

Geog 328: Urban Geography Syllabus
Fall 2022, University of Louisville

Meeting time: MW 2:00-3:15PM; Classroom: Davidson 207, 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: Dave H. Kaplan, Steven R. Holloway, and James O. Wheeler. Urban Geography. Third edition, Wiley, 2014. ISBN 10: 1118573854 / ISBN 13: 9781118573853

COVID-19 Protocols

Jefferson County and much of Kentucky have been placed at a high-risk, red level, signaling that our area is experiencing higher rates of transmission and hospitalization. For now, the CDC strongly recommends red level areas to mask indoors. To ensure the health and safety of everyone and achieve the academic goals of this course, we all need to follow the university guidelines for preventing the spread of coronavirus – See details described in the following webpage: <https://louisville.edu/coronavirus>

Course Description

As of 2022, over 55 percent of the world population lives in urban areas (e.g., cities and metropolitan 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 that is characterized as the scientific study of geographic patterns of urban landscape (i.e., demographics, housing and neighborhoods, land use, urban planning, etc.) at different spatial scales (i.e., global, national, regional or local). This 300-level urban geography course introduces the major spatial aspects of urban phenomena in American cities and metropolitan areas. Lecture materials are from the course textbook and from handouts or supplemental readings to be posted on Blackboard.

Important themes and topics presented in this course include the followings:

- Urbanization in the U.S.
- Concept of urban areas and metropolitan areas
- Urban housing and neighborhoods
- Urban decline and suburban sprawl
- Internal land use and ecological theories
- Urban economic activities and location theory
- Census geography
- Racial and residential segregation
- Metropolitan governance and urban planning
- Comparisons with world cities

Course Objectives

This course has two objectives: First is to help students learn basic concepts and theories about the geography of urban landscape and second is to teach students hands-on practical skills such as data analysis and map interpretation that are useful for solving real world problems. After accomplishing this class, students are expected to have a better understanding about the spatial patterns of urban society and know how to apply the relevant concepts and theories they learn from classes to analyze and interpret urban socioeconomic issues (e.g., land use, poverty, segregation, crime, etc.) from a perspective of geography. For example, how do housing prices vary from neighborhood to neighborhood? What is the difference between urban (inner city) and suburban communities in crime rate? Why are metropolitan areas highly fragmented in terms of political governance?

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:

Assignments	40%
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.

Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis. In the case of an absence, students are responsible for acquiring the class notes they missed from another class member. All lectures in PowerPoint (PPT) format will be posted on Blackboard after class to help students better understand the course materials. In case of a new surge of the COVID-19 and potential transition to online teaching, PPT lectures along with short videos will be uploaded to Blackboard

Five assignments will be assigned to the class throughout the semester. These assignments are carefully designed to enhance students' understanding of the concepts, theories, and techniques covered in lectures and learn practical skills for analyzing urban geographic problems. Usually assignments are distributed on Wednesdays 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 that mainly covers the second part of the semester. 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.

Additionally, each student is required to accomplish a **final project or term paper** to examine an urban geographic issue of a student's interest. You can choose any topic including (but are not limited to) housing eviction, traffic congestion, poverty, segregation, crime, suburban sprawl, neighborhood demographic change if it is relevant to urban geography. There are numerous ways from which you can find a topic that interests you and is relevant to this class – local and national media, social network, public hearings, periodicals and academic journals, etc. Your final paper can be an analysis of data or evidence collected for any community, city or metropolitan area. The format of the paper is as the following: double-spaced, font size 12, 5-6 pages including figures, tables, and references. Please feel free to talk with me about your interested idea or topic and **Start Early!**

Other Policies:

- For face-to-face meetings, students are expected to keep a distance when seated and wear masks in classroom.
- Face-to-face class begins promptly at 2:00 pm and ends at 3:15pm. 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...**)
- Students are expected to contribute to an environment appropriate for learning that considers and respects the needs and rights of others.
- 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 UofL's Student Conduct Code available online - <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 course 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!

Preliminary Schedule *

Week	Date	Topics	Readings
1	M, Aug. 22	Syllabus and course overview	Chapter 1
	W, Aug. 24	Introduction to urban geography	
2	M, Aug. 29	Defining urban areas and metropolis	Chapter 2; Urban Area Criteria 2020
	W, Aug. 31	<i>(Last day to drop/add – Aug 26)</i>	
3	M, Sep. 5	Sep. 5 - Labor Day holiday	Chapter 2-3; Urbanization in America
	W, Sep. 7	Urbanization in the U.S. <i>Assignment 1: Urbanization in the U.S.</i>	
4	M, Sep. 12	Understanding suburban sprawl	Chapter 4-5; USA Today study; Measuring sprawl report
	W, Sep. 14	<i>Video show: Saving Pennsylvania</i>	
5	M, Sep. 19	Measuring sprawl	Chapter 8
	W, Sep. 21	Urban spatial structure models	
6	M, Sep. 26	Urban economic geography and location theory	Chapter 6; UofL economic impact
	W, Sep. 28	<i>Assignment 2: Knowing your community</i> <i>Midterm exam on Sept. 28</i>	
7	M, Oct. 3	<i>Mid-term break – No class on Oct. 3</i>	Chapter 7-8; State of metropolitan housing in Louisville
	W, Oct. 5	Urban housing and neighborhoods	
8	M, Oct. 10	Census geography and urban demographics	US Census geography; Chapter 7
	W, Oct. 12	<i>Assignment 3: Mapping census data</i>	
9	M, Oct. 17	Race, discrimination and segregation	Chapter 9-10; Housing discrimination in NY City and Detroit
	W, Oct. 19	<i>Assignment 4: Measuring racial segregation</i> <i>(Last day to withdraw – Oct 21)</i>	
10	M, Oct. 24	Environmental justice and health disparities	Louisville health study; Social justice in Louisville
	W, Oct. 26		
11	M, Oct. 31	Spatial analysis of urban crime	Neighborhood crime;
	W, Nov. 2	<i>Assignment 5: Touring Old Louisville</i>	
12	M, Nov. 7	Political geography and metropolitics	Chapter 11; American metropolitics
	W, Nov. 9		
13	M, Nov. 14	Land use zoning and planning	Chapter 12; Eminent domain and police power
	W, Nov. 16		
14	M, Nov. 21	<i>Instructor conference travel – No class, Nov. 21</i>	
	W, Nov. 23	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday – No class, Nov 23</i>	
15	M, Nov. 28	Urban geography of the world	Chapter 13-14
	W, Nov. 30	<i>Final project is due on Nov. 30</i>	
16	M, Dec. 5	Last day of classes – Exam review	
	<i>Final exam: Wed., Dec. 7, 2:30PM - 5:00PM in classroom</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.