

GGG 306/590-004 Urban Geography

Spring 2018, M 4:30 – 7:10 pm, 2312 Exploratory Hall

David Wong, Professor

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Office Hours: Mondays 1–2 pm, 3-4 pm or by appointment

Catalog Description

Structure and internal differentiation of cities. Variety of perspectives on nature of cities, and opportunities for intensive use of space. Urban problems and alternatives in their spatial context.

Objectives

More than half of the world's population resides in cities. Each city can be treated as a system, and cities together form another system. A primary objective of this course is to provide the students basic understandings city as a system and systems of cities. In addition, students will learn about the history of urbanization, internal structure of cities and relationships between cities. Issues and problems related to cities and urbanization will be addressed. Knowledge learned from this course serve as the foundations of urban and social planning, business location decision and other socioeconomic analyses.

Learning Outcomes

Knowledge:

- Urbanization as a major development process
- Models describing internal structure of cities
- Economic and spatial relationships between cities
- Urban issues and problems

Skills

- Quantitative/GIS methods in analyzing urban phenomena
- System approach in studying geography
- Multi-disciplinary approach

Major Text:

Knox, P.L. and L. McCarthy. 2011. *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography* (3rd edition). Pearson. (KM)

Other references:

Brunn, S. D., M. Hays-Mitchell, and D. J. Zeigler. (eds) 2012. *Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development*. Rowan & Littlefield.

Cadwallader, M. 1996. *Urban Geography: An Analytical Approach*. Prentice Hall.

Greene, R. P. and J. B. Pick. 2011. *Exploring the Urban Community: A GIS Approach* (2nd edition), Pearson. (GP)

LeGtes, R. T. and F. Stout (ed) (2011) *The City Reader*. Routledge.

Pamuk, A. 2006. *Mapping Global Cities: GIS Methods in Urban Analysis*. ESRI Press.

Wu, W. and P. Gaubatz. 2013. *The Chinese City*. Routledge.

Yeates, M. 1998. *The North American City*. Longman.

Assessment:

Mid-term:	20%
Take-home final:	30%
Two exercises: 10% each, total	20%
For GGS 306: Neighborhood project	30%
For GGS 590: Term paper	30%

Topics:

- 1) Introduction (KM 1)
 - Content of urban geography
 - Main approaches
 - Basic concepts
- 2) Foundations and History of Urbanization(KM 2):
 - Defining cities (Reading: KM, p.8, Urban View 1.2; p. 28, Urban View 2.3)
 - Conditions for the emergence of cities
 - Urban origins
 - Historical expansions of the urban system
- 3) Development of the N. American Urban System (KM 3)
 - Five periods of urban system development (pre-WWII)
- 4) Overview of Census Geographies and Data of the U.S., and the use of GIS
- 5) Systems of Cities (KM 3,4)
 - Post WWII U.S. city system development (Reading: KM, p.100, Urban View 4.4)
 - City size distribution (rank-size rules and primacy)
 - Urban hierarchy and Central Place Theory
- 6) Internal Structure of N. American Cities (KM 3, 4, 12)
 - Land rent concept
 - Classic urban models (Reading: KM, Urban Views 4.6 (p. 107) and 4.7 (p.111))
 - Industrial location and cities – a brief overview
- 7) Urbanization and the Internal Structure of Less Developed Countries (KM 5, 6)
 - Urbanization in Less Development Countries
 - Models of internal Structure of Cities: Latin America & China
- 8) The Dynamics and Makings of Neighborhoods (KM 9, 12, 14)
 - Daily mobility
 - Intra-urban Mobility (Reading: KM, p.210, Urban View 9.2)
 - Residential Differentiation
- 9) Selected “Urban Problems” (KM 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 15)
 - Urban sprawl vs. growth control (KM 3, 4, 10)
 - Segregation (KM 11, 12)

Two exercises (10 points each)

Two exercises will be given out in appropriate time during the semester. These exercises provide students opportunities to apply what they learn in class to analyze simplified real world problems (assessment of skills, part of the learning objectives). More information will be provided later.

GGG 306 Neighborhood Project

Refer to a separate document.

GGG 590 Term Paper

Students are required to submit a medium-length term paper. Topic can be selected from a list of choices. The paper is “research” in nature as students need to conduct research in order to describe and explain the corresponding phenomena. Therefore, standards adhered to research papers should be met. Each paper should be 10-12 pages (plus references, tables, figures, etc.). Citation and reference styles can adopt from one of the geographical journals (specify in your paper). The paper should be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman or similar font, and they will be graded according to the following criteria:

Organization 15%

Quality of writing/English 25%

Content 60%

Rubrics for these criteria and the logistics of submission will be provided later.

Potential topics:

- What have been the processes and forces shaping the development of the Washington, DC metropolitan area from the “beginning”?
- How does the “urban density gradient” of a particular city or a set of cities change overtime? What were the forces and processes influencing the changes?
- In North America, some towns are labeled as “ghost towns” after years of deterioration and disinvestment. Explain their emergence and any sign of revival.
- To what extent is the Central Place Theory still applicable in explaining the relationships between selected North American cities?
- The city of Cleveland used to be depressed, but has been revived. What were the policies reviving the city and will those policies be applicable in other cities?