

URBS 328: Urban Geography Syllabus
Fall 2019, University of Louisville

Meeting time: TTH 9:30-10:45AM; Classroom: Davidson 103, BELKNAP Campus
Instructor: Dr. Charlie Zhang, Email: c.zhang@louisville.edu, Phone: 852-2695
Office Location: 216 Lutz Hall, Office Hours: MW (1-2PM) (or by appointment)

When sending email about this class, please use a subject heading of **Geog 328_LastName**

Required Textbook: Knox, P. L. & McCarthy, L. M. (2012) *Urbanization: An introduction to urban geography*. Third edition, Pearson Higher Ed. ISBN 978-0-321-73643-7

Course Description

Over 50 percent of the world's 7 billion people lives in urban areas and more than 80 percent of the U.S. population is classified as urban by the U.S. census definition. Urban geography is an important sub-discipline of human geography characterized as the scientific study of geographic patterns of urban landscape at different scales. This introductory level course discusses the spatial aspects of cities and metropolitan areas in the U.S. and worldwide. Lecture materials are from the course textbook and from handouts or documents posted on Blackboard.

Important concepts and theories presented in this course:

- Urbanization in the U.S.
- Urban housing and neighborhoods
- Urban poverty and crime
- Inner city decline and suburban sprawl
- Racial and residential segregation
- Concept of urban areas
- Urban land use and internal structure
- Urban economic activities
- Metropolitan governance and planning
- Urban geography of European cities

Course Objectives

This course has two objectives: first is to introduce students the basic concepts and theories about the geography of urban landscape and second is to teach students hands-on practical skills and expertise such as data analysis and mapping skills that are useful for solving real world problems. After accomplishing this class, students are expected to understand better the spatial patterns of urban society and know how to apply the concepts and theories they learn from classes to interpret and tackle real world urban issues (e.g., poverty, segregation and crime) from the perspective of geography.

Course Grading:

Students' final grades in this course will be determined based on 100 points. These points will be distributed throughout the semester in the following components:

Attendance	10%
Assignments	30%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Final Project	10%

The final letter grade will be assigned as follows:

A+: 95-100; A: 90-95; A-: 88-90; B+: 85-88; B: 80-85; B-: 78-80; C+: 75-78; C: 70-75, and so on.

Attendance is mandatory. In the case of an absence, students are responsible for acquiring the class notes they missed from another class member. Each absence will make a good grade harder to achieve. Attendance will be randomly checked throughout the semester.

Five assignments will be assigned to the class throughout the semester. These assignments are designed to enhance students' understanding of the concepts, theories, and techniques discussed in lectures and learn basic practical skills for analyzing urban geographic problems. Usually assignments are distributed on Thursdays and are not due until next one is assigned in one or two weeks. Late work (received the day after they are due) are assessed an automatic 10% reduction in credit for the first day late, 50% reduction in credit after 3 days, and 100% reduction in credit after 5 days. Note that these are *calendar* days and not class period days.

There are **two exams**—a midterm exam and a final exam. The format of exams includes multiple choices, filling blanks, true/false, map interpretations, and short essay questions. While students will be tested on the assigned readings, much of the information you are responsible for comes from lectures. No make up exams will be provided unless a severe and unforeseeable life-changing event has befallen a student or family members.

Each student is required to write a **final research paper** to study an urban geographic issue of a student's interest. The format of the paper is as the following: double-spaced, font size 12, 5-6 pages including figures, tables, and references. You can choose any topic such as urban housing, traffic congestion, poverty, crime, suburban sprawl, neighborhood demographics, and segregation as long as it is relevant to urban geography. Your final paper can be an analysis of urban issues at any geographic level including local, national, or global. Please feel free to talk with me about your interested idea or topic and **Start Early!**

Other Policies:

- Students are expected to contribute to an environment appropriate for learning that considers and respects the needs and rights of others.
- Class begins promptly at 9:30 am and ends at 10:45pm. Lectures start and end on time and students are not to arrive late or leave early. Any disruptive behavior that is demonstrated in class, or any distracting activities or devices will not be tolerated (e.g., **no cell phones, no food...**)

- Cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Any student violating the student code of academic honesty will automatically receive a grade of **F** for this course - no exceptions. For detailed information, please refer to Section 5. Academic Dishonesty in 'Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities' of University Undergraduate Catalog available online at: <http://louisville.edu/dos/students/code-of-student-conduct.html>
- You are supposed to use and check your **university assigned email** on a regular base.
- Use **Blackboard** to get access to syllabus, supplemental readings, course announcements and grades.

Tips for Success:

- Attend classes regularly;
- Be active in class discussions or other activities.
- Read the assigned materials before it is discussed and review after we discuss the topics;
- Take good notes, ask questions before or after class, or during office hours;
- Organize review sessions with friends.
- Feel free to talk to me or visit my office hours if have concerns, issues and comments, or you need help or advising relevant to this course.
- Work hard!

Title IX/Clery Act Notification

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from the PEACC Program (852-2663), Counseling Center (852-6585), and Campus Health Services (852-6479). To report sexual misconduct or sex discrimination, contact the Dean of Students (852-5787) or University of Louisville Police (852-6111).

Disclosure to University faculty or instructors of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex discrimination occurring on campus, in a University-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or University student or employee (whether current or former) is not confidential under Title IX. Faculty and instructors must forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer.

For more information, see the Sexual Misconduct Resource Guide (<http://louisville.edu/hr/employeerelations/sexual-misconduct-brochure>).

Students with Disabilities

The University of Louisville is committed to providing access to programs and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and require

accommodation to participate and complete requirements for this class, notify me immediately and contact the Disability Resource Center (119 Stevenson Hall, 502-852-6938, <http://louisville.edu/disability>) for verification of eligibility and determination of specific accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is prohibited at the University of Louisville. It is a serious offense because it diminishes the quality of scholarship, makes accurate evaluation of student progress impossible, and defrauds those in society who must ultimately depend upon the knowledge and integrity of the institution and its students and faculty.

Academic Grievance Procedure

If you believe that you are being treated unfairly, academic grievance procedures are outlined in the University of Louisville Graduate Catalog at <https://louisville.edu/graduatecatalog/toc> and the University of Louisville Undergraduate Catalog at <https://catalog.louisville.edu/undergraduate/>.

Religious Holy Days and Observances

Federal law and university policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of religious belief. It is the policy of the University of Louisville to accommodate students, faculty, and staff who observe religious work-restricted holy days.

Students who observe work-restricted religious holy days must be allowed to do so without jeopardizing their academic standing in any course. Faculty are obliged to accommodate students' request(s) for adjustments in course work on the grounds of religious observance, provided that the student(s) make such request(s) in writing during the first two (2) weeks of term.

Statement on Diversity

The University of Louisville strives to foster and sustain an environment of inclusiveness that empowers us all to achieve our highest potential without fear of prejudice or bias.

We commit ourselves to building an exemplary educational community that offers a nurturing and challenging intellectual climate, a respect for the spectrum of human diversity, and a genuine understanding of the many differences-including race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, disability, religion, national origin or military status-that enrich a vibrant metropolitan research university.

We expect every member of our academic family to embrace the underlying values of this vision and to demonstrate a strong commitment to attracting, retaining and supporting students, faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of our larger society.

Library Services

Library services are available for students in distance education-online courses, including off-

campus access to online databases and Electronic Course Reserves. The UofL librarians are available to assist you with library services. For more information view the Library Services for Distance Education and Online Courses page.

Technical Support

If you need technical support with your university account, unlocking your password, accessing wireless, Blackboard or other technical issues, contact the HelpDesk at (502) 852-7997. You can chat with a support expert or submit an email by visiting the HelpDesk Resources website. Many useful videos can be found at the Blackboard 9.1 Help page.

Writing Center

The University Writing Center is committed to supporting the writing of distance education students. You can schedule an online consultation through their Virtual Writing Center. They provide both online live chat sessions and can respond to your draft in writing through an eTutoring session. Learn more at the Writing Center website.

Preliminary Schedule *

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	T, Aug. 20	Syllabus and course overview	Chapter 1
	TH, Aug. 22	Introduction to urban geography <i>(August 23: Last day to drop/add)</i>	
2	T, Aug. 27	Defining urban areas and metropolis	Chapter 2; Defining rural at the Census Bureau
	TH, Aug. 29		
3	T, Sep. 3	Urbanization in the U.S.	Chapter 2-3
	TH, Sep. 5	<i>Assignment 1: Urbanization trend in the U.S.</i>	
4	T, Sep. 10	Understanding suburban sprawl	Chapter 3-5; USA Today study; Measuring Sprawl
	TH, Sep. 12	<i>Video show: Saving Pennsylvania</i>	
5	T, Sep. 17	Measuring sprawl	Nechyba2004_Urban Sprawl
	TH, Sep. 19	Urban spatial structure models	
6	T, Sep. 24	Urban economic geography and location theory	Chapter 5-7
	TH, Sep. 26	<i>Assignment 2: Getting to know your community</i>	
7	T, Oct. 1	<i>Urban housing and neighborhoods</i>	Chapter 8&9; State of metropolitan housing in Louisville
	TH, Oct. 3	<i>Midterm exam on Oct. 3</i>	
8	T, Oct. 08	<i>Oct. 8 - Fall break (No class)</i>	US Census 2010
	TH, Oct. 10	Census geography and urban demographics <i>Assignment 3: Census data download and mapping</i>	
9	T, Oct. 15	Assignment 4 – Field trip to Old Louisville	Chapter 12; Housing segregation in NY City
	TH, Oct. 17	Race, discrimination and segregation <i>(Oct. 18 is the last day to withdraw classes)</i>	
10	T, Oct. 22	Race, discrimination and segregation (cont.)	Chapter 12; Housing discrimination HUD report
	TH, Oct. 24	<i>Assignment 5: Calculation of segregation index</i>	
11	T, Oct. 29	Spatial analysis of urban crime	Neighborhood crime; Louisville health study
	TH, Oct. 31		
12	T, Nov. 5	Political geography and urban governance	Chapter 10; Redistricting the Nation
	TH, Nov. 7		
13	T, Nov. 12	Land use zoning and planning	Chapter 11
	TH, Nov. 14		
14	T, Nov. 19	Land use zoning and planning (cont.)	Chapter 11 & 13
	TH, Nov. 21		
15	T, Nov. 26	Urban geography of the world	Chapter 5-7
	TH, Nov. 28	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – No class on Nov 28</i> <i>Final project is due on Nov. 29</i>	
16	T, Dec. 2	<i>Last day of classes</i>	
	Final exam	<i>Final exam on Monday., Dec. 9, 08:00-10:30AM</i>	

* The instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives, to compensate for missed classes, or for similar reasons.