



## **Geo 309: Urban Geography**

### **Fall 2019**

#### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

- Instructor: Dr. Gargi Chaudhuri
- Office Location: 2022 Cowley Hall
- Physical Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays: 3-4:30PM; Fridays:10-11AM
- Phone: 608-785-8338
- Email: gchaudhuri@uwlax.edu

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is called Urban Geography. What does that mean? The etymology of urban is urbs, derived from Latin, which signified city or town. Urbs contrasted with rus, signifying a rural landscape. From the same etymological Latin roots originate the words urbane—to mean refined and perhaps even sophisticated—and rustic to mean simple, unrefined or rural. Urbanization and globalization processes are intertwined. Since this is an Urban Geography course, we are to study cities from a geographical perspective, or a geographic framework. Our readings will primarily be in the discipline of Geography and we will read recent writings as well as classic works. For the first time in human history, urban dwellers came to outnumber rural residents in the year 2000. The influence of cities extends to nearly every point on the globe. Urban areas, however, differ dramatically from other spaces in their physical structure, economic base, governance patterns, and the lived experiences of their residents. Cities are characterized by striking inequalities in living conditions and varied forms of cultural expression. In short, contemporary cities are vibrant and complex phenomena formed by conflicting social forces and economic processes. This course examines urban settlements and analyzes the processes of urbanization from a global perspective. The goal of this class is to provide students with basic information, concepts and analytical tools to understand contemporary processes of urbanization and urban change. An overriding theme in the course is examining the relationship between global and local factors in these processes. Critical areas of inquiry include the economy of cities, politics, social interaction, urban social movements, land use, and urban structure.

#### **PREREQUISITES**

No pre-requisites, but from technological standpoint it will be assumed that students will know the following: Desktop computers and Windows operating system; Web Browsing, MS Excel, MS Word, MS Powerpoint, Save a file to a given drive, Create, name and rename files and folders, Drag and drop files, Send an email attachment, Know/how of CANVAS, Know how/when to log-off/ shutdown, Find a file or folder, Know when it is appropriate to use ‘Save as’ instead of ‘Save’, Download files from the web to a given folder Move files between drives, Zip/Unzip a file, Use the start menu to locate and start a softwares, Copy, paste and delete files, Select & print to a printer from Windows application, Make a new folder in an existing folder, Place an image in Microsoft Word/PowerPoint, Use "Help" from within a Windows application

#### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the semester students will -

1. Understand the basic concepts of urban geography



2. Become familiar with current issues of urbanization at global, regional, and local scale.
3. Develop critical reading and analytical skills.

**MATERIALS & TOOLS**

Textbook: Paul Knox and Linda McCarthy. 2012. *Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography, 3rd ed., Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.*

All the chapters mentioned in the assigned reading section in the schedule below correspond to this book. The additional readings assigned in the class as listed below for specific topics will be uploaded in CANVAS.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Date/ Day*	Topic	Activity	Reading
9/4 (W)	Introduction to the course	Team formation	
9/6 (F)	Basic concepts in Urban Geography		Ch.1
9/9 (M)	Origin and growth of cities		Ch.2, 3
9/11 (W)	Theories of urban form/ Urban morphology		
9/13 (F)	Introduction to QGIS	Complete exercise	
9/16 (M)	Urban morphology		
9/18 (W)	<b><i>Urban morphology paper presentation (2 presentations)</i></b>		
9/20 (F)	Introduction to QGIS	Complete exercise	
9/23 (M)	Urban Sprawl - I		Ch. 3 (pg. 74-83), Ch. 5
9/25 (W)	Watch video: “How megacities are changing the shape of the world”	Take quiz	
9/27 (F)	GIS exercise about on sprawl	Complete exercise	
9/30 (M)	Urban Sprawl - II		Ch. 3 (pg. 74-83), Ch. 5
10/2 (W)	Urban life and gentrification		Ch. 7 (pg. 180-183)
10/4 (F)	GIS exercise about on sprawl	Complete exercise	
10/7 (M)	Smart growth and New urbanism		Ch. 11
10/9 (W)	Watch: “Megacity – Living in the city”	Take quiz	
10/11 (F)	Mid-term review		
10/14 (M)	<b><i>Mid-term</i></b>		
10/16 (W)	Urban transportation - I		Posted on Canvas
10/18 (F)	GIS exercise on transportation	Complete exercise	
10/21 (M)	Urban transportation - II		Posted on Canvas



10/23 (W)	Watch: “Why buses represent democracy in action”	Take quiz	
10/25 (F)	GIS exercise on transportation	Complete exercise	
10/28 (M)	<b>Urban transportation paper presentations (3 groups)</b>		
10/30 (W)	Urbanization and Environment - I		Posted on Canvas
11/1 (F)	GIS exercise on Emissions	Complete exercise	
11/4 (M)	Urbanization and Environment -II		Posted on Canvas
11/6 (W)	<b>Urbanization and Environment paper presentations (3 groups)</b>		
11/8 (F)	GIS exercise on Emissions	Complete exercise	
11/11 (M)	Urbanization and Food System		Posted on Canvas – Set and Ramankutty (2016)
11/13 (W)	Urban Poverty		Posted on Canvas
11/15 (F)	No Class – Instructor out of town	Work on your debate presentation	
11/18 (M)	Discussion about student debate		
11/20 (W)	<b>Student Debate</b>		
11/22 (F)	GIS exercise on urban poverty mapping		
11/25 (M)	Urban Design		Posted on Canvas
11/27 (W)	Watch: “Brilliant design to fit more people in every city:	Take Quiz. Due: <b>Final project proposal</b>	
11/29 (F)	Thanksgiving – No class		
12/2 (M)	Work on final project		
12/4 (W)	Work on final project		
12/6 (F)	Work on final project		
12/9 (M)	<b>Final project presentation</b>		
12/11 (W)	Final exam review		
12/17 (T)	<b>Final Exam – 4:45 – 6:45PM</b>		

\*M – Monday, T – Tuesday, W – Wednesday, F - Friday

### ASSIGNMENTS

- **Readings:** In addition to the assigned text book readings, there will be reading assignments related to the topics discussed in class. The purpose of these additional reading assignments is to make students aware the present issues and current research on the discussed topics. Students need to read the assigned papers on their own and take quiz.
- **Student Presentations:** In addition to the final project presentation, there will be few student presentations in class. The presentation will consist of 10mins powerpoint presentation on the topics assigned (further discussed in class).
- **Video Classes:** On several occasions, we will watch videos. Each video deals with a different urban issue in a unique setting. The purpose of these videos is to foster connections



between theoretical material and real-world issues. You will be responsible for material presented in these films as well as material from subsequent classroom discussion. This material will be tested on quizzes and you may be asked to call upon these videos in your research assignments. Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, which will help you in your quizzes.

- **Exams:** There will be one mid-term and one final exam. Dates are provided in the syllabus and details will be discussed in class.
- **Final Project:** Each student group will submit a project proposal and will present a 10-12mins oral presentation on their final project. Details about their final project will be discussed in class.
- **Final paper (Writing emphasis):** Students with writing emphasis will need to submit a final paper along with presenting their project orally. Detailed information about the required structure of the final paper will be discussed during the course.
- **No late assignments.** Deadlines for submission will not be changed. There will be no make-up exam if you miss quiz/ presentations. Exceptions will be made only in case of sudden sickness, emergency, and scheduling conflict for a university-approved event (only if the student is a participant) with proper proof. There will be no extra credit offered in this course.

**FORMAT**

This is a face-to-face course. You may be asked to reference materials or participate online through the learning management system CANVAS. If that is the case, you will need your UWL NetID to login to the course from the CANVAS homepage (<http://www.uwlax.edu/Canvas/>).

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

Your overall grade consists of the following assessments, arranged by type and value.

Assignment	Points (per assignment)	% Final Grade
Assignments	Hands-on exercises	60%
	Video Quizzes	
	Reading Quizzes	
	In-class presentations	
Attendance		5%
Final Project	Project Reports – 30%	35%
	Presentation Draft – 30%	
	Final Presentation – 40%	

**LATE ASSIGNMENTS, MISSED EXAMS**

Assignments are due on the dates indicated in the Course Schedule. For extenuating circumstances that impact your ability to meet deadlines or participate in class activities, you are responsible for alerting me as soon as possible via email.

Late assignment submission: 25% will be taken off if 1 week late. 50% will be taken off if more



than week late. Late assignment submission will be accepted only until last day of classes, and not after that.

### **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

Attendance is compulsory and is critical to your success. Students are required to sign in the attendance sheet at the end of each session. For each session you will receive 1 point. Material covered in class, including lecture topics, concepts, readings, internet material, and additional tips, all of which should be noted in your notebook. You should enter class on exact time. In case of late entrance to the lecture, you are solely responsible to take care of the missing part of the lecture or lab. If you plan to miss a class, you need to inform the instructor 2 hours before the class starts and in that case you will receive 0 point. But if you do not inform the instructor and miss the lecture, -1 will be deducted for each session missed. All these grades will be added to your final grades. Portions missed by you due to your late entrance or absence will not be repeated. In cases where you have a scheduling conflict for a university-approved event, and you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor at least a week before that day. In case of sudden sickness or emergency please provide a proof for your absence on the next day you attend the lecture.

### **EXPECTATIONS FOR GRADED WORK**

I provide students feedback and/or scores on assignments that require individualized grading before a further assignment of a similar format is due. Generally, I return work that requires individual feedback within 21 days from the date the work was due. I will notify you if I am unable to grade the work within the 21-day timeframe, and will identify a revised return date. If you submit work after the due date, it may not be returned within 21 days.

The grades for any work that is graded electronically, such as scanned examinations, will be accessible to you within 21 days of the due date for the work. If you submit electronically graded work after the due date, it may not be accessible within 21 days.

Your graded coursework will be returned in compliance with FERPA regulations, such as in class, during my office hours, or via the course management system through which only you will have access to your grades.

### **GRADING SCALE**

Letter Grade	Percentage Equivalent
A	93-100%
AB	89-92%
B	83-88%
BC	79-82%
C	70-78%
D	60-69%
F	59% - below



## **COURSE ACCESS**

Access to course materials in CANVAS will cease after the term ends. If you wish to archive materials for your personal records or portfolio you should do so as you progress through the course. As a general rule, you should always save local copies of course-related work. **To avoid disasters, you should also save important files to external media or cloud storage.**

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & MISCONDUCT**

Academic misconduct is a violation of the UWL [Student Honor Code](#) and is unacceptable. I expect you to submit your own original work and participate in the course with integrity and high standards of academic honesty. When appropriate, cite original sources, following the style rules of our discipline. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or the entire course, and may include harsher sanctions. Refer to the [Student Handbook](#) for a detailed definition of academic misconduct. For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism, go to [“Avoiding Plagiarism” on the Murphy Library website](#). You may also visit the [Office of Student Life](#) if you have questions about plagiarism or cheating incidents. Failure to understand what constitutes plagiarism or cheating is not a valid excuse for engaging in academic misconduct. For a light-hearted tutorial on avoiding plagiarism I encourage you to review a ten-minute interactive tutorial from Acadia University: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>.

## **CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS**

If you have a concern or a complaint about the course, or me, I encourage you to bring that to my attention. My hope would be that by communicating your concern we would be able to come to a resolution. If you are uncomfortable speaking with me, or you feel your concern hasn't been resolved after bringing it to my attention, you can contact my department chair or the Office of Student Life (<http://www.uwlax.edu/student-life/>). The Student Academic Non-Grade Appeals process can be found in the [Student Handbook](#). For academic appeals you can review the appeals and petitions for academic matters section of the [UWL Catalog](#).

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

As an employee of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, I am a mandated reporter of sexual harassment and sexual violence that takes place on campus or otherwise affects the campus community. This means that if I receive detailed or specific information about an incident such as the date, time, location, or identity of the people involved, I am obligated to share this with UWL's Title IX Coordinator <https://www.uwlax.edu/equity/> in order to enable the university to take appropriate action to ensure the safety and rights of all involved. For students not wishing to make an official report, there are confidential resources available to provide support and discuss the available options. The contact in Student Life is Ingrid Peterson, Violence Prevention Specialist, (608) 785-8062, [ipeterson@uwlax.edu](mailto:ipeterson@uwlax.edu). Please see <http://www.uwlax.edu/sexual-misconduct> for more resources or to file a report.

## **RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS**

Per the UWL Graduate Catalog <http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/aboutuwlax/#religious-beliefs> “any student with a conflict between an academic requirement and any religious observance must be given an alternative means of meeting the academic requirement. The student must notify the instructor within the first three weeks of class (within the first week of summer session and short courses) of specific



days/dates for which the student will request an accommodation. Instructors may schedule a make-up examination or other academic requirement before or after the regularly scheduled examination or other academic requirement.”

### **EAGLE ALERT SYSTEM/STUDENT SUCCESS POLICY**

Because the GPA requirements for good standing in graduate programs are higher than for undergraduate programs (see the policy here), expect me to contact you to discuss any grade you earn in this course below a [B]. This class will be participating in the Eagle Alert System <https://www.uwlax.edu/academic-advising-center/eagle-alert/student-resources/> through WINGS. The system is designed to promote student success. If I notice that you are experiencing difficulties early in the semester (e.g., low assignment scores or limited participation), I may note this information and you will receive an email indicating that I have entered feedback. I may also enter positive feedback encouraging you to consider additional learning opportunities. The link in the email will take you to WINGS where you can login to see the feedback. I encourage you to meet with me and/or refer to the helpful campus resources listed below under Academic Services and Resources and on UWL’s Student Success page <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/student-success/>.

### **INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE**

UWL’s core values include “Diversity, equity, and the inclusion and engagement of all people in a safe campus climate that embraces and respects the innumerable different perspectives found within an increasingly integrated and culturally diverse global community” (<https://www.uwlax.edu/chancellor/mission/>). If you are not experiencing my class in this manner, please come talk to me about your experiences so I can try to adjust the course if possible.

### **NAME/PRONOUNS**

I will do my best to address you by a preferred name or gender pronoun that you have identified. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Information on UWL’s preferred name policy is available here <https://www.uwlax.edu/records/preferred-name/> and UWL’s Pride Center is available for additional assistance.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTION (SEI)**

UWL conducts student evaluations electronically. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the conclusion of a course, you will receive an email at your UWL email address directing you to complete an evaluation for each of your courses. In-class time will be provided for students to complete the evaluation in class. Electronic reminders will be sent if you do not complete the evaluation. The evaluation will include numerical ratings and, depending on the department, may provide options for comments. The university takes student feedback very seriously and the information gathered from student evaluations is more valuable when a larger percentage of students complete the evaluation. Please be especially mindful to complete the surveys.

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. ADHD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Acquired Brain Injury, PTSD, Physical, Sensory, Psychological, or Learning Disability) who needs to arrange academic



accommodations must contact The ACCESS Center (165 Murphy Library, 608-785-6900, [ACCESSCenter@uwlax.edu](mailto:ACCESSCenter@uwlax.edu)) and meet with an advisor to register and develop an accommodation plan. In addition to registering with The ACCESS Center, it is the student's responsibility to discuss their academic needs with their instructors. Students are ultimately responsible to communicate their needs with the instructor in a timely manner. Review the ACCESS Center website at: <http://www.uwlax.edu/access-center/> Desire2Learn also provides information about their Accessibility resources, at: <https://documentation.desire2learn.com/en/Accessibility>

### **VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Veterans and active military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, disabilities) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these, in advance if possible, to me. For additional information and assistance, contact the Veterans Services Office. <http://www.uwlax.edu/veteran-services/>. Students who need to withdraw from class or from the university due to military orders should be aware of the military duty withdrawal policy <http://catalog.uwlax.edu/graduate/academicpolicies/withdrawal/#military-duty-withdrawal-university>.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICES AND RESOURCES AT UWL**

Below are several student services available to students taking online courses:

- Academic Advising Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/advising/>
- ACCESS Center (formerly Disability Resources): <http://www.uwlax.edu/access-center/>
- Career Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/careerservices/>
- Counseling and Testing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/counseling/>
- Financial Information: Financial Aid Office <https://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/> and It Makes Cents <https://www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents/>
- Murphy Learning Center (Walk-in tutoring): <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/>
- Murphy Library: <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/>
- Multicultural Student Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mss/>
- Public Speaking Center: <https://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/subject/public-speaking-center/>
- Records and Registration: <http://www.uwlax.edu/records/>
- Student Handbook: <https://www.uwlax.edu/student-life/student-resources/student-handbook/>
- Student Support Services: <https://www.uwlax.edu/student-support-services/>
- Veteran Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/veteran-services/>
- Writing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

### **TECHNICAL SUPPORT**

For tips and information about Canvas visit the Canvas Guide Using Help - Student: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>. Check here to make sure your preferred browser is supported: Canvas Guide - Supported Browsers: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10720-67952720329>. You can also contact the ITS Support Center at (608) 785-8774 or email them at [helpdesk@uwlax.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uwlax.edu) for questions about Canvas or any other technological difficulties. The hours for ITS are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, and





*University of Wisconsin – La Crosse*

Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Central Time.