

***GEOG/URPL 305***  
***Introduction to the City***  
***Fall 2005***

Where: 180 Science Hall  
When: Lectures: TR 1:00-2:15pm  
Discussion sections: T 9:55am (450 Science Hall); T 3:30pm (548 Science Hall); W 11:00am (188 Science Hall); W 2:25pm (378 Science Hall)  
Who: Professor Kris Olds  
Rm. 376 Science Hall  
Email: [olds@geography.wisc.edu](mailto:olds@geography.wisc.edu)  
Office Hours: R 2:30-4:30pm or by appointment  
TA: Mr. Matthew Steigman  
Office Hours: TBA  
Email: [mgsteigman@wisc.edu](mailto:mgsteigman@wisc.edu)



*Modernism and the Teeter Totter, Berlin, June 2004*

## ***Welcome to Geography 305!***

You are attending university at an historic moment in human history in terms of habitat: just over half of the world's population is now living in cities. But mere statistics do not convey the increasingly hegemonic role of cities, and of city-dwellers, in shaping developmental dynamics across global space (including in the far most rural parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota!). As the United Centre for Human Settlements (2001: 6) puts it:

When measured in knowledge, attitude, aspiration, commercial sense, technology, travel and access to information, even the most rural societies on earth are, to one extent or another, woven into a global network of cities.

This course is designed to provide a broad-based introduction to the city, and the process of urbanization. By broad-based I mean we will deal with economic, political, social, cultural dynamics, and at a range of scales (from the body to the global). This course is pitched at a level that assumes you might know about the above urbanization fact, and that you probably lived in or visited cities, but that you take-for-granted the forces and institutions that shape the cities you have lived in or visited, depended upon or escaped from, hated or loved, reveled in or ignored. All I ask of you is that you do the course readings, watch the course films, and engage in the course discussions and exercise.

### **Course Structure, Requirements and Evaluation**

Here is how your requirements and the respective marks breakdown in this course:

<b>Responsibilities</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>	<b>Key Date</b>
'Quality' Participation in Discussion Section	10%	All term
City Profile	15%	Due Week 4 on 29 September
Key Concepts/Urbanists Mini-Paper	20%	Due Week 7 on 20 October
Mid-term Exam	15%	Distributed Week 9 on 1 November
Current Affairs Issues: Madison Public Library Project OR Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans Project	25%	Due Week 13 on 1 December
Final Take Home Exam	15%	Distributed Week 15 on 15 December
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

#### *'Quality' Discussion Section Participation (10%)*

While the TA (Matthew Stiegman) is the ultimate arbiter on this issue, it is important to note that we both expect you to participate in discussion sections by showing up on time in a well-prepared state of mind. 'Quality' participation also implies that you contribute in a number of ways to discussion activities, which will include discussing readings, research projects, key concepts, the films and documentaries that will be shown in class, and so on. You are under no pressure to speak constantly, but you do have to speak up, write-up, dance, sing, whatever....

*City Profile (15%) – Due Week 4 on 29 September*

Your task is to develop a short (3,000-4,000) word profile of any city outside of the United States with a metropolitan population of over five million people. Please review the city profiles in the journal *Cities* for various models of how to develop a journal article length city profile. *Cities* is available on-line in the UW-Madison library system.

*Key Concepts/Urbanists Mini-Paper (20%) – Due Week 7 on 20 October*

This type of introductory course, and the assigned text, is designed to be overviewish in nature. However, it is also important to dig into a topic in more detail from time to time, and interrogate key concepts/trends/people associated with urban studies discussions and debates. Given this you are required to prepare to a mini-paper on one of the optional topics below (and they are in random order):

- What is ‘modernism’, and how has modernism shaped the urban fabric? Use some examples from cities in America and Europe or Latin America to make your case.
- Discuss and critique the ‘First World/Third World city’ dichotomy.
- Cities and the urban planning process are ‘gendered’. Discuss.
- Discuss the concept of the creative industries (also known as the “cultural industries”)
- Develop a brief biography of Jane Jacobs, David Harvey, Saskia Sassen, Rem Koolhaas, Mike Davis or Peter Hall, and explain how her/his ideas have helped to shape the field of urban studies.

The paper should be 8-10 double spaced pages. Use your words wisely though given how tight the space limitations are. Please see the Matthew Steigman on formatting requirements and either of us if you need further guidance on how to identify relevant readings (besides your course text).

*Current Affairs Issue (25%) - Due Week 13 on 1 December*

*Option I: Redeveloping Madison’s Central Library*

Over the last two decades, local governments in North America have been grappling with how to redevelop their dated main (central) public library buildings. The redevelopment process is shaped by a wide array of forces including creativity, inter-urban competition, demographic change, technological change, and resource limitations.

Your task is to develop a policy report on this issue for the City of Madison. The report can be framed in a variety of ways, subject to agreement with both Kris Olds and Matt Stiegman. For example the policy report could focus on design issues, or financing, or community participation procedures. Regardless of focus though, it is expected that you lay some broad context in the first part of the report, so as to ensure your hypothetical readers (the Mayor and Council) know what is going on elsewhere in North America (e.g., see what Rem Koolhaas designed in Seattle) with respect to this issue.

Option II: Hurricane Katrina: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in New Orleans

Eric Klinenberg, a professor of sociology at New York University, wrote a very insightful book (*Heat Wave: A Social Autopsy of Disaster in Chicago*, University of Chicago Press, 2002) that used the 1995 heat wave in Chicago (which led to the death of 739 people) as a lens through which to explore the social and political nature of the city. Your task is to use Hurricane Katrina as a lens through which to explore the power politics (both historic and contemporary), at a range of scales (local, state, national) that helped shape the recent (and ongoing) disaster in New Orleans. Some additional references on urban disasters include:

Davis, M. (2002) *Dead Cities, and Other Tales*, New York: New Press.

Mitchell, J. (ed.) (1999) *Crucibles of Hazard: Mega-cities and Disasters in Transition*, Tokyo: United Nations University Press.

Vale, L., and Campanella, T. (2005) *The Resilient City: How Modern Cities Recover from Disaster*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

I am attempting to have the Klinenberg book, these three books, and one on New Orleans:

Lewis, P. ((2003) *New Orleans: The Making of an Urban Landscape*. Second Edition, Santa Fe: Center for American Places.

placed on short-term loan reserve in the Geography Library.

You should aim for 10-15 double-spaced pages for these projects, though we are flexible on formatting options, and expect to discuss formatting with you in more detail during the term. You are also welcome to consider setting up a project web site if you wish, as a supplement or alternative to the typical hard copy paper format.

*Mid-term Exam (15%) and Final Exam (15%)*

Both exams are *take-home* in nature. The *mid-term* exam will be distributed during class time on the Tuesday class of Week 9. It will be based on the course text, lecture notes, and any films that have been shown in class. It will consist of short essay response questions. It will cover the material between Weeks 1-8. It is due back in 24 hours.

The *final* exam will be distributed in the last class of the course during Week 15. It will be based on the course text, lecture notes, and any films that have been shown in class. It will consist of short essay response questions. It will cover the material between Weeks 9-14. It is due back no later than the end formal exam period for this course.

## Readings

There is one required text for this course:

Pacione, M. (2005) *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, Second Edition, New York: Routledge.

This book is available, for purchase, at **Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative, 426 W. Gilman** (just off of State Street). I have also placed one copy of the 2001 version of the book on reserve in the Geography Library (280 Science Hall), and I am working to get the just published 2005 version into the library right now. This book has been selected as it is written in a relatively interdisciplinary manner, it is both descriptive and analytical in nature, and it is written in a politically aware manner. An awareness of politics is critical to becoming a good urbanist. Michael Pacione would agree with the prominent urbanist Henri Lefebvre (1991: 26) that the production of space is always ideological and reflective of power. In other words the production of urban space 'serves as a tool of thought and action; ... in addition to being a means of production it is also a means of control, and hence of domination, of power'. Pacione reads broadly, and is not fixated with capital G Geography. He draws from, in the production of this text, sociologists, planners, anthropologists, economists, political scientists, design professionals, and so on. So if you are not a Geographer then I would argue no worries...I am also trained as a professional urban planner too, and am smitten with the writings of anthropologists, sociologists, and architects, so I am relatively aware (and dismissive) of disciplinary blinkers.

In addition to this text, all other 'required readings' noted below in the week by week schedule will be made available via e-Reserves. To access these readings go to My UW <http://my.wisc.edu/portal/> and click on the Academic page. The Library Reserves link on this page has a list of courses – look for Geography 305, and you will be able to download the readings in pdf format.

### *Reading Policy*

You are expected to read the associated readings for all lectures and discussion sections! Reading them just prior to the exams is a key component in the recipe for a *very* poor grade and a waste of time. And reflect upon the fact that you are in the midst of a relatively pleased phase of life (seriously!): reading books and articles in cafes or on the Terrace or at 4:00 am (if you have the opportunity to sleep in 'til 10:30 am one day)...you really have no excuses for sliding on your reading. Remember these words of advice 3-5 years from now and you will know what I mean (or ask some of my former students...).

Finally, I recommend that you peruse copies of these web-based reference texts:

UNCHS (2001) *The State of the World's Cities 2001*, Nairobi: UNCHS. Also available at: <http://www.unchs.org/Istanbul+5/statereport.htm>



## GEOG 305 – Schedule and Readings<sup>1</sup>

### PART I: INTRODUCTION & KEY CONCEPTS

#### **Week 1: September 6 & 8 – INTRODUCTION & KEY CONCEPTS**

- Pacione, M. (2005) *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, chapters 1, 2

#### **Week 2: September 13 & 15 – CLASSIC IMAGININGS OF THE CITY**

*View/Discuss*

- Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*

#### **Week 3: September 20 & 22 – CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTUAL IMAGININGS OF ONE CITY (VANCOUVER)**

*Read*

- Beauregard, R. (1995) 'If only the city could speak: the politics of representation', in H. Liggett and D. Perry (eds.) *Spatial Politics*, London: Sage.

*Scan only*

- Anderson, K. (1987) 'The idea of Chinatown: the power of place and institutional practice in the making of a racial category', *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 77(4): 580-598.
- Coe, N. (2001) A hybrid agglomeration? The development of a satellite-Marshallian industrial district in Vancouver's film industry, *Urban Studies* 38(10), pp.1753-1775.
- Hasson, S., and Ley, D. (1994) 'The Downtown Eastside: one hundred years of struggle' in S. Hasson and D. Ley, *Neighbourhood Organisations and the Welfare State*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
- Olds, K. (1998) 'Globalization and urban change: tales from Vancouver via Hong Kong', *Urban Geography*, 19(4): 360-385.

#### **Week 4: September 27 & 29 – LOCAL/REGIONAL IMAGININGS**

- Planning in Chicago (further details TBA)
- Planning in Madison or Milwaukee (further details TBA)

### PART II: BROAD TRENDS & CONDITIONS

#### **Weeks 5 & 6: October 4, 6, 11, 13 -- AN URBANISING WORLD**

- Pacione, M. (2005) *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, chapters 3, 4, 21
- Davis, M. (2004) 'Planet of slums: urban involution and the informal proletariat', *New Left Review*, 26, March-April: 5-34.

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<sup>1</sup> This reading list is subject to some change, especially in the latter part of the term, as I am revising the course following student feedback, and also trying to confirm some guest speakers.

- Hamnett, C. (1995) 'Controlling space: global cities', in J. Allen and C. Hamnett (eds.) *A Shrinking World? Global Unevenness and Inequality*, Oxford: Oxford University Press and the Open University.
- *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City*
- *Salaam Bombay!*
- World Bank urban policy case study <http://www.worldbank.org/eapurban>
- Global cities/world cities <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/>

**Weeks 7 & 8: October 18, 20, 25, 27 – REGIONAL AND NATIONAL TRENDS IN URBANIZATION**

- Pacione, M. (2005) *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, chapters 5, 6, 23
- Canada vs USA/ *The North American City?*
- *The Southeast Asian City?*
- *The Urban Explosion*

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**PART III: URBAN ECONOMIES, LAND USE & GOVERNANCE**

**Weeks 9, 10, 11 & 12: November 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 – URBAN ECONOMIES, LAND USE**

- Pacione, M. (2005) *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, chapters 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 20, 22, 24, 29
- Shanghai: the 'global intelligence corps' and the building of Pudong', *Cities*, 14(2): 109-123.
- 'Intelligence Corps' in G. Bridge and S. Watson (eds.) *A Companion to the City*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Fielder, A. (2001) Poaching on public space: urban autonomous zones in the French Banlieu films, in M. Shiel and T. Fitzmaurice (eds.) *Cinema and the City*, Oxford: Blackwell.
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- Gentrification in Madison
- Planning in Dane County
- *La Haine*
- *City of God*

## PART IV: URBAN LIVES

### Weeks 13 & 14: November 29, December 1, 6, 8 - URBAN LIVES

- Pacione, M. (2005) *Urban Geography: A Global Perspective*, chapters 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 25
- Ley, D. (1993) 'Cooperative housing as a moral landscape: re-examining "the post-modern city"', in J. Duncan and D. Ley (eds.) *Place/Culture/Representation*. New York: Routledge.
- Mattern, C.. (1997) 'Crestwood: a pioneer cooperative housing project' *Historic Madison*, Vol. XIV, pp. 14-21.
- *Amelie*
- *City of God*
- Debate about cities and the 'creative class'
- Debate about housing choices, forced evictions or homelessness

### Week 15: December 13, 15 -- REVIEW AND FINAL EXAM



*Chicago, December 2004*