

Geography 322: Urban Geography

Instructor: Claire Jantz

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Office Hours:

MW 1:00-3:00

T 3:00-4:00

Or by appointment

Mission statement for the Geography-Earth Science Department

The Geography-Earth Science Department at Shippensburg University is committed to student learning and personal development through innovative teaching, high quality field application, and use of geotechnology in all aspects of departmental programs. These commitments will deepen students' appreciation of Geography-Earth Science, encourage life-long learning, and enable Geography-Earth Science majors to teach at the middle/secondary level, to enter a geography-earth science related professional career, or to pursue a higher degree.

Book (required):

Short, John Rennie (2007). *Liquid City: Megalopolis and the Contemporary Northeast*. Washington, DC: Resources for the Future.

And (many) additional readings as assigned; available on D2L

Course Description:

In this class, we will examine the form and function of cities and explore geographic theories related to urban evolution and internal and external patterns of interaction, with an emphasis on North American cities. Multiple perspectives on urban problems will be explored, ranging from quantitative/technical to socio-cultural to environmental. This is a *reading, writing* and *research intensive* course.

Course Objectives:

- To understand geographic patterns and processes in an urban context
- To understand current socio-cultural and environmental issues in North American cities
- To apply GIS and other analytical skills to urban geographic issues
- To improve research and writing skills

Course structure, readings and lectures: This class is structured for active and applied learning. There will be lectures, but there will also be several discussion assignments and in- and out-of class activities that are designed to get you engaged in the material and to apply what you have learned.

Grading: Your grade will be based on your performance on the following exams and assignments:

	Points	Percent of grade
2 Exams (100 points each)	200	38%
Data analysis and interpretation		
• Transport epochs	15	3%
• Rank mobility index	15	3%
• Ethnic mapping	15	3%
• Census data comparison	25	5%
GIS labs		
• Internal city structure	20	4%
• Metropolitan growth patterns	20	4%
• Environmental inequalities	20	4%
Research paper	50	10%
Discussion questions	40	8%
Class discussion/participation	30	6%
Quiz	10	2%
Presentation	30	6%
Attendance	30	6%
Total points	520	
 <i>Optional extra credit field trip</i>		
• <i>Field trip attendance</i>	<i>10</i>	
• <i>Field trip report</i>	<i>20</i>	

To determine your final grade, your total points will be converted to a percentage score and will be assessed with the +/- system using this scale:

Percentage	Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
88-89%	B+
83-87%	B
80-82%	B-
78-79%	C+
70-77%	C
60-70%	D
<60%	F

Exams: There are two non-cumulative exams, each worth 100 points. If classes are cancelled on an exam day, the exam will be given on the first meeting when classes resume. Students are expected to take exams at the scheduled time. Only very unusual circumstances (e.g. family emergency, serious illness) are acceptable reasons for missing an exam and MUST be documented. The exams dates are noted on the course schedule. If you know you will miss an exam due to a University sanctioned event or a religious holiday, you MUST notify me prior to the exam date. Failure to notify me *during the first week of classes* that you will miss a scheduled exam will result in a zero for that exam grade. Make up exams may differ from the original. During an exam, all materials, including books, papers, cell phones, etc., must be put away.

You are permitted to use one sheet of notes on the exam. This notes page must be hand-written; no typed or Xeroxed notes sheets are permitted. It must be no larger than 8.5" x 11" with notes only on one side and must have no attachments. Violation of these restrictions will result in an instance of academic dishonesty.

Data analysis and interpretation assignments: These assignments are designed to sharpen your analytical skills. For each assignment, you will be required to review or collect data, read related material, and draw conclusions based on your findings. For many of these assignments you will be permitted to work in small groups. Separate assignment descriptions will be made available for each assignment, and due dates are noted on the schedule.

Research paper: You will be required to complete a short (5-page) research paper. This will be described in a separate hand out.

GIS labs: There are three GIS labs that are meant to expose you to geographic information systems (if you've never had a GIS class before) and to demonstrate how this technology can be used to address questions in urban geography. For these labs, you will be required to analyze data within a GIS, read relevant material, and synthesize your findings in a short essay. Separate assignment descriptions will be made available for each assignment, along with step-by-step instructions, and due dates are noted on the schedule.

Discussion questions: You will have 8 sets of discussion questions that are due as noted on the schedule. You are expected to complete all sets of discussion questions and bring them to class on the day that they are due. I will be taking up 4 sets of discussion questions *at random* and will be assessing them based on completeness. Discussion questions that are complete (and intelligible) will earn 10 points; incomplete, nonexistent or unintelligible discussion questions will earn 0 points. These discussion questions serve to focus your note-taking for the assigned readings, which will ultimately help you perform well on exams.

Class discussion/participation: On days that discussion questions are due, the class will break into small discussion groups. Each group will be assigned a question or questions to present informally to the rest of the class.

Quiz: There will be one 10 point quiz based on key terms from an assigned reading, as noted in the schedule.

Presentation: For one of the designated assignments, you will be required to give an oral presentation (30 points) to the class. Due dates for presentations are indicated in the schedule. A rubric that will be used to assess your presentation will be made available on D2L.

Classroom attendance: Thirty points consists of attendance points. Attendance will be taken at every class meeting. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining missed material and/or assignments from other students or from the instructor. I will understand reasonable absences and you will receive one "freebie" (for night class) or two "freebies" for 75-minute classes; additional absences will result in loss of points (10 points for night class, 5 points for 75 minute classes). If you miss more than 3 night classes or 6 75-minute classes, for any reason, you risk failing the class.

Optional Extra Credit Field Trip: There will be an optional, extra credit field trip to Harrisburg, PA. There will be at least one opportunity for an instructor-led group field trip; the field trip can also be self-guided. Details will be provided in an additional handout and in-class presentation.

Electronic resources:

D2L: Electronic materials for this class are distributed via D2L. Most of the documents that are handed out in

class will also be available on Blackboard, including this syllabus and the course schedule. Announcements and grades will also be posted. You are *strongly* encouraged to take advantage of this resource.

E-mail: I may send important announcements to your Shippensburg University e-mail account. You will be held responsible for this information and should therefore check your e-mail regularly. I am generally very responsive to e-mails from students, although please allow 24 hours for a response from me before re-sending a question or request. I often will not respond to e-mails over the weekend. Please use professional etiquette when writing an e-mail to me and I will do likewise when I respond.

Regarding lecture materials: I will use PowerPoint lectures regularly in this class and will post those files as PDF documents on Blackboard. These lecture slides *are not* a substitute for taking good notes in class. Because my lecture material is constantly under development, PowerPoint slides may not be available until after the lecture.

Academic Integrity:

I expect your work in all facets of this course to adhere to University and Geography Earth-Science Department standards of academic honesty. If you are unfamiliar with University policies regarding such matters, please review the Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism sections at the following web page:

<http://www.ship.edu/catalog/>. Note that academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

1. Submitting another student's work as your own; also providing another student with your work.
2. Bribing or attempting to bribe, faculty or staff personnel in order to attain an unfair academic advantage.
3. Possessing course examination materials prior to administration of the examination by the instructor without the instructor's consent.
4. Using unauthorized materials or devices such as crib notes during an examination.
5. Providing and/or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination.
6. Using a substitute to take an examination or course.
7. Allowing others to conduct research for you or prepare your work without advance authorization from the instructor, including, but not limited to, the services of commercial term paper companies.
8. Intentionally and without authorization falsifying or inventing any information or citation in an academic exercise, such as making up data in an experiment or observation.

As stated in the student handbook, plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Shippensburg University will not tolerate plagiarism and I will make every effort to discourage it, including using plagiarism detection software on D2L. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of another writer's own words, facts, ideas, or other materials in your own writing. When other writers' words or materials—even short phrases or specific terminology—are used, you should put these words inside quotation marks and you should then cite the source of the quotation either in the text of your writing or in footnotes. When the ideas of another writer are restated in your own words (paraphrased), you should also indicate the source of the paraphrased material in your own text or in footnotes. Citations should also be made for borrowing from media other than printed texts, such as websites, lectures, interviews, broadcast information, or computer programs.

Failure to adhere to these academic honesty policies will constitute an alleged instance of academic dishonesty, and I will pursue resolution through the Dean of Students. For first-time offenders, documentation of the offense will be placed in your confidential student file; multiple offenses may result in expulsion from Shippensburg University.

Some additional important notes:

1. Disruptive behavior of any sort, including disruptions caused by personal electronic devices (i.e. cell phones, hand-held computers, laptops, IPODS, etc.), will not be tolerated under any circumstances and will result in grade reductions up to and including an "F" and/or expulsion from the course. During exams, NO electronic devices of any kind are permitted.
2. When you are in class, your cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode (not vibrate). Students SHOULD NOT send text messages during class. NO TEXTING!! If you are observed texting in class, I reserve the right to deduct points from your grade.
3. Laptops if used in class should ONLY be used for note taking; no web browsing, FB, or on-line shopping, etc.! Violation will result in a forfeit of laptop privileges and the possibility for grade reductions.
4. Please come to class on time. Consistently arriving late to class will result in grade reductions at my discretion.
5. For your privacy, I do not discuss grades over the telephone or via e-mail, so please do not ask. I will not return phone calls or e-mails on this subject.
6. If a due date for an exam or assignment is missed due to a University closure (for weather or other reasons), the activity will be due / made-up during the first class period after the closure. Please note that only the President's office makes such decisions, and class will or will not be held on the basis of the President's decision. Information regarding closures or schedule changes is available at 717-477-1200 or on the University's webpage (<http://www.ship.edu>).
7. Accommodations can be made for those students with documented disabilities and who wish accommodations to be made. Please do the following during the first week of classes so that we can discuss your situation and make arrangements that fit your personal needs: (a) Schedule an appointment with me and, in preparation for our meeting, please: (b) Write down some suggestions that will allow us to structure a way for you to: maximize your class participation; complete the readings, assignments, and examinations to the best of your ability and in a comfortable way; and/or attend to any other issues that are relevant in your particular case.
8. If you expect to be absent during the semester for the observance of specific religious holidays, please provide me, in writing (e-mail is okay, but not by phone), with the dates on which you will be absent by the end of the first week of classes.

Spring 2012 Course Schedule (tentative)

MW class

Week 1, Jan. 16 & 18	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class, MLK holiday 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Course introduction, Urbanization and urban geography, Site and situation Reading: Colton; Cronon
Week 2, Jan. 23 & 25	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due: Discussion questions for Colton and Cronon readings Due: In-class transport epochs and rank mobility index 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Foundations of the North American urban system Reading: Knox and McCarthy Ch. 3; Short Ch. 1 Due: Quiz on key terms from Knox and McCarthy
Week 3, Jan. 30 & Feb. 1	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Urban function and form Reading: Harris and Ullman (1945) Due: Topic statement 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Urban function and form; GIS lab intro
Week 4, Feb. 6 & 8	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Contemporary North American urban system Reading: Short Ch. 2 - 4 Due: Discussion questions for Short Ch. 2 - 4 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Contemporary North American urban system Due: GIS lab for internal city structure (with student presentations)
Week 5, Feb. 13 & 15	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Contemporary North American urban system Due: GIS lab for metropolitan growth patterns (with student presentations) 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EXAM 1
Week 6, Feb. 20 & 22	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Immigration; Segregation; Census geography Readings: Short Ch. 5 and 6 Due: Discussion questions for Short Ch. 5 and 6 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Immigration; Segregation; Census geography Due: In-class ethnic mapping and index of dissimilarity Due: Bibliography and citations
Week 7, Feb. 27 & 29	
NO CLASS this week (AAG meeting)	
Week 8, Mar. 5 & 7	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Diversity and polarization Readings: Short Ch. 7 and 8 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics: Diversity and polarization Readings: Short Ch. 7 and 8 Due: Census data comparison (with student presentations) Due: Outline
Week 9, Mar. 12 & 14	
NO CLASS this week (Spring Break)	

Week 10, Mar. 19 & 21	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Neighborhoods and the neighborhood effect • Readings: Ellen and Turner 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Neighborhoods and the neighborhood effect • Readings: Ellen and Turner • Due: Discussion questions for Ellen and Turner
Week 11, Mar. 26 & 28	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Urban revitalization and gentrification • Readings: Jantz and Marr 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Urban revitalization and gentrification • Readings: Jantz and Marr • Due: Discussion questions for Jantz and Marr • Due: Final paper (with student presentations)
Week 12, Apr. 2 & 4	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Urban governance and politics 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Urban governance and politics
Week 13, Apr. 9 & 11	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Environmental justice, brownfields • Readings: Pulido, EPA and PA brownfield websites 	<p>Wed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Environmental justice, brownfields • Readings: Pulido, EPA and PA brownfield websites • Due: Discussion questions for Pulido and brownfields • GIS lab on Environmental inequalities (with student presentations)
Week 14, Apr. 6 & 18	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Water resources and pollution • Reading: Arnold and Gibbons 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Water resources and pollution • Reading: Arnold and Gibbons • Due: Discussion questions for Arnold and Gibbons; Harrisburg field trip reports (with student presentations)
Week 15, Apr. 23 & 25	
<p>Mon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Sustainable cities • Readings: Excerpts from <i>Scientific American</i> issue on Cities 	<p>Weds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics: Sustainable cities • Readings: Excerpts from <i>Scientific American</i> issue on Cities • Due: Discussion questions on sustainable cities
<p>Week 16, FINALS WEEK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXAM 2, TBA 	