

DEPAUL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF NEW LEARNING

SW 357 Urban Geography: The Study of Cities
Spring Quarter 2008 Tuesdays 6-9PM

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Competences: A-3-G, H-1-H, H-5 and S-3-X

Course Description:

Cities are places where large concentrations of people are found. They are dynamic entities, changing and evolving over time. We equate 'civilization' with urban/city living. The word civilization comes from Latin *civitas* and refers to the moral and political nature of those who live in cities. Urban is derived from *urbs* and refers to the built form of the city, its patterns and structures. Urban geography is the social science that investigates the integration of the built forms, human interactions and the environmental aspects of these places

Text: Purchase used text books from **ADDALL.COM**. for up to 25% savings

Urban Geography. 2004. David Kaplan, James O. Wheeler. Steven Holoway. John J Wiley and Sons, Inc.

The Urban World. 7th Ed 2005. J. John Palen. ISBN 0072875410

Learning Experiences (in class)

- o Readings
- o Class discussion and lectures
- o Fieldtrips

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>TOPIC</u> | <u>READINGS</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Apr | Intro to urban geography. What does it mean to be 'Urban' | |
| 8 Apr | Early settlement patterns Urban political and social development HOMETOWN ESSAY DUE (15%) | Palen Ch 2 Kaplan Ch 2 |
| 15 Apr | Transportation mechanisms and their impact on concentrated centers of population | Kaplan Ch 3 |
| 22 Apr | Image of city Presentations (10%) Consumerism and trade: local | Kaplan Ch 6, 7 |
| 29 Apr (Suarez) | regional, national and global Business districts, industrial development and the shopping Mall | Preservation |
| 6 May | Neighborhood development from ghettos to gentrification. Urban planning issues new town development , sprawl and new urbanism COMMERCE PAPER DUE (15%) Saturday Fieldtrip to Pullman District Meet at 11 AM at Florence Hotel 111th Cottage Grove (subject to change for weather) | Palen Ch 5, 6, 7, 8 11, 12, 13 Kaplan Ch 8, 9 |
| 13 May Ch 9, 10 | Immigration, ethnic diversity, poverty and social planning AMERICAN CITY RESEARCH DUE (30%) | Palen |
| 20 May Ch 14, 15, 16 16 | Cities in the developing world, Latin America, Asia and Africa. European Cities | Palen Kaplan Ch 14, 15, |
| 24 May | Saturday Fieldtrip to Pullman District Meet at 11 AM at Florence Hotel 111th Cottage Grove | |
| 27 May | Student World City Presentations (30%) | |
| 3 June | Student World City Presentations (30%) | |

Class Requirements/Projects (demonstration of competences)

Hometown essay: An essay on your hometown describing the physical layout and description at ages 6, 10 and 16 years old. Mental maps, favorite places, likes and dislikes about the place. Describe the 'attitude' and ambiance of this town/city/burb/village from your personal experiences.

Image of Chicago Group Project of Chicago: Compare the official perceptions of Chicago with research, interviews or documentation

Commerce Analysis How does commerce shape a city? Analyze a micro or macro economic perspective. (ie) City, regional or state approach or from the point of globalism

American City Pick a city you are familiar with (not your hometown or Chicago) or one that you would like to learn more about. What do you know (general knowledge) about this city. Find out the real facts and show how this information is similar/different from preconceived knowledge. This is a comprehensive research paper.

World City: Choose a foreign city (not your hometown) and choose an aspect to focus on that gives this city it's appeal. (not your hometown city) Give a 10 minute presentation of this city. Specific criteria to follow.

Assignment guidelines

Image of Chicago Group Presentation Criteria

What is the official image of Chicago? From the public sector, boosters or media.

How do we actually perceive Chicago. Do some basic research on a specific focus area, i.e. public transit, sports, sustainability, blues, diversity, tourism etc. Rectify the perceived official image with what is on the ground (reality).

This can be accomplished by

- questionnaires
- mental maps,
- choosing a specific neighborhood to research
- personal random interviews
- historic research
- written/visual documentation

Graphic material and images are always helpful

Guidelines for the American City Research Paper

This is a real research paper. Include the following:

- List of references
- Citations where applicable, Don't just cut and paste from Wikipedia!
- Use minimum of three sources, five is preferable. Online resources are OK.

Content:

- History: settlement, political and geographic advantages

- Transportation: trace its evolution to current (is this an auto city, known for public trans, located on a major interstate, international airport?)
- Industry, can be interwoven in the history section
- Population changes and reasons, demographics (racial/ethnic breakdown, chronology of ethnic groups)
- Development: residential, commercial, industrial and open space (parks)
- Culture: the arts, museums, opera, outdoor recreation and sports etc entertainment, educational facilities, higher education
- Current status as major American city or describe its downfall and future outlook

Guidelines for Commerce Paper

Commerce is the study and principles of small and/or large scale buying and selling of goods and services. Cities and individuals participate on many levels. Choose any of the following scenarios to analyze for this assignment.

Individual: Your daily expenditures influence both the local, regional and global economies. Where does your money come from and where/to whom does it go?
What is the connection to globalization and to your immediate community?

City/region: City governments, local organizations and business engage in a myriad of practices to bring revenue into a city. The success of these endeavors determine the physical, social and environmental quality of life for its residents. Examples is to build a sports stadium, conventions and festivals, dog-days sales etc.

Globalization: Nation states engage in trade and manufacture of goods and services that are impact the entire globe. Whether as a producing nation or a purchasing nation, globalization is ubiquitous. There are stated benefits and negative consequences of this most capitalist process in regard to social issues, economic issues, environmental issues and changes to the physical urban landscape.

Suggested Readings on Commerce:

The globalization website
www.sociology.emory.edu/globalization/theories

The International Monetary Fund
www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2000/41200.htm

Globalisation guide www.globalisation.org/07.htm

Utne Reader www.utne.com

Two articles:

The WTO: An Utne Field Guide Nov/Dec 2005
Another World is Possible Nov/Dec 2001

Photos, images and maps of the neighborhood and physical changes are always helpful.

Please use citations when necessary and document all work. Online sources are acceptable.

Guidelines for the World City Final Presentation

Each student will choose a world city early in the semester. You cannot choose your hometown if foreign born, and each student will present on a different city. The focus of this 10-minute oral presentation can be either all-inclusive or on a particular aspect of that city which makes it appealing and gives it it's world image. Examples of individual focus are:

- Paris: the birth place of couture fashion
- Beijing: animae and martial arts film
- Havana: variations of Latino musical forms
- Buenos Aires: dance and music of the Tango
- Venice: city of canals
- Tokyo: world's best public transit system
- Rome: architecture and art
- London: street performers
- Addis Ababa: most multi-cultural city in Africa
- Rabat, Morroco: architecture of the Casbah
- Mumbai: Bollywood
- Abidjan: conflict diamonds, war and oil

More Outside Readings

Preservation Magazine. Nov/Dec 1998. 'The Ideal City' Wendy Smith
A Manhattanite chooses to raise her family in the city

Preservation Magazine. Mar/Apr 1998 "the Ideal City' Ray Suarez
Discussion of north and south Loop in Chicago

The Atlantic Monthly. Spt 1996. 'Home From Nowhere' James Kuntsler
A discourse on urban planning/zoning and the case for new urbanism