

# Geography 3480-001 – Urban Geography

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Autumn Semester 2006

Instructor: Professor T. Kontuly

Lectures: M, W, and F 11:50am-12:40pm

Classroom: OSH 135

Office hours (OSH 270 G): M and W 12:45-1:45PM PM

Required text: *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography*. Second edition. Paul L. Knox and Linda McCarthy. Pearson / Prentice Hall. Upper Saddle River, NJ. 2005 (K & M).

### Introduction

In the developed countries of the world, most people live in cities or settlements that are defined as urban. Not surprisingly, urban problems and policies occupy a prominent place on the agenda of public debate and are major concerns of governments.

The geographer's viewpoint is a spatial one, focusing on the content of areas, their interactions and relationships with other areas, and on the behavior and processes that give rise to the patterns, structure, and organization of space.

The spatial arrangement of human activity is (for the most part) a reflection of the aspatial (economic, institutional, political, and social) processes operating in society, such as those generating employment, unemployment, technological change, etc.

Consequently, the patterns, structures, and organization of urban space are an outcome of the many and complex processes inherent in the way developed society is organized.

### Objective of the class

The objective of this course will be to understand the processes that give rise to the spatial arrangement of urban phenomena, and will involve four elements: patterns, philosophical approach, theory, and techniques.

Urban Geography can be divided into two distinct parts and urban patterns will be examined in each. First, cities will be studied as elements in an urban system in which the spatial distribution of cities themselves and the complex patterns of movements, flows, and linkages that bind them in space will be examined. Material will be devoted to concepts and generalizations relating to the urbanization process itself; to the evolution of and changes in the distribution, functional specialization, and economic structure of cities as centers of manufacturing and service centers; and to the interrelationships that bind cities into a functional whole. Second, will be a study of the patterns and interactions within cities or the internal structure of the city. Emphasis will focus on the linkages and movements that bind different activities within cities, such as transport, the journey to work and shopping, and the flow of goods and information within cities.

Several philosophical approaches are used by urban geographers to determine the way in which analysis is undertaken and the type of evidence that is thought to be meaningful; this course will survey each approach: positivist, phenomenological, humanistic, and structural.

The theoretical base of urban geography involves many different theories involving economic, social, and political processes, and the course will examine and evaluate a variety of these theories. Much of the research in Urban Geography in the

1960s and 1970s was couched in a positivist framework and made use of neoclassical economic theory. Recently, certain researchers rejected the theoretical basis of neoclassical economics, and returned to the basic tenets of classical political economy while others derived a general classical political economy framework based on the writings of Marx.

Information concerning urban phenomena will be examined using several techniques. The word spatial implies that one way in which information can be presented, and interrelationships examined, is with the use of maps. But maps themselves are perceptions, for they represent choices that were made by individuals for the presentation of information. Spatially distributed information will also be related to the various processes thought to give rise to these patterns through the use of quantitative techniques. These quantitative techniques will range from those of a statistical nature to more general mathematical modeling.

Statistical techniques are widely used by urban researchers, so many of the results discussed were produced by such analyses. For example, recent work uses logit regression analysis and probability models to examine the relationship between the size and location of manufacturing plants and the technical structure of production. Mathematical models are also employed by a large number of urban researchers. These types of models incorporate basic processes. One of the best known of these is the classic Lowry model that uses gravity model formulations to link changes in basic employment and the multiplier effect of these changes to the spatial location of households and retail employment.

#### Course outline

August 23 – Introduction to the class. Course requirements.

August 25, 28 & 30– Urbanization and Urban Geography (Chapter 1)

September 1 – The Origins and Growth of Cities (Chapter 2)

September 4 – No class – Labor Day holiday

September 6, 8, 13, 15 & 18 – The Origins and Growth of Cities (continued) (Chapter 2)

September 20 & 22 – The Foundations of the American Urban System (Chapter 3)

September 25 – Review & Discussion for EXAM I

September 27 – EXAM I

September 29 & October 2 & 4 – The Foundations of the American Urban System (continued) (Chapter 3)

October 6 – No class – Fall Break

October 9 – The Foundations of the American Urban System (continued) (Chapter 3)

October 11, 13, 16, 18 & 20 - Urban Systems in Transition (Chapter 4)

October 23, 25 & 27 - The Foundation of Urban Form and Land Use (Chapter 5).

October 30 – Review & Discussion for EXAM II

November 3 – EXAM II

November 6 & 8 - The Foundation of Urban Form and Land Use (continued) (Chapter 5).

November 10, 13, 15, 17, 20 & 22 - Changing Metropolitan Form (Chapter 6).

November 24 – No class – Holiday

November 27 & 29 – The Residential Kaleidoscope (Chapter 12).

December 4 - Review & Discussion for EXAM III

December 6 – EXAM III – Term Papers Due

### **Policy Statement**

Attendance is required of all students. The textbook for the course (*Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography* by Paul L. Knox and Linda McCarthy) is also required, because material, maps, graphs, and tables in the textbook will be consulted during the course. Exams will be given on September 27th, November 3rd and December 6<sup>th</sup>. Exams are closed book tests. Term papers are due on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Grade Contribution**

Exam I	25% of total grade
Exam II	25% of total grade
Exam III	25% of total grade
Term Paper	25% of total grade
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	100% of total grade

**Term Papers:**

Your term paper is to be an Urban Land Use Analysis / Evaluation of one of the suburban cities or of one of the emerging “edge cities” in Salt Lake valley. The methodology needed to complete this analysis / evaluation will be discussed in class by the Instructor. Allocation of the different parts of the city to students will be determined in class with the Instructor. Your land use analysis will require fieldwork. Papers are to be typed double-spaced and must be a minimum of 12 pages in length. These 12 pages may include maps and photos but not references.

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**Disability Statement**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

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