

**GEOGRAPHY 253  
(Urban Studies 253)  
H(3-0) Area II**

**Introduction To Cities**

**Instructor: Geoff Ghitler**

**Official Course Description:**

This course is designed as a general introduction to the diverse processes that shape cities. While covering the interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies, it emphasizes the most diverse of the disciplines: Geography. In this course we will examine fundamental issues of city growth and development, social differentiation, urban culture, urban politics, urban economic processes, urban planning, urban morphology, urban design, and urban futures. While emphasizing a geographic (spatial) perspective, we will draw from a variety of perspectives, including those of Anthropology, Architecture, Cultural Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Sociology, Urban Design and Urban Planning. Examples will come from a variety of locations around the world, emphasizing Canada, the United States, and Europe.

**Prerequisite:**

N/A.

**Supplementary Fees:** (*field trips etc*). N/A.

\*Subject to update

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Office Hours: TTh 12:30-1:30  
and by appointment

Teaching TBA  
Office:  
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email:  
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**Course Objectives**

The objective of this course is to provide students with a broad introduction to the processes that shape cities. These processes give rise to a variety of research and social policy questions that form the basis of Urban Studies and much of urban Geography. As this is an introductory course, emphasis is placed on raising basic questions about cities. Provisional answers to these questions may be suggested, but more advanced study is required for comprehensive understanding.

In addition to introducing students to the fields of Urban Studies and Urban Geography, this course is designed to demonstrate the advantages of an interdisciplinary perspective, to show the importance of cities in shaping cultural, economic, and political processes, and to familiarize students with contemporary urban issues.

Finally, this course aims to help students think through urban issues by writing about them, and in turn to hone their writing skills.

## Required Textbooks

R.T. Legates and F. Stout (2003) The City Reader, New York: Routledge.

Additional required readings will be made available through Blackboard, no later than one week before their assigned date.

## Assignments and Grading

All assignments must be completed. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late. On take-home, written assignments writing competency (organization, grammar, spelling, word choice, etc.) will count for 20% of the grade. The Writing Centre at SS 110 can help you with any writing difficulties you might have.

Grades will be based on:

Midterm Exam:	25%
Film Analysis:	25%
Calgary Exercise:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

Grades will be based on the following grading scale:

**A+** (99-100); **A** (92-98.9); **A-** (88-91.9); **B+** (85-87.9); **B** (82-84.9); **B-** (78-81.9); **C+** (75-77.9); **C** (70-74.9); **C-** (62-69.9); **D+** (58-61.9); **D** (55-57.9); **D-** (52-54.9); **F** (0-51.9)

## Lecture and Reading Schedule

Lectures will take the form of wide-ranging discussions focusing on the assigned readings. Completing the assigned readings prior to class is highly advised.

CR = The City Reader (2003), readings listed *by page numbers and authors*

BB = Blackboard readings, readings listed *by authors*

<u>September</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
T 12	Introduction	CR: 9-18 (LeGates)
Th 14	Evolution of Pre-Modern Cities	CR: 21-57 (Davis, Childe, Kitto, Polo et. al.) BB: Knox and McCarthy
T 19	Pre-Modern urban development (slides)	
Th 21	The Crisis of Feudalism and the Rebirth of the European Urban System	BB: Jordan
T 26	Class and Space in Modern Cities	CR: 58-86 (Engels, Jackson, Fishman)
Th 28	City Life	CR: 87-118 (Mumford, Wirth, Putnam, J. Jacobs) BB: Gans
<u>October</u>	<u>Lecture Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
T 3	City Life (continued)	
Th 5	Urban Social Ecology and Exclusion	CR: 151-163 (Burgess), 181-188 (Madanipour), 201-206 (M. Davis) BB: Murdie and Teixeira

<b>T 10</b>	Race and Ethnicity	CR: 119-135 (DuBois, Wilson) BB: Olson and Kobayashi
<b>Th 12</b>	Urban Space: Culture, Fear, Public Space, Social Justice	CR: 136-150 (Zukin, Stoudt), BB: Glassner, Low, Mitchell
<b>T 17</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
<b>Th 19</b>	Varieties of Urban Social Space	CR: 164-180 (J.B. Jackson, Abu-Lughod), 189-200 (Soja) BB: Gans, Rypkema
<b>T 24</b>	Urban Political Power	CR: 235-243 (Mollenkopf) BB: Peck and Tickell
<b>Th 26</b>	Contested Cities	CR: 227-234 (Harvey), 244-255 (Arnstein) BB: Lake
<b>T 31(film)</b>	Place, Planning Politics and Urban Life in post-WWII New York City	BB: Cresswell

<b>November</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>Th 2</b>	Inner City Revitalization <b>FILM ANALYSIS DUE</b>	CR: 267-295 (Wilson and Kelling, Porter, Sorkin) BB: Sheppard, Florida
<b>T 7</b>	Suburbanization and Sprawl	CR: 448-463 (Hayden)
<b>Th 9</b>	Suburbanization and Sprawl (continued)	BB: Kunstler, Newman and Kenworthy, Fowler, Olson, Sturm and Cohen
<b>T 14</b>	<b>Reading Day, No Lecture</b>	
<b>Th 16</b>	Classic Visions of Urban Planning	CR: 297-336 (Olmsted, Howard LeCorbusier, Wright, Calthorpe and Fulton) BB: Geddes, Calthorpe
<b>T 21</b>	Urban Design	CR: 437-447 (Jacobs and Appleyard), 207-211 (Duany and Plater-Zyberk) BB: McCannell
<b>Th 23</b>	Urban Design (speaker: Prof. Beverly Sandalack)	CR: 409-436 (Sitte, Lynch, Whyte) BB: Boddy
<b>T 28</b>	Gentrification	BB: R. Schaeffer and N. Smith, N. Smith, Ley
<b>Th 30</b>	Contemporary Planning Approaches	CR: 339-398 (Hall, Kaiser and Godschalk Forester, Davidof)

<b>December</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
<b>T 5</b>	Telecommunications and Urban Futures	CR: 470-485 (Webber, Castells), 497-503 (Mitchell) BB: Graham
<b>Th 7</b>	Sustainable Urban Development <b>CALGARY PROJECT DUE</b>	CR: 399-408 (Beatley), 486-496 (Wheeler) BB: Blowers and Pain

### REGISTRAR'S SCHEDULED FINAL EXAM:

Time and location to be announced in October; check the web site below:

[www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exam](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exam)

**For additional detailed course information posted by the Instructor see Blackboard at:**  
<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/>

### **Plagiarism**

Academic dishonesty is not an acceptable activity at the University of Calgary and students are **strongly advised** to read the Student Misconduct section in the University Calendar. Quite often, students are unaware of what constitutes academic dishonesty or plagiarism. The most common are 1) presenting another student's work as your own 2) presenting an author's work or ideas as your own without proper referencing and 3) using work completed for another course. This activity will not be tolerated in this course and students conducting themselves in this manner will be dealt with according to the procedures outlined in the calendar.

### **Disability Resource Centre Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

### **Re: Posting of Grades and Picking-up of Assignments**

- All assignments will be handles on Blackboard.
- Their own grades will be available to each student on Blackboard by password access. Grades will **not** be available at Geography's main office.

### **Contact Information for Student and Faculty Representation**

- SU VP Academic Phone: 220-3911 and e-mail: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca)
- SU Faculty Rep. Phone: 220-3913 and e-mail: [socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca)

### **Campus Safewalk**

Campus Security, in partnership with the Students' Union, provides the Safewalk service, 24 hours a day, to any location on Campus including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones and University residences. Contact Campus Security at 220-5333 or use a help phone, and Safewalkers or a Campus Security officer will accompany you to your Campus destination.