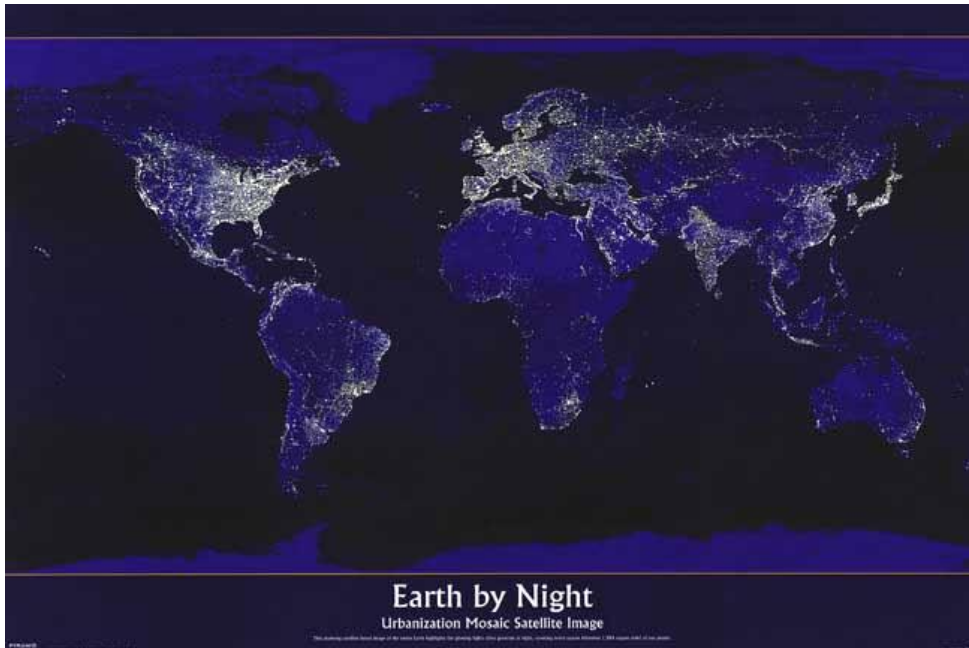


**Geography 305, Introduction to the City, Spring 2008**  
Grainger 2120, Tuesday & Thursday 1:00-2:15

Karen Culcasi, Instructor  
115C Science Hall (SH), 265-0526  
[culcasi@wisc.edu](mailto:culcasi@wisc.edu)  
Office hours: Tues 2:30-3:30 & Thurs 10:00-11:00

Matthew Liesch, TA  
409 SH, 262-8920  
[mliesch@wisc.edu](mailto:mliesch@wisc.edu)  
Office hours: Weds 12:00-1:00 & Thurs 3:20-4:20

Discussion sections:  
301: Weds 9:55 450 SH  
302: Weds 11:00 188 SH  
303: Thurs 11:00 450 SH  
304: Thurs 2:25 444 SH



**Objectives of the course:**

This course will provide you with the tools and geographical concepts to critically approach the study of cities and public spaces. We will explore the dynamic, fluid, and complex relationships that people have with the urban environment; and how diverse natural, social, political, economic, and cultural processes have helped to produce cities. Yet in the globalized world we live in, cities are interconnected with other cities, as well as rural and suburban environments. Therefore we will also examine what ties cities together, how they vary from within, and are intricately related to what is outside. This broad framework will be applied to historical and contemporary issues pertaining to cities. This is a course more so on social issues in the city, than on urban planning, though issues of development and sustainability will be addressed. Topics will be thematic and place specific.

The focus of the first half of the semester is on social issues in American cities. Madison will be a frequent focus because I want you to think deeply and critically about your urban environment. The second half of the semester changes scope to examine non Western cities. Though similar themes apply to cities across the globe, our focus here will be on the colonial legacy and globalization in non Western cities, and the inherent problems that have arisen as part of these processes.

**Readings:**

There are two required books for the class. Additional assigned readings, as listed in the course schedule below, will be posted on learn@UW. The books are available at the University Book Store. You are required to have the readings completed for class on the day listed in the course schedule.

**Required texts:**

- Michael Pacione, Urban Geography, A Global Perspective, 2nd Edition, 2005
- Don Mitchell, The Right to the City, Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space, 2003
- See learn@UW for additional required readings as indicated in the course schedule below

**Optional text:**

- Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities, Vintage edition, December 1992

**Academic integrity and honesty & respect:**

The UW-Madison code of conduct for students is available at <http://www.wisc.edu/students/conduct/conduct.htm>. Please also visit the Writing Center's website about understanding and avoiding plagiarism: [http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QPA\\_plagiarism.html](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html). A zero score will be assigned to any paper or exam for any student violating these policies. In some cases further measures will be taken in accordance with University regulations. We will spend a short amount of class time discussing what constitutes as plagiarism, or cheating for that matter, since the ramifications are detrimental.

Some of the topics in this class will focus on provocative and political social issues. You are encouraged to think critically and ask stimulating questions, but always respect your fellow students, the instructor, and the TA.

**Disability:**

Students who have a disability (learning, physical, or otherwise) should contact me as soon as possible so that any necessary arrangements can be made. If you suspect you may have a disability you should visit the University's McBurney Disability Resource Center at <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>.

**Grading:**

You will be assessed on several criteria, which are described below in more detail.

1. Mid term and final exam (not cumulative) - 20% each
2. Book review and application - 20%
3. Final paper and presentation - 25% & 5%, respectively
4. Participation in discussion groups - 10%

Please note that there are no make-up exams in this course, you must attend class and take the exam the day it is scheduled. Plan your mid-semester break and end of the year departures accordingly. Late assignments will be penalized 10 points off the grade per day, which includes the weekend.

I will notify you if a curve becomes necessary as the course progresses, but in general grading will follow as such:

- 100-88 = A range
- 87-78 = B range
- 77-68 = C range
- 67-55 = D
- 54 or below = F

**1) Book Review and Application (20%):**

During the 5<sup>th</sup> week of class we will read and discuss Don Mitchell's book *The Right to the City*. You will be required to submit a book report (of sorts) that (1) briefly summarizes and (2) critiques the book. Then you will apply Mitchell's theory/ critique of the rights to public space to *your* urban environment, whether it is Madison, or any other city you have spent considerable time in. A more detailed description of the paper topic and requirements will be distributed by week 3. The paper should be 4-6 pages.

**2) Exams (20% each)**

There will be a mid term and final exam in this course. The final is not cumulative, but focuses on material covered in the second half of the semester. We will spend some class time to review for each. You will be tested on textbook material, lectures and discussions, and additional assigned non-textbook readings. Attendance will not be taken in lecture, but to do well on the exams, you will need to attend all classes and take notes, because material not in the text book will be covered in class.

**3) Final paper (25%) and presentation (5%):**

In this class, we will touch upon a wide variety of topics, themes, and issues in Urban Geography. There are of course a plethora of important topics and cities we will not be able to cover. The goal of your term paper is to explore a major concept in Urban Geography and examine its implications in relation to two particular cities. Concepts includes: globalization & uneven development, sustainable development, social (in)justice, environmental (in)justice, segregation, and the colonial legacy. You are required to review scholarly literature on your concept and then examine (and compare) how it relates to one Western and one non Western city. The paper should be 10-12 pages. Details about the paper, including a list of cities to write about, will be distributed early in the semester. To help you along with your paper, a brief paper topic description will be due in week 6 and a bibliography will be due in week 9. You will then present your paper to your discussion section during week 13 or 14 of classes.

**4) Participation in discussion sections (10%):**

You are required to participate in discussions, ask questions, and provide answers, as well as raise new points. Matt Liesch, your TA, will evaluate your participation at the end of the semester. In the first week of discussion sections (which is the second week of classes), Matt will discuss with you the guidelines we established for assessing your participation.

Clearly, if you are not in section, you can not participate. Absences in sections are excused only with university approval. Please contact student services if this becomes necessary.

**Course Schedule:**

The textbook will be used as a guide through the course, but we will also engage with additional materials and readings, which will be available through learn@UW. You are required to do the readings before coming to class and discussion sections. This course schedule is subject to change, and a few topics and reading, listed here a "TBA," will be added.

**Introduction, Concepts, & History of Urban Geography  
(Global perspective, with US and Western Europe Bias)**

Week 1

	Topic	Readings due on this day	Other
1/22	Introduction; concepts in Urban Geography		
DS	None this week		
1/24	Major concepts and approaches in Urban Geography	Pacione: xxxvi-xxxvii; 3-19, & 20-35	

Week 2

1/29	Origins and changes of cities, early cities	Pacione: 39-70	Book review info distributed
DS	Intro; review of concepts		
1/31	World regions and urban areas	Pacione: 96-121	

**Developed/ Western World  
(with a US and Madison Bias)**

Week 3

2/5	American urbanization, (uneven)development,	Kunstler: 9-15; (Jacobs, optional)	
DS	US urban census data		
2/7	Sustainable Development in Western cities, smart growth	Hall: 152-177; Pacione: 182-183, 187-188, 277-280, 606-610	Paper topics distributed

Week 4

2/12	Urban/ Rural connection; commodity chain; Food politics	Cronon: TBA Lappe and Lappe: 244-274	
DS	Food and eating in Madison; book review	WMTV news report	
2/14	Social justice in the city	Pacione: 352-367	

Week 5

2/19	Public space; parks; protest; homelessness	Mitchell (entire book)	
DS	Critique and application of Mitchell		
2/21	War At Home documentary (100 minutes)		

Week 6

2/26	Class and poverty; Environmental injustice; superfund sites, Love Canal	Pacione: 308-329; 362 box 175	Paper topics due
DS	Census data, class and poverty in Madison		Sign up for presentation

2/28	Migrant cities; ethnic segregation; Dearborn, MI, Vancouver's Chinatown	Pacione: 382-395 Anderson: 219-228	Book review due
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Week 7

3/4	Imagining the City, place marketing	Pacione: 340-442 (Urban tourism) Hall: 77-96	
DS	Tourism in Madison; sell your home town		
3/6	City rankings and live-ability; Madison, Melbourne	Pacione: 398-419	

Week 8

3/11	Catch-up & review for exam		
DS	None this week		
3/13	Exam, 20%		

**Developing/ non-Western World**

Week 9

3/25	Urbanization in the developing world	Pacione: 451-467	
DS	Discuss paper topics		
3/27	Colonial legacy; Calcutta	Chakravorty 84-92	Bibliography due

Week 10

4/1	Diversity in cities across developing world; Imagining the non Western World	Pacione: 468-484	
DS	Map representations exercise		
4/3	Middle East/ North Africa: Islamic city, tourism and place marketing; Conflict in cities; Jerusalem	Pacione: 473-474, box 22.3 476 (re-read)	

Week 11

4/8	China: development, 3 Gorges Dam	TBA	
DS	3 Gorges Dam controversy; Writing your paper		
4/10	Rural-urban migration; labor; commodification of diamonds, exploitation of workers	Pacione: 485-499 Turrell 45-49	

Week 12

4/15	DeBeers & Diamonds documentary		
DS	Diamonds, commodification and American cities	Turrell 45-49 (re-read)	
4/17	No class, work on papers		

Week 13

4/22	Latin American: Santiago, Chile: Pinochet and the urban form	Pacione: 468-471 (re-read) TBA	Final paper due
DS	Final paper presentations		
4/24	Latin America: tourism, border cities, & Maquiladoras	TBA	

Week 14

4/29	Women and cities; Grameen Bank (Bangladesh); feminization of poverty	Pacione: 508-511; 594-595	
DS	Final paper presentations		
5/1	Public space and veiling (in Cairo)	Herrera 16-19	

Week 15

5/6	Wrap-up, review, evaluations		
DS	None this week		
5/8	Final exam, not cumulative		