

Central Connecticut State University
Geography Department

Urban Geography – Geog. 438

Course Overview and Requirements

Instructor:
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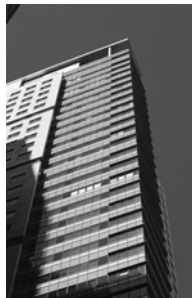
Urban Geography – Geog. 438 – 70 (CRN 10779)
Course Details and Contact Information

- Lecturer: Donald J. Poland, MS, AICP
- Classroom: FR - 311
- Class Hours: Thursday 5:55 - 8:35PM
- E-mail: polandd@ccsu.edu or don@donaldpoland.com
- Phone: 860-655-6897
- Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday: 1:45 - 3:15pm
Thursday: 5:15 – 5:45pm
Wednesday: 12:30 - 1:30pm
- Lecture Notes: Black and White copies (four slides per page) of all PowerPoint presentations (in PDF file format) used in my lectures are available for download at my website (Teaching Geography page):
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Urban Geography

Introduction, Outcomes, and Class Format

- Urban geography is a subfield of human geography, the study of the location of people and their activities over geographic space. Urban geography studies cities and urbanized places and how humans behave within these places.
- The course goal is to explore key concepts in urban geography, to better understand urban space, and to explore methods of analysis geographers use to understand urban places.
- The course will be presented in weekly lectures and class discussions supplemented by the assigned textbook and other readings.
- Students must complete assigned reading prior to each lecture period.
- While some of the class time will be lectures that introduce and teach key concepts, the class is designed to engage students in intellectual discussions about how we understand, interpret, and experience urban space.



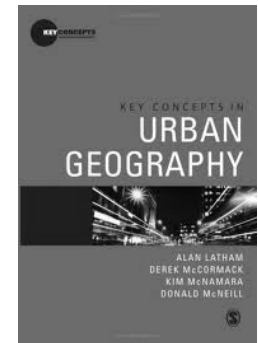
Urban Geography

Required Textbook

- The required textbook for the course is *Key Concepts in Urban Geography* by Alan Latham, Derek McCormack, Kim McNamara, and Donald McNeil. SAGE Publications, Inc. Thousand Oaks, California 91320

Other Required Readings:

- Amin, Ash. and Graham, Stephen, (1997): 'The ordinary city.' *Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)*, 411-429.
- Bell, David, (2007): 'The hospitable city: social relations in commercial spaces.' *Progress in Human Geography*, 31: 7-22.
- Latham, Alan, (2003): 'Urbanity, Lifestyle and Making Sense of the New Urban Cultural Economy: Notes from Auckland, New Zealand.' *Urban Studies*, 40, 9: 1699-1724.
- Thrift, Nigel, (2006): 'Re-inventing invention: new tendencies in capitalist commodification.' *Economy and Society*, Volume 35, Number 2, 279-306.



Urban Geography

Course Policies

- **Attendance:** Obviously, students are expected to attend all lectures. Any absence/late arrival beyond two will result in 10% loss in your participation grade for each occurrence. Also, missing class is not an excuse for not handing in an assignment. Tardiness can affect your grade also. Coming to class late will be marked down as an absence, so please don't be late! Notify me by e-mailing or calling and leaving a message when you expect to be absent or late. Attending class is the most painless way to insure you are exposed to all the necessary information in this course.
- **Assignments:** The project assignment is due during class on the due date for full credit. Projects will be accepted late, but will lose 10% from the final grade for each week it is late. I do not excuse late work due to hardware/software problems. I do not accept e-mailed projects; hard copies are required. No make-ups for the mid-term or final will be given.
- **Academic Misconduct:** Any acts of academic misconduct (including cheating on exams, copying someone else's assignment, plagiarism or providing inaccurate information about absences in class) will be handled according to MCC official policy. You may receive an "F" on an assignment or for a class grade if engaged in cheating or plagiarizing.
- **Withdrawal Policy:** A student may withdraw from this course without penalty anytime before September 19, 2011. Any time after this the student will receive a "W" if they file for a withdrawal.

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Course Policies

- The items below are what your course grade will be based on.
 - **Midterm Exam:** The exam will consist of two essay questions about the journal article *The Ordinary City* by Amin and Graham. A grade of zero will be given for missing an exam without notification from the Office of Student Affairs.
 - **Project:** Discussed in detail below.
 - **Class Participation:** Your presence and participation in class are important and are key elements of the learning process. They show that you are interested and involved in the class, that you understand the material, and that you are willing and able to contribute to the discussion.
 - **Final Exam (Project Presentation):** Discussed in detail below.

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Urban and Regional Planning

Evaluation - Grading

GRADING SCALE & DISTRIBUTION

Grading this course will be based on the following scale.

- A = 94-100% B = 83-86% C = 73-76% D = 63-66%
- A- = 90-93% B- = 80-82% C- = 70-72% D- = 60-62%
- B+ = 87-89% C+ = 77-79% D+ = 67-69% F = Less than 60%

Graded materials will be weighted according to the following system.

- Mid Term Exam: 20% = _____ Participation: 20% = _____
- Semester Project/Final Exam: 60% = _____
- **TOTAL: 100% = _____**

- No extra credit assignments are given. Any assignment that does not follow directions may be given a zero. Any student with a documented learning disability should see me before the first assignment is due.

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Urban Geography

Course Schedule and Required Reading (Subject to change)

Week One: September 1

- **An Introduction to the Changing Field of Urban Geography**
 - Introduction
 - The Field of Urban Geography
 - The Four Traditions
 - Geographic Information Science
- **Key Concepts in Urban Geography**
 - Location and Movement:
 - Centrality and Mobility

Week Three: September 15

Key Concepts in Urban Geography

Constructions:
Nature and Materiality

Article: Latham, Alan, (2003): 'Urbanity, Lifestyle and Making Sense of the New Urban Cultural Economy: Notes from Auckland, New Zealand.' *Urban Studies*, 40, 9: 1699-1724.

Week Two: September 8

- **The Origins and Development of Cities**
 - What Are Cities?
 - Theories of Urban Origins
 - Cities As Engines of Economic Growth
 - Structure and Form of Trading Cities
 - Industrial Revolution
- **Key Concepts in Urban Geography**
 - Location and Movement:
 - Global Cities and Transnational Urbanism

Week Four: September 22

Cities in the Developed World

Western European Cities
Urbanization and the European City
Characteristic Features of the European Cities
Cities in Post-Communist Eastern Europe

Key Concepts in Urban Geography

Constructions:
Infrastructure and Architecture

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Course Schedule and Required Reading (Subject to change)

Week Five: September 29

- **The Evolution of the American Urban System**
 - The Evolution of the American Urban System
 - The American Urban Hierarchy, 1630 - 2007
 - Urbanization and Industrialization Among U.S. Urban Centers
 - Walter Christaller's Central Place Theory
 - Rank-Size Rule

Week Seven: October 13 Housing Markets: Sprawl, Blight, and Regeneration

- Basics of Housing and Housing Markets
- Housing Market Geographies
- Market Realities: Ongoing Debates over Equal "Blight" and the Fate of Inner-City Housing
- Neighborhood Revitalization: Gentrification
- **Key Concepts in Urban Geography**
 - Envisioning and Experiencing: Body, Virtuality, and Surveillance

Week Six: October 6

- **Urban Land Use: The CBD and the Growth of the Suburbs**
 - CBD Centrality
 - CBD Redevelopment and Revitalization
 - Contemporary CBD Activities
 - Suburban Sprawl
- **3/02: Key Concepts in Urban Geography**
 - Envisioning and Experiencing:
 - Diagrams and Photography

Week Eight: October 20 The Ordinary City

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Urban Geography

Course Schedule and Required Reading (Subject to change)

Week Ten: October 27 (Mid-Term Exam)

- Amin, Ash. and Graham, Stephen, (1997): 'The ordinary city.' *Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)*, 411-429.

Week Twelve: November 10 Key Concepts in Urban Geography

- Site and Practices:
 - Consumption
- Bell, David, (2007): 'The hospitable city: social relations in commercial spaces.' *Progress in Human Geography*, 31: 7-22.

Week Fourteen: November 24

No Class

Week Sixteen: December 8

Exam Presentations Begin

****Final Exam – TBA Exam Period.

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Week Eleven: November 3

- **Key Concepts in Urban Geography**
 - Social and Political Organizations:
 - Segregation and Urban Politics
 - Community

Week Thirteen: November 17

- Article: Thrift, Nigel, (2006): 'Re-inventing invention: new tendencies in capitalist commodification.' *Economy and Society*, Volume 35, Number 2, 279-306.

Key Concepts in Urban Geography Site and Practices: Media

Week Fifteen: December 1

- **Key Concepts in Urban Geography**
 - Site and Practices:
 - Public Spaces and Commemorate

Urban Geography

Project – Urban Diaries

- The urban diary project is designed to explore how we live in and experience urban space in your everyday life. This project requires that you maintain a diary for seven days. There are four parts to this project:
- **Diary-log:** The diary-log is design to track your movements and activities over the course of a week. It will allow you to document where you go, what for, with who, and what you do. This will include, but will not be limited to school, work, dining, shopping, recreation, appointments, errands, social outings, and so on.
- **Written Diary:** You will also maintain a written diary of your time/logs. To accomplish this, you will write a diary entry at least once a day to explain the activities recorded in your log.
- **Photographic Diary:** Using a camera or your phone, you will take photos that document the places you go and the experiences you had during the seven days.
- **Term Paper and Final (Exam) Presentation:** For your **term-paper**, you will write a seven to ten page paper on your urban diary experience. Your diary-log, diary, and photos will be submitted as an appendix to your paper.
- **For your Final (Exam) Presentation**, you will present your diary project to the class in a 10-15 minute presentation. Your presentation will need to have a visual component to you presentation, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation or poster boards (or other means that you have approved by me).

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Urban Geography

Project – Urban Diaries

Grading: This project will be graded based on the following:

- The completeness of your diary-logs (15%)
- The completeness, detail, and thoughtfulness of your diary entries (20%)
- The completeness and creativity of your photographs (15%)
- The quality of your term-paper and your utilization of the concepts of centrality, community, photography, materiality, automobility, consumption, and public space to discuss your experiences and what you learned (25%)
- The quality and creativity of your final (exam) presentation to explain your experience and what you learned (25%)

Diary-logs, diary, and photos must be submitted to me by **October 13th** for approval. Failure to submit for approval will result in a 10% loss on the final grade for this project

Term-Paper: The final paper is due on **December 1, 2011**.

A detailed handout with instructions will be provided for this project.

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