

# UPP 101: Introduction to Urban Studies

## Spring 2010

**Class Time:** Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

**Location:** Art and Design Hall 2236

**Instructor:** Carrie Menendez

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Room 451

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 11:00 – 12:30 or by appointment

## Course Overview and Objectives

This course is designed as a basic introduction to urban studies for students with an interest in learning about the basic ideas and concepts of urban issues and experiences. The course is a general survey of studies of the urban from a variety of disciplines. This course will be particularly useful for those students considering further study or a career in urban planning or other urban-related fields such as sociology, political science, geography, science, minority and women's studies, architecture, social work, and public administration.

Throughout the semester we will examine cities as complex social groupings of people, as well as lived-in landscapes of buildings, pathways, and public and private spaces in a historical perspective. In so doing, our attention will turn both to what cities are and have been (the evolving urban experience of the past and present) and to ever-changing ideas about what cities should be (urban planning and design for the future). While this course is both global and historical in perspective; it mostly will focus on the United States. In addition, we will also pay close attention to our local Chicago metropolitan area, as we attempt to understand it in its larger context as one of today's "global cities".

Additionally, this course will examine urban space both socially and cross-culturally. In this context, we will discuss the importance of cities to the economic, cultural, and political well-being of modern societies and examine how forces such as industrialization, decentralization, and suburbanization affect the structure and function of cities. We will discuss classic theories and recent discourse in urban studies as we look to answer questions like, "*how and why cities develop and change, and who lives in cities and why?*" We will pay close attention to the impact of race, ethnicity, and class on urban communities.

This course provides an overview of urban studies concepts and practice through a combination of lectures, discussions, and assignments that require students to critically analyze urban space. We will use these means to learn how to understand and describe the social, political, economic, and institutional contexts within urban studies. Throughout the course, we will supplement readings and discussions with guest speakers who will enrich our understanding of the urban.

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- describe, discuss, and differentiate common types of urban spaces from a variety of historical-geographical contexts;
- explore and analyze diverse and contested communities (racial, ethnic, class, gender, religious, and sexual) that define cultural and political life in the United States;
- apply historical-geographical insight to present-day discussions of topics such as housing, transportation, urban (re)development, segregation, and "smart growth" policies to control and combat (sub)urban "sprawl";
- decipher the complex forces that shape urban places, particularly the highly contested processes of urban planning and design;
- critically read urban landscapes, especially those in which each student has lived in and the City of Chicago; and
- observe and understand the world's ever-evolving connections between peoples, cities, and environments, particularly in this dynamic age of globalization.

## Required Texts

- John J. Macionis; Vincent N. Parrillo, 2010, *Cities and Urban Life, Fifth Edition*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. 

eText ISBN-10: 0-205-64534-8
Print ISBN-10: 0-205-64533-X
- Supplementary required and suggested readings will be posted on Blackboard. Please check Blackboard frequently for updates.

## Course Requirements

### Assignments and Exams

All assignments are due in class on the dates listed in this syllabus unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will not be accepted unless agreed upon by the instructors. Any assignments more than seven (7) days late will not be accepted. Details of each of the assignments will be posted on Blackboard on the Assignments page when they are assigned.

**Assignment 1: (10 pts.)** Reflection Paper. This 1-2 pages double-spaced paper is to be turned in on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Exam 1: (40 pts.)** In class exam on February 16<sup>th</sup> during our scheduled class period.

**Exam 2: (40 pts.)** In class exam on March 18<sup>th</sup> during our scheduled class period.

**Assignment 2: (40 pts.)** Research Paper. The details of the assignment will be handed out on Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>; the topics for the paper will be due on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>; and the final paper will be due on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Final: (50 pts.)** Final Exam on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Attendance: (20 pts.)** As indicated previously in the Course Objectives, it is the intent of this course that students understand the various readings and application of the ideas to case studies and examples. This will be accomplished, in part, through class discussions that link material in the textbook to the work and experience of guest speakers and urban issues. The class discussions are an essential part of the structure of this course, and it is important that students attend all class sessions. If you are late or absent from class on more than two occasions, 5 points will be deducted from your grade point total for each additional absence. Approval for excused absences must be sought and granted by the instructors before the class which you will miss.

Please do not arrive late for class and do not use laptops, cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, etc. during class. Laptop use generally interferes with full participation and learning in this class. If you need to use your laptop during class, please obtain approval prior to the start of class.

## Grading

Grades will be based on the following points:

Assignment 1: Reflection	10 points
Exam 1	40 points
Exam 2	40 points
Assignment 2: Paper	40 points
Final Exam	50 points
Participation	20 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>200 points</b>

Grades will be assigned as follows: <b>Total Points at End of Term</b>	<b>Letter Equivalent</b>
180 - 200	A
160 - 179	B
140 - 159	C
120 - 139	D
Below 120	Fail

## Academic Integrity

We will uphold all University of Illinois at Chicago policies in regards to academic integrity. Acts of cheating and plagiarism will under no circumstances be tolerated. Be sure to use proper citations to attribute others' ideas and writings throughout your work. Be particularly careful when using information from the internet, and provide complete references and citations for internet writings. If you have any questions about when and how to properly cite a reference, please visit the UIC writing center or set up a meeting to talk with me. For more information on UIC's academic integrity policies, visit the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs website: <http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/Home>

## Writing Center

Every student taking this class can benefit from visiting the UIC Writing Center. The writing center provides both peer tutoring and workshops to help students strengthen their writing skills. It is strongly suggested that all students in this class take their written assignments to the writing center for review before turning them in. For more information on the writing center, see <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/index.html>

## Students with Disabilities

Students requiring accommodations for disabilities should register with the Office of Disability Services: Please call 312-413-2183 or visit [http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/disability\\_resources/index.html](http://www.uic.edu/depts/oa/disability_resources/index.html)

## Course Schedule

*Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify reading assignments and assignment due dates as necessary throughout the course session.*

	DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENT
1	Tues, January 12	Introduction and Overview of the Course		
2	Thurs, January 14	Exploring the City	M&P: Chapter 1	
3	Tues, January 19	Origins and Development of Cities	M&P: Chapter 2	Reflection Paper Due
4	Thurs, January 21	Development of Modern Cities	M&P: Chapter 3	
5	Tues, January 26	Cities of Today	M&P: Chapter 4	
6	Thurs, January 28	Cities of Today	No Readings	
7	Tues, February 2	Cities in the Developing World	M&P: Chapter 13	

8	Thurs, February 4	Case study	BB: Gathanju, "Nairobi"	
9	Tues, February 9	Understanding the City: A Sociological Perspective	M&P: Chapter 5	
10	Thurs, February 11	Exam Review	No Readings	
11	Tues, February 16	Exam 1		Exam 1
12	Thurs, February 18	Spatial Perspectives: Making Sense of Space	BB: Park, "Human Ecology" M&P: Chapter 6	
13	Tues, February 23	Spatial Perspectives: Making Sense of Space	BB: Smith, "The New Urban Sociology Meets the Old"	
14	Thurs, February 25	Understanding the City: A Critical Social Perspective	M&P: Chapter 7	
15	Tues, March 2	Understanding the City	BB: Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life"	
16	Thurs, March 4	Stratification and Social Class	M&P: Chapter 10	
17	Tues, March 9	Stratification and Social Class	BB: Massey, "American Apartheid"	
18	Thurs, March 11	Urban Diversity: Race, Ethnicity, & Gender	M&P: Chapter 11	Assignment 2: Paper Topic Due
19	Tues, March 16	Exam Review	No Readings	
20	Thurs, March 18	Exam 2		Exam 2
	Tues, March 23	Spring vacation. No classes.		Spring vacation. No classes.
	Thurs, March 25	Spring vacation. No classes.		Spring vacation. No classes.
21	Tues, March 30	Methods of Discovery	Handout	
22	Thurs, April 1	Planning the Urban Environment	M&P: Chapter 14	
23	Tues, April 6	Planning the Urban Environment	BB: Furuseth, "Nontraditional Planning"	
24	Thurs, April 8	Planning the Urban Environment	BB: Hudnut, "Changing Metropolitan America, Ch 5"	Assignment 2: Research Paper Due
25	Tues, April 13	Current Urban Issues: Food Planning and Sustainable Energy	BB: Beatley, "Sustainability 3.0" BB: Hodgson, "Food Planning and Health Intersect"	
26	Thurs, April 15	Urban Issues: Housing, Crime, and Education	M&P: Chapter 12	
27	Tues, April 20	Housing	BB: Popkin, et al., "The Gautreaux Legacy" BB: Joseph, et al., "Mixed-Income Development"	
29	Thurs, April 22	Focus on Chicago	BB: "The Robert Taylor Homes Relocation Study"	
30	Tues, April 27	The Future of Cities and Exam Review	TBD	
31	Thurs, April 29	Final Exam		Final Exam

\*M&P denotes reading from the course text: *Cities and Urban Life* by John Macionis & Vincent Parrillo

\*BB denotes that the readings are posted on Blackboard in Course Documents.