

## URB301/GRG307C: Introduction to Urban Studies

unique # 37635

T/Th 8:00-9:30, room GRG102

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Paul Adams	Office: GRG-414
	Phone: 232-1599	Office Hours: T&W 11:00-12:00

The city is a remarkable thing. Lewis Mumford likened the city to a “run of mackerel or an ant-heap” but also to a work of art, and most intriguingly he argued: “Mind takes form in the city; and in turn, urban forms condition mind.” This course is an introduction to cities with emphasis on direct encounters on the streets of Austin. The majority of the coursework consists of projects in which students analyze real-world situations using basic concepts from lectures and readings. Topics introduced through the lectures and projects include:

- perceptions of urban space
- urban society
- the history of the city
- ethnic segregation and its impacts
- urban responses to economic restructuring
- fundamentals of urban planning

Special attention is given to the role of social class, gender, and ethnic diversity in the development of urban America.

### TEXTBOOK

- *Urban Geography* by Kaplan, Wheeler & Holloway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- Be aware that we are not going through from cover to cover but altering the sequence of chapters

<b>GRADING</b>	
<b>PARTICIPATION</b> A mix of the following: contribution during lectures, in-class projects, quizzes, and notes from special events	<b>40 pts.</b>
<b>MID-TERM EXAM</b> There is only one exam consisting primarily of multiple choice questions	<b>60 pts.</b>
<b>PROJECTS</b> This component of the grade see how well you can apply ideas introduced in the lecture through self-directed urban exploration, observation, measurement, mapping, problem solving and analytical writing.	<b>100 pts.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project 1 (sensory encounters): 20 pts.</li><li>• Project 2 (following a path): 20 pts.</li><li>• Project 3 (crossing an edge): 30 pts.</li><li>• Project 4 (creating a landmark): 30 pts.</li></ul>
<b>200 pts. total</b>	

## CLASS POLICY

### *Attendance:*

It will be impossible to do well in this class without physically attending class and sections. Your participation grade will directly reflect your attendance and participation.

### *Reading Assignments:*

Each reading assignment should be completed *before* the class period in which it is scheduled. Completing readings on time will help you earn participation points.

### *Late Projects:*

Projects are due at the time specified on the project handout/web-posting. Late projects will be penalized 10% per weekday (weekends count as one day). Projects may be turned in early. Turn late projects in by handing them to Dr. Adams or using his mail box in the main office, not by slipping them under his door.

### *Exams:*

"Makeup" exams are not normally given in this class; if you anticipate a schedule conflict with the Exam date, DO NOT TAKE THE COURSE.

### *Computation of Grades:*

Grades will be computed on the following scale:

- 90% and up: A- or A
- 80% to 89%: B-, B or B+
- 70% to 79%: C-, C or C+
- 60% to 69%: D-, D or D+
- 0% to 59%: F

Exams will not be "curved." Fractions of a point will be rounded at the professor's discretion. Grades cannot be raised through "extra credit."

### *Honesty:*

All work submitted must be your own. You may discuss assignments with other students, but all that you write, map, and turn in should be entirely your creation unless a project is explicitly specified as involving a group component. If you wish to incorporate someone else's ideas, you must explicitly acknowledge your sources in your paper and place quotes around anything written or otherwise produced by another person, whether it is a published author, journalist, professor, TA, or another student. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in partial or total loss of course credit, a permanent record of the offense in your academic file, and other penalties. For more information, refer to UT Student Judicial Services <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>.

### *Problems:*

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic adjustments for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. You are responsible for bringing any problems, concerns and/or complaints to my attention in sufficient time for me to try to address the concerns. Nothing can be done at the last minute. "I had to work," "I had to babysit," "my car broke down," "my computer crashed," and "my dad bought my plane ticket and he didn't know when the exam was" are not acceptable excuses and will not alter the requirements stated in this syllabus.

### *Flag:*

This course carries the flag for Cultural Diversity in the United States. Cultural Diversity courses are designed to increase your familiarity with the variety and richness of the American cultural experience. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

SESSIONS	READINGS	DEADLINES	TOPICS
Aug 25			Introduction to the Class
Aug 30	Chapter 1		Introduction to the field of urban geography
Sep 1	Chapter 2		Origins of the city
Sep 6		<b>Project 1 Due</b>	<b>Discuss Project 1</b>
Sep 8	Chapter 3		Emergence of the American urban system-mercantile era
Sep 13			Emergence of the American urban system-industrialization
Sep 15	Chapter 6		The CBD and its evolution
Sep 20			Sprawl and urban renaissance
Sep 22	Chapter 7		The urban economy
Sep 27	Chapter 4		World cities
Sep 29	Chapter 5		Telecommunications and the city
Oct 4		<b>Project 2 Due</b>	<b>Discuss Project 2</b>
Oct 6	Chapter 8		Urban society
Oct 11			Urban morphology
Oct 13			Gentrification and cultural enclaves
Oct 18	Chapter 9		Urban housing
Oct 20			Sprawl revisited
Oct 25	Chapter 10		Segregation, race and poverty
Oct 27		<b>Project 3 Due</b>	<b>Discuss Project 3</b>
Nov 1	Chapter 11		Immigration, ethnicity and urbanism
Nov 3		<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
Nov 8	Chapter 13		Urban planning history
Nov 10			New directions in urban planning
Nov 15	Chapter 12		Metropolitan governance
Nov 17			Countering the fragmented metropolis
Nov 22			in-class work time
Nov 29		<b>Be prepared to hand in and present Project 4</b>	<b>Final Presentations</b>
Dec 1		<b>Be prepared to present Project 4</b>	<b>Final Presentations</b>