Journal of Planning History</i> 14(2), 135 – 148. 13 pages 99% Invisible Podcast (2019) "The Help-Yourself City" https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/the-help-yourself-city/

DATE	LECTURE TOPIC	READINGS
19. March 18	Labour and the modern city	Buckley, Michelle. (2018). “Labour and the city: Some notes across theory and research” <i>Geography Compass</i> 12(10), 1 – 13. 13 pages
20. March 23	Build It, Run It: Planning and governing the modern city	Grant, Jill. (2009). “Theory and Practice in Planning the Suburbs: Challenges to Implementing New Urbanism, Smart Growth, and Sustainability Principles” <i>Planning Theory and Practice</i> 10(1), 11 – 33. 22 pages
21. March 25	Who Even Are You: Forming an identity in the city	Hummon, David. (1986). “City Mouse, Country Mouse: The Persistence of Community Identity” <i>Qualitative Sociology</i> 9(1), 3 – 25. 22 pages
22. March 30	The Indigenous experience in the city	Marcus, Alan 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. 11 pages Criminal Podcast (2020). “Starlight Tours” https://thisiscriminal.com/episode-138-starlight-tours-4-17-2020
23. April 1	One Queer Town: Sexuality in urban environments	Brown, Michael. (2014). “Gender and sexuality II: There goes the gayborhood?” <i>Progress in Human Geography</i> 38(3), 457 – 465. 8 pages
24. April 6	Okay, Urbanite: Generational issues in the city	Nakazawa, Takashi. (2017). “Expanding the scope of studentification studies” <i>Geography Compass</i> 11(1), 1 – 13. 13 pages
25. April 8	Policing, security, and order in the modern city	Yarwood, Richard and Till Paasche (2015). “The Relational Geographies of Policing and Security” <i>Geography Compass</i> 9(6), 362 – 370. 8 pages
26. April 13	The city in culture	Huq, Rupa. (2013). “The Sound of the Suburbs” (55 – 82) and “Suburbia on the Box (109 – 132)” in <i>Making Sense of Suburbia through Popular Culture</i> . London: Bloomsbury Academic. 50 pages

The final exam, which includes course material from Lectures 16-26, will be held during the Exam Week (date TBD).