

CIRP 5300: FOUNDATIONS OF URBAN THEORY

University of Texas at Arlington
School of Urban and Public Affairs
Fall 2011



Instructor: Professor Carl Grodach

Time and Classroom: Wednesday 3:00-5:50 pm, Room UH1

Office: UH523

Email: grodach@uta.edu

Tel: 817-272-3358

Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 2:00 - 3:00 pm and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to both classic and contemporary texts in urban theory. Given the highly interdisciplinary nature of the field, we will study and discuss work by scholars in urban planning, geography, sociology, economics, and history. We will examine the social, spatial, and economic structure of cities from the late 18th Century to the present and consider how concepts of race, class, gender, diversity, and community influence and are influenced by contemporary urban development. The overarching objective of the course, which is required for CIRP Masters and UPPP doctoral students, is to deepen their understanding of contemporary and historical urban development processes and prepare them to make theoretically informed analyses of urban planning and policy challenges. This course will also help students to address planning ethics, diversity, and social justice issues and to improve their research and communication skills.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. identify and critique the major theorists and schools of thought in urban theory
2. describe the spatial development of cities from the perspectives of the different schools of thought in urban theory
3. describe social relations in cities from the perspectives of different urban scholars
4. apply theories discussed in class to study the contemporary urban environment

COURSE FORMAT/EXPECTATIONS

I view our meetings as a forum to raise questions and debate issues that pertain to class topics. To participate fully, students will need to complete the appropriate readings prior to class and come with thoughtful questions for further discussion.

READINGS

All readings for this course are required. The text book is available at the UTA bookstore and on reserve at the UTA library. All other readings are available via internet as noted or, if no web address provided, at:

[https://mavspace.uta.edu:443/grodach/CIRP 5300 Urban Theory](https://mavspace.uta.edu:443/grodach/CIRP%205300%20Urban%20Theory)

Text Book: Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele (eds.). 2005. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. London: Routledge. (USR)

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Participation (10%)

Participation is evaluated based on attendance and involvement in class discussions. Ph.D. students see me for additional requirements.

Assignment 1: In-class Exam (30%)

This is an in-class short answer and essay exam based on material drawn from the course readings and lectures up to the exam date. The midterm will take place October 5. More details will be provided in class.

Assignment 2:

MCRP students: Take-home Exam (30%)

This take-home essay exam will be based on material drawn from the course readings and lectures between October 12 and November 9. The exam will be distributed on November 9 and is due November 16. More details will be provided in class.

Ph.D. students: Place Analysis (30%)

Students will write a 4-6 page essay that examines the impacts and meanings of globalization based on their visit to a commercial or public space (e.g. shopping mall, commercial strip, restaurant, grocery store, park, community center, etc.) in the Dallas-Fort Worth region. You will need to write about the site through the lens of the theories and ideas discussed in the readings between October 12 and November 9 paying special attention to the globalization readings. The paper will be graded based on the MCRP Term Paper Grading Rubric (https://mavspace.uta.edu/people/a/au/audirac/MCRP_Term_Paper_Rubric_final%5B1%5D.pdf). More details will be provided in class. The assignment is due November 16.

Assignment 3: Student-selected topics

Bibliography (10%), Presentation (10%), Report (10%)

For the final sessions of the course, groups of masters students or individual doctoral students will 1) compile a bibliography on a selected urban topic/issue, 2) write a 1,000 word essay that summarizes the key debates and urban planning and policy implications of the topic, and 3) co-lead discussion of the topic in class. Bibliography and essay are due prior to your presentation and you should bring copies of each to distribute in class. These will be graded based on the MCRP Term Paper Grading Rubric and Oral Rubric (<https://mavspace.uta.edu/people/a/au/audirac/OralCommunication%20AACU%20metarubric%20%282%29.pdf>). The topics, which you will select immediately following the midterm exam in consultation with the instructor, may include:

- Creative economy
- Drugs
- Gangs
- Gentrification
- Homelessness
- Immigration
- Natural disasters and cities
- Place marketing
- Policing
- Schools/Education
- Suburban revitalization
- Urban uprisings/riots
- Virtual communities/internet

Other ideas are welcome but you must discuss with me prior to the midterm.

****Ph.D. students see me for additional assignment requirements.****

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons

involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE

The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

COURSE SCHEDULE

August 31 Course Introduction

- Marcuse, Peter. 2010. In Defense of Theory. *City* 14 (1).

September 7 Urban Sociology and the Industrial City

- USR: Tonnies, Simmel
- Engels, Friedrich. The Great Towns.
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/condition-working-class/ch04.htm>
- Benjamin, Walter. Paris: Capital of the Nineteenth Century.
- Donald, James. 1999. Metaphor and Metropolis in *Imagining the Modern City*. pp. 27-62.
- Yablon, Nick. 2009. excerpt from *Untimely Ruins*. University of Chicago Press.

September 14 Urban Sociology and the Modern City

- USR: Wirth, Park, Burgess
- Berman, Morris. 1994. In the Forest of Symbols: Some Notes on Modernism in New York in *Metropolis: Center and Symbol of Our Times*. Phillip Kasinitz (ed.).
- Optional-- USR: Gans

September 21 Neo-Marxism and the Metropolitan Crisis

- USR: Logan and Molotch
- Manuel Castells: 'The Urban Ideology' and 'City and Culture: The San Francisco Experience' in *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*. Ida Susser (ed.). pp. 44-53 and 130-180.
- David Harvey: The Urban Process Under Capitalism in the *Urban Experience*. pp. 59-89
- Soja, Edward. 2000. Metropolis in Crisis, *Postmetropolis*. pp. 95-116.

September 28 Suburbanization and the Fordist City

- Jackson, K. Chs. 10, 11, 13 and pp. 248-251 in *Crabgrass Frontier*.
- Walker, R. and R. Lewis. 2001. Beyond the Crabgrass Frontier, *Journal of Historical Geography* 27 (1): 3-19.

October 5 IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

October 12 Globalization and Urban Restructuring

- USR: Dear, Sassen
- Fainstein, Susan. 2002. The Changing World Economy and Urban Restructuring. *Readings in Urban Theory*. pp. 110-126.
- Sassen, Saskia. 2009. Cities Today: A New Frontier for Major Developments. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 626: 53-71.
- Harvey, David. 2008. "The Right to the City," *New Left Review* 53: 23-40.

October 19 Global Cities

- USR: Lin, Smith
- Campanella, Thomas. 2008. Introduction: The Urbanism of Ambition and Thunder from the South in *The Concrete Dragon: China's Urban Revolution and What it Means for the World*.
- Lida, David. 2009. Two-for-One at the Pyramid of the Sun in *First Stop in the New World: Mexico City, the Capital of the 21st Century*.
- Neuwirth, Robert. 2011. Global Bazaar: Shantytowns, favelas and jhopadpattis turn out to be places of surprising innovation. *Scientific American*.
- Roy, Ananya. 2011. Slumdog Cities: Rethinking Subaltern Urbanism, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 35(2): 223-238.
- Pierson, David. 2011. China feels after-effects of economic stimulus. *Los Angeles Times*.
<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-china-economy-20110817,0,1975246.story>

October 26 Suburbanization: Environment, Sprawl

- Urban Sprawl: Pro and Con. pp. 1-9 <http://www.perc.org/pdf/feb99.pdf>
- *Planners Web*, "Sprawl Guide." www.plannersweb.com/sprawl/sprawlguide.html
- Shigley, Paul. 2009. California's Aerial Combat. *Planning Magazine*.
<http://www.lincolnst.edu/cms/NewsAndEvents/ViewNewsUpload.aspx?type=itn&oid=196>
- Kotkin, Joel and Erika Ozuna. 2002. The Changing Face of the San Fernando Valley.
<http://publicpolicy.pepperdine.edu/davenport-institute/reports/changing-face/content/changing-face.pdf>
- Lang, Robert. 2004. Are the Boomburbs Still Booming? Fannie Mae Foundation.
http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/pdf/census/notes_15.pdf
- Leinberger, Christopher. 2008. The Next Slum? *Atlantic Monthly*, March.
<http://www.theatlantic.com/doc/200803/subprime>

November 2 Community: Development, Planning & Participation

- Putnam, Robert. 1995. Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital. *Journal of Democracy* 6(1): 65-78.
- Young, I. M. 1995. City Life and Difference. Phillip Kasinitz (ed.). *Metropolis. Center and Symbol of Our Times*. pp.250-270.

- Sennett, Richard. 1995. Community Becomes Uncivilized. Phillip Kasinitz (ed.). *Metropolis. Center and Symbol of Our Times*. pp.250-270.

November 9 Urban Inequality and Segregation

- USR: Wacquant and Wilson, Massey and Denton, Gilbert
- Logan, John. 2011. Separate and Unequal: The Neighborhood Gap for Blacks, Hispanics and Asians in Metropolitan America.
<http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/Data/Report/report0727.pdf> (and browse:
<http://www.s4.brown.edu/us2010/SeparateAndUnequal/Default.aspx>)
- Rugh, Jacob S., and Douglas Massey. 2010. Racial Segregation and the American Foreclosure Crisis. *American Sociological Review* 75(5): 629-651.

November 16 Cities in Film

DUE: ASSIGNMENT 2

FILM: Excerpts from *Los Angeles Plays Itself*

November 23 Student-selected topics

November 30 Student-selected topics

December 7 Student-selected topics