

GEOG 243 Urban Geography Spring 2017

Mondays/Wednesdays 4:10-5:25 PM

HN 1022

Prof. Lauren Hudson lhudson@gradcenter.cuny.edu (When contacting me via email, **indicate course number/title in subject line** (GEOG 243 Urban Geography) and sign your full name as it appears in CUNYfirst. Make sure to email from your @myhunter address. You can expect a response from me within 48 hours)

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-4 pm by appointment. Room: HN 1003F

Required text: Jonas, Andrew E.G., McCann, Eugene, Thomas, Mary. 2015. *Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction*. ISBN: 978-1-4051-8979-8.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to urban geography – a part of geography concerned with processes of urbanization and their spatial dynamics. Today, most people on Earth live in cities or, in other words, humanity is predominantly urban. From the first urban settlements to contemporary global urban centers some of which reaching dozens of millions of residents, cities have always provided people with distinct and often contradictory experiences. Cities are sites where economic activities and economic deprivation are concentrated to the largest degree; they are centers of great intermixing of people, infrastructure, urban culture, and lifestyles; and yet urban spaces are segregated by class, gender, race, and sexuality. After becoming familiar with the historical development of urban systems and cities with a main (but not a sole) focus on Western cities, we will examine different aspects of urban economic and social geographies in order to gain insights into workings of modern cities.

The weeks are organized thematically. Students will rotate the responsibility for providing an overview of the week's readings as well as propose discussion questions. The brief overview and questions are meant to encourage a deeper discussion of what we have found engaging, puzzling, important, or disturbing about the material. While a couple of students will have this responsibility week to week, everyone must read ALL of the readings and come prepared to discuss the material.

In addition to these discussions, students are expected to have midterm and final exams, respond to the reading assignments on BlackBoard, and participate in a group project to be presented to the class at the end of the semester. Students will work in small groups on a research project to explore more deeply the themes we've discussed in class. They will work in teams to study an area and contemporary issue in New York City using participant observation and academic research as methodologies.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes: The largest objective of the course is to challenge our assumptions of how cities function. Doing so allows us to have a more

nuanced understanding of the study of cities and geography writ large. Class participation is crucial to reaching this objective. The usefulness and benefits of the course can only be fully realized when we all contribute to our class discussions.

Upon completion of this course students will have acquired:

1. Basic knowledge of historical and contemporary urban dynamics as well as how and why social and economic spaces within cities are differentiated.
2. Familiarity with fundamental concepts related to urban geography and its relationship with other aspects of human experience
3. Skills for critical thinking about urban processes that are important for understanding the complexity of today's cities as well as their understanding from different, and sometimes, conflicting perspectives
4. Improved reading and writing skills by working with the textbook and other assigned readings
5. Research skills by completing assignments and working on team projects under the supervision of the instructor

Finally, you will improve your public speaking and communication skills by presenting class readings and preparing and presenting class projects.

Course Evaluation:

Class Project	20%	You will work on a team research project
Class Participation	20%	Includes attendance, participation in class discussions, and presentations of readings
Assignments	15%	Weekly responses to readings (at least 100 words, posted on BlackBoard by Monday at noon) and other assignments. No credit will be given for late responses.
Midterm Exam	20%	Covers the material leading up to the date of the exam
Final Exam	25%	Covers course material since the date of the midterm

Course Policies: Laptops, iPads, etc., are allowed in class for note-taking and reading purposes provided you participate at the same level as the rest of the class and are not disengaged. As with texting, checking your email, Facebook, Twitter, etc. is incredibly distracting to the class and is not permitted. Eating in class is not permitted.

No incompletes are allowed. Final grades will be calculated according to the above evaluation criteria. Absent course work will be counted as zero points. For final grades,

CUNY grading policy will be used. Please see the online undergraduate catalog <http://catalog.hunter.cuny.edu/>. Exceptions will only be made for extenuating circumstances (e.g. serious illness, bereavement absence, etc.).

Credit/no credit: You may file for CR/NC no later than 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the final exam if you have completed all of the requirements for the course, i.e., taken all exams (including the final exam), completed all writing assignments and presentations, etc. Keep in mind that the Hunter College rules apply. For more information or to determine if you qualify for CR/NC, you may want to visit this following URL before you make your decision: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/advising/how-to/file-credit-no-credit-cr-nc>.

Classroom policies:

- Lectures will be combined with student discussions. Discussions and questions are encouraged but all opinions must be expressed in a respectful manner.
- You are responsible for keeping up with all the postings of additional readings and assignments on course web page and course schedule.
- You are expected to attend all classes, do all required readings, participate in discussions, fulfill all the assignments, and take lecture notes. No credit will be given for late responses to the readings and other assignments. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to read the assigned literature, complete the assignments, and get lecture notes from your peers. Missed assignments or exams will result in zero points.
- Please, absolutely no talking, use of cell phones, texting, or web browsing during lectures.
- The class begins and ends on time. Important announcements and attendance check will take place in the beginning of the class. Three missed classes result in reduced credit of five points towards your final grade as will three late arrivals.
- Most communication about assignments and due dates will take place via BlackBoard. Please make sure you have a valid email address registered with BB and make sure you check this address regularly. I cannot identify whose emails bounce back, so please make sure you receive and read your class-related emails by checking your own @myhunter email daily as well as BlackBoard.

Hunter College Policy on Academic Integrity: Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

ADA Policy: In compliance with the American Disability Act of 1990 (ADA) and with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical, and/or Learning) consult the Office of AccessABILITY, located in Room E1214B, to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance, please call: (212) 772- 4857 or (212) 650-3230.

Course Schedule:

Week	Date(s)	Topic
Week 1	1/30, 2/1	Introduction and Chapter 1 Approaching the City
Week 2	2/6, 2/8	Ch. 2 Cities For Whom? The Contours and Commitments of Critical Urban Geography
Week 3	College is closed 2/13, 2/15 follows Monday schedule	Ch.3 Production, Economy and the City
Week 4	College is closed on 2/20; 2/22	Ch. 4 A World of Cities
Week 5	2/27, 3/1	Ch.5 Labor and the City
Week 6	3/6, 3/8	Ch.6 The City and Social Reproduction and Midterm in class
Week 7	3/13, 3/15	Ch. 7 Governing the City: The State, Urban Planning, and Politics
Week 8	3/20, 3/22	Ch. 8 Experiencing Cities
Week 9	3/27, 3/29	Ch. 9 Molding and Marketing the Image of the City
Week 10	4/3, 4/5	Ch.10 Natures and Environment of the City
Week 11	4/19, 4/20 (Th)	Ch. 11 Urban Arts and Visual Cultures April 20 follows a Monday schedule
	4/10, 4/12, 4/17	Spring Break; no classes schedule
Week 12	4/24, 4/26	Ch. 12 Alternative Urban Spaces and Politics

Week 13	5/1, 5/3	Ch. 13 Urban Crises
Week 14	5/8, 5/10	Final Presentations
Week 15	5/15,5/17	Final Presentations and Ch. 14 Epilogue: Critical Urban Geographies

Final Exam: Wednesday, 5/24/2017 from 3:00-5:00pm