**UPPP 6300 Advanced Urban Theory**

**University of Texas at Arlington, School of Urban and Public Affairs**

**DRAFT SYLLABUS Fall 2014**



**Instructor:** Professor Colleen Casey

**Time and Classroom:** Tuesday 6:00-8:50 pm, Preston Hall Room 103

**Office:** UH526

**Contact Information:**

Email: colleenc@uta.edu  \*email best means of contact

Tel: 817-272-3356

**Office Hours**: Wednesdays, 2-4 pm and by appt.

**Teaching Assistant**: Dian Nostikasari

**Contact Information:**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to both classic and contemporary readings in urban theory and urban society. Given the interdisciplinary nature of the field, we will study and discuss work by scholars in urban planning, geography, sociology, political science, 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 is to deepen your understanding of contemporary and historical urban development processes and prepare you to make theoretically informed analyses of urban planning, administration and policy issues. This course will also help students to address 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:

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

**READINGS**

All readings for this course are required unless noted. The texts are:

1. Lin, Jan and Christopher Mele (eds.). 2013. *The Urban Sociology Reader*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge. **(USR)**
2. Gottdiener, Mark and Ray Hutchinson. 2011. The New Urban Sociology, Fourth Edition, Boulder, CO: West View Press. (**NUS**)

All other readings are available via the Internet as noted or, if no web address provided on the course Blackboard Site at http://elearn.uta.edu

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

**Participation (15%, 100 points total, 12.5 points for each)**

Participation is evaluated based on attendance and involvement in class discussions. Our meetings are a forum to raise questions and debate issues that pertain to class topics. To receive full points for participation, students will need to complete the appropriate readings prior to class, and submit the following on Monday mornings prior to our Tuesday class sessions (by 6 am (CST)), and come prepared with questions and comments for further discussion.

Weekly Discussion Briefs:

Each student is required to submit a “Discussion Brief” one day before our class meetings (by 6 am CST the Monday before). The Discussion Brief should be emailed to both the instructor and the teaching assistant. It should contain the following information:

1. One question you have about the weekly readings scheduled for the class discussion. The question can be related to a theory or reading for which you would like greater clarification or a theory or reading that you would like to discuss further in our next class session.
2. One implication of the readings for your personal research or professional interests. (i.e., what stands out to you from the readings, what is interesting, what does a particular reading or theory imply about research or practice as it relates to urban society)

To receive full participation points, you will need to submit at least 8 Discussion Briefs throughout the course of the semester. 12.5 points will be deducted for each missing brief.

**Assignment 1: Exam 1 (25%, 50 points total)**

The purpose of the exam is to simulate a comprehensive examination situation and prepare you for this process. This exam will be based on material drawn from the course readings and lectures up to the exam date. The exam will be distributed on September 23 and is **due by 6:00 pm on September 30.**  More details will be provided in class.

**Assignment 2: Exam 2 (25%, 50 points total)**

The purpose of the exam is to simulate a comprehensive examination situation and prepare you for this process. This exam will be based on material drawn from the course readings and lectures between October 3 and November 4. The exam will be distributed on November 4 and is **due at 6:00 pm on November 11**. More details will be provided in class.

**Assignment 3: Student-selected topics (35%, 100 points)**

*Bibliography (20 points), Essay (50 points), Presentation (30 points)*

For the final sessions of the course, doctoral students will 1) compile a representative bibliography on a selected urban topic/issue (must contain 10 references, 5 can be from class readings, 5 additional), 2) write a 1,000 word essay that summarizes the key debates and urban planning, administration or policy implications of the topic, and 3) present the topic to the class. Bibliography and essay are due prior to your presentation and you should bring copies of each to distribute in class. The final paper is due the last day of class at 6:00pm. The topics, which you will select immediately in consultation with the instructor, may include:

* 􏰀  Cultural or creative economy
* 􏰀  Food systems/urban agriculture
* 􏰀  Gentrification
* 􏰀  Homelessness
* 􏰀  Immigration
* 􏰀  Public Space
* 􏰀  Schools/Education
* 􏰀  Shrinking Cities
* 􏰀  Urban uprisings/riots
* 􏰀  Urban resilience
* 􏰀  Fair Lending and Access to Credit
  + - 1. 􏰀  Virtual communities/internet
* 􏰀  Urban administration and governance

* Other ideas are welcome but you must discuss them with the instructor/TA.

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

* **Class Decorum**: Civility and Politeness appreciated in group activities and discussions.
* **Make-up exams**: None
* **Late submissions**: 1 point deducted for each day overdue
* **SUPA Librarian to contact:** Mitch Stepanovich. Phone: 817-272-2945; Email: [stepanovich@uta.edu](mailto:stepanovich@uta.edu)

**OTHER INFORMATION AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Grade Grievances:** Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current graduate catalog. For more information, see <http://grad.pci.uta.edu/about/catalog/current/general/regulations/#gradegrievances>

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs.

For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory will be asked to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS) about the course and how it was taught. Instructions on how to access the SFS system will be sent directly to students through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback data is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit [https://uta.mywconline.com/](https://owa.uta.edu/owa/luket@exchange.uta.edu/redir.aspx?C=jqplelmmw0KcvkWv1pRv_rHS8ofUUtFIXl_CWZTLffEmCPyZf3x4ncUbBmD9p3gSPROCbhSJj7U.&URL=https%3a%2f%2futa.mywconline.com%2f" \t "_blank) to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at [www.uta.edu/owl/](http://www.uta.edu/owl/).

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.