Course Syllabus

University of Rhode Island
Department of Landscape Architecture

CPL/GEG 202 "Introductory Urban Geography: Understanding Cities"
Summer 2024 - Session 1

Instructor: Professor Farhad Atash
Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment – Remotely on Google/Gmail Meet
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COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course provides an introduction to the development and evolution of cities in the U.S. The course addresses contemporary issues as well as the planning and governance of cities in the U.S. Specifically, the course learning outcomes are:

- Understand the origin and development of cities in the U.S.
- Understand the different types of cities in the U.S.
- Understand the role of government in planning and governing cities in the U.S.
- Understand the contemporary urban issues and government policies that address these issues in the U.S.

COURSE READINGS

There is no required textbook for this course. The readings for the course are posted on under "**Course Readings**" widget on the course homepage. The course readings are drawn from the following textbooks:

* Tim Hall, Urban Geography, Routledge, New York, 2006.

* John Macionis and Vincent Parrillo, Cities and Urban Life, Pearson/Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, 2007.

* Alex Marshall, How Cities Work: Suburbs, Sprawl and the Roads Not Taken, University of Texas Press, Austin, 2000.

* Leonard Ruchelman, <u>Cities in the Third Wave: The Technological Transformation of Urban America,</u> Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, New York, 2007.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

The course requires participation in three online discussions and two exams. The exams are not cumulative. The final grade for the course is based on: Three Online Discussions [30%], Mid-Term Exam [35%] and Final Exam [35%]. The final grade for the course is based on the following scale:

A= 94+, A-= 93.9-90, B+=89.9-87, B= 86.9-83, B-= 82.9-80, C+= 79.9-77, C= 76.9-73, C-= 72.9-70, D+= 69.9-67, D= 66.9-60, F= Below 60.

Class Discussions: Each online class discussion focuses on a topic related to the course. Using the "**Class Discussions**" widget on the course homepage, each student is required to participate in these three online class discussions. Think of online class discussions as your attendance and participation in the course. These discussions will help you to engage with me as the instructor and also with other students in the online class. Each discussion will be open during a specific period of time. For each discussion, you will have about one week to post your comments. Each student will submit his/her comments as a "post" using the "**Class Discussions**" widget. Each post should include at least three paragraphs. Each paragraph should include at least six or seven sentences. Each online class discussion is worth 10% of the total grade for the course. Your grade for each online discussion will be posted in the "**Grades**" tool on Brightspace. You may submit your comments or "post" any time before its due date. The instructions on how to submit your post are included in the description of the first online class discussion in the "**Class Discussions**" widget.

Exams: They are based on the course readings posted on the course homepage. It is highly important that you read the class readings very carefully before taking each exam. Using the "**Quizzes**" tool in the top navigation bar on Brightspace, you are asked to complete the two exams and submit them online. Each exam will include several essay questions. Your grade for each exam will be posted in the "**Grades**" tool in the top navigation bar on Brightspace.

Mid-Term Exam: It covers Units 1 and 2 of the course and includes 6 essay questions. The exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 4** and will be available on Brightspace from

8:00 AM until 11:30 PM. You can access the exam only once and have two hours to complete and submit it online.

Final Exam: It covers Units 3, 4 and 5 of the course and includes 6 essay questions. The exam is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 18.** The exam will be available on Brightspace from 8:00 AM until 11:30 PM. You can access the exam only once and have two hours to complete and submit it online

BRIGHTSPACE HELP AND ONLINE LEARNING

Brightspace is our online course platform. If you need help with Brightspace, call URI Information Technology Services at 401-874-4357 or visit https://its.uri.edu/. For more information about Brightspace visit https://brightspace.uri.edu/d2l/home then go to "**Getting Started**" and then to "**Learners Essentials**".

COMPUTER AND THE INTERNET

You will need a reliable desktop or laptop computer and a reliable internet connection to take the online course. You need to develop a back-up plan for maintaining access to the internet in case of a computer and/or internet problem. **Please keep in mind that computer and internet problems are not considered in this course as legitimate excuses for your lack of participation in three online discussions and/or not taking the two exams on time**. For software, you need to have free Adobe Reader to access the course readings in PDF format on Brightspace.

DISABILITY, ACCESS and Inclusion

Students with a documented disability should notify me at the beginning of the Summer Session so that appropriate accommodations may be made for the course requirements. For more information call 401-874-7400 or go to: https://web.uri.edu/disability/.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit 1 [May 20 – 26]: Urban Geography and the Shape of the City

    Urban Geography
    The Shape of the City
    Urban Ecology: The Chicago School

Urban Ecology: Other Theories

The Los Angeles School and Post Modernism

Brightspace: Course Reading Unit 1: Geography and Spatial Perspectives

Unit 2 [May 28 – June 2]: The Origin and Development of Cities in the U.S.

The Colonial Era 1600-1800

Growth and Expansion 1800-1870

The Era of Great Metropolis 1870-1950

The North American City Today: 1950 to Present

The Coming of the Post Industrial City

Brightspace: Course Reading Unit 2: The Development of North American Cities

* Online Discussion 1 Due on Sunday, June 2 at 11:30 PM.

* Mid-Term Exam on Tuesday, June 4.

Exam will be available from 8:00 AM until 11:30 PM. You can access the exam only once and will have two hours to complete the exam.

Unit 3 [June 5 - 9]: Types of Cities

Headquarters Cities

Innovation Centers

Old Industrial Cities

Border Cities

Retirement Sites

Leisure-Tourism Playgrounds

Edge Cities

Brightspace: Course Reading Unit 3: Types of Cities

* Online Discussion 2 Due on Sunday, June 9 at 11:30 PM.

Unit 4 [June 10 - 16]: The Government and the City

Government Makes Places

Government Makes Money

The Polity, The Public, and Places

Who Pays the Bills?

Brightspace: Course Reading Unit 4: The Master Hand - The Role of Government in Building Cities

Unit 5 [June 10 - 16]: Sustainability and the City

The Ecological Footprints of Cities

Defining Sustainability

Economic Development and Sustainability

Neighborhoods and Sustainability

Urban Transport and Sustainability

<u>Brightspace</u>: Course Reading Unit 5: Sustainability and the City

* Online Discussion 3 Due on Sunday, June 16 at 11:30 PM.

* Final Exam on Tuesday, June 18.

Exam will be available from 8:00 AM until 11:30 PM. You can access the exam only once and will have two hours to complete the exam.