

# Geography 217: Cities in the Modern World

Winter 2019

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday, 4:05 – 5:25 p.m.  
Macdonald-Harrington G-10

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**Course overview:** This course is an introduction to urban geography. It uses a geographic perspective to understand cities, and the economic, political, social and cultural processes that shape them. The class is divided into two parts. The first part covers the historical development and internal structures of “industrial” cities, the development of the field of ‘urban planning’, and contemporary issues in cities of the global south. The second part uses critical urban theory and case studies from a range of cities around the world to consider various topics on the theme of social justice and the city.

## Required texts:

*All readings for GEOG 217 are available electronically on myCourses, in compliance with copyright regulations.*

## Course Evaluation:

Assignment	Weight	Date
<b>In-class participation</b>	5%	Part I of course (details provided in class)
<b>Test 1</b>	20%	January 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Test 2</b>	25%	February 20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Final Exam</b>	50%	TBD during exam period

*Information on university and department policies concerning student assessment can be found at the following website: [www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment](http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment)*

## Teaching Assistants:

The TAs serve primarily as graders for the course, and typically will not meet with students. If you have questions about the course material, you should speak with one of the professors.

**Communication and myCourses:** All course-related communications with the instructors should be done by email. We will make every effort to respond to email within 48 hours, but may not always be able to do so.

**Expectations:** Course reading should be completed in a timely fashion. Illness or personal misfortune are legitimate reasons for the postponement of tests. In such cases please advise the instructors in advance of the test whenever possible to make suitable arrangements. You are required to provide adequate supporting documentation.

**Tests and Final Exam:** The standard rules for closed book, closed note tests/ exams apply: You must not receive any assistance during the tests/ exam, and your answers must be entirely from your own effort. You are allowed – and encouraged – to form and participate in study groups for the examinations.

**Participation:** As this is a large lecture class, we expect you to be *active listeners*: attend class, take notes, and ask questions. Disruptive activities such as excessive talking, using social media, emailing, newspaper reading, and the like will not be tolerated. Students doing so will be told to leave class.

**Deferred test policy:** If you are unable to attend either or both of the in-class tests due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, you will be offered a deferred test, one week after the originally scheduled test(s), between 6:30 and 8pm. The deferred test will be different from, but equivalent to, the original test.

Students will only be allowed to take a deferred test if they provide adequate documentation substantiating the reason for their absence (eg. a signed note from a *doctor attesting specifically that the student was too ill to take the test on the scheduled day*). All such notes will be verified by the instructors, and therefore must include contact information. Students who miss the test must notify us by email within 24 hours of the test (preferably before the test begins), but do not need to provide the medical note until the date of the deferred test.

**Grading:** Grading will be done using the standard McGill grading grid (A=100 to 85; A- = 80 to 84; etc.) Depending on the distribution of scores, we may elect to curve letter grades (*e.g.*, A=100 to 83; A- = 78 to 83; etc.) at the end of the semester.

**Language Policy:** In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

**Academic Integrity:** McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information).

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## Schedule of Classes

### Part I: City Systems & Urban Imaginations (Noelani Eidse)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
1. January 7	Introduction	Clarke (1992). The city: heaven-on-earth or the hell-to-come? <i>Futures</i> , 24 (7), pp. 701-710.
2. January 9	What is a Modern City?	Bairoch (1991) "Urbanism in Developed Countries: 1700-1980" and "The Urban Explosion in the Third World during the 20th Century", in <i>Cities and economic development: From the dawn of history to the present</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press: pp. 213-227; pp. 427-441.
3. January 14	Urban patterns, processes and systems	Burns (1997). Nested hexagons: central place theory. <i>Ten Geographic Ideas that Changed the World</i> . New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, pp.163-81.  Badcock (2002). Urban systems and the growth of cities. <i>Making Sense of Cities</i> . London: Hodder Arnold, pp.34-60.
4. January 16	The internal structure of North American cities and urban industrialization	Haris and Ullman (1945). The Nature of Cities. <i>The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 242, pp.7-17.  Freestone (2007). The Internationalization of the City Beautiful. <i>International Planning Studies</i> , 12(1), pp. 21-34.
5. January 21	Imagining the 'modern' city and 'urban utopia'  Video: Farwell Oak Street (1953)	Hall, Pérez, and Levy (2014). The city of towers. <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> , 4th edition. West Sussex: Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, pp. 237-290.
6. January 23	(Sub)Urban Visions in North America  Video: The City (1939)	Ruff (2007). For Sale: The American Dream. <i>American History</i> 42 (5), pp. 42-49.  Gans (1967). "The Planners of Levittown," in <i>The Levittowners: Ways of Life and Politics in a New Suburban Community</i> . Binghamton: Vail-Balou Press, pp. 3-14.
7. January 28	<b>Test 1</b>	

8. January 30	Resistance to Modernist Design  <i>Video: The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011)</i>	Jacobs (1961). Introduction. <i>The death and life of great American cities</i> . New York: Vintage Books, pp.1-25.
9. February 4	Transportation planning: visions of 'modernity' and everyday access	Lucas (2012). Transport and social exclusion: Where are we now?. <i>Transport Policy</i> , 20, pp.105-113.  Khayesi, Monheim, and Nebe (2010). Negotiating streets for all in urban transport planning: The case for pedestrians, cyclists and street vendors in Nairobi, Kenya. <i>Antipode</i> 42 (1), pp.103–26.
<b>Deferred Test 1</b>		
10. February 6	Worlding cities  Guest Lecture: Prof. Sarah Moser	Moser, S. (2013) "Globalization and the construction of identity in two new Southeast Asian capitals" in <i>Rethinking Global Urbanism: Comparative Insights from Secondary Cities</i> , New York: Routledge, pp. 169-189.
11. February 11	Experiences of urban citizenship  Guest Lecture: Waahli Youssef (Head and Hands, Montreal)	Cresswell, T., 2013. Citizenship in worlds of mobility. <i>Critical mobilities</i> , pp.81-100.  Ustundag and Tanyildiz (2017) Subsection on 'Urban citizenship' from Urban Public Spaces, Virtual Spaces and Protest. Bain and Peake (eds) <i>Urbanization in a Global Context</i> . Oxford University Press, pp. 213.
12. February 13	Contested cityscapes in the Global South	van Blerk (2013). New street geographies: the impact of urban governance on the mobilities of Cape Town's street youth. <i>Urban Studies</i> 50(3), pp. 556–573.  Eidse (2017). Negotiating access: urban planning policy and the social production of street vendor micro-mobilities in Hanoi, Vietnam. Karen Lucas and Tanu Priya Uteng (eds), <i>Urban Mobilities in the Global South</i> . Routledge. pp. 61-80.
13. February 18	Wrap up and review	
14. February 20	<b>Test 2</b>	

## Part II: Social Justice and the City (Prof. Oswin)

15. February 25	Whose city is it?	Peake, Linda and Alison Bain (2017) Urbanization and Urban Geographies. Ch 1 of Bain and Peake (eds) <i>Urbanization in a Global Context</i> . Oxford University Press, pp. 1-15.
16. February 27 <b>Deferred Test 2</b>	Public space I	Blomley, Nicholas (2004) Property and the landscapes of gentrification. Chapter 3 of his book, <i>Unsettling the City: Urban Land and the Politics of Property</i> . New York: Routledge, pp. 29-74.
March 4 – 8	READING WEEK	
17. March 11	Public space II	Cheng, Wendy (2013) The Changs next door to the Diazes: Suburban racial formation in Los Angeles' San Gabriel Valley, <i>Journal of Urban History</i> 39(1): 15-35.
18. March 13	Public space III	Andersson, Johan (2015) 'Wilding' in the West Village: Queer space, Racism and Jane Jacobs Hagiography, <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> 39(2): 265-283
19. March 18	Infrastructures I	Bromley-Davenport, Harry, Julie MacLeavy and David Manley (forthcoming) Brexit in Sunderland: The production of difference and division in the UK referendum on European Union membership. <i>Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space</i> , 1-18.
20. March 20	Infrastructures II	Nelson, Jennifer J. (2000) "The Space of Africville: Creating, Regulating, and Remembering the Urban 'Slum.'" <i>Canadian Journal of Law and Society</i> 15(2): 163-185.
21. March 25	Infrastructures III	Ranganathan, Malini (2016) Thinking with Flint: Racial liberalism and the roots of an American water tragedy, <i>Capitalism Nature Socialism</i> 27(3): 17-33.
22. March 27	Urban agriculture Prof. Nathan McClintock (Portland State University) guest lecture	McClintock, Nathan (2014) Radical, reformist, and garden-variety neoliberal: coming to terms with urban agriculture's contradictions, <i>Local Environment</i> 19(2): 147-171.

23. April 1	Policing & Incarceration I	Maynard, Robyn (2017) Arrested (in)justice: From the streets to the prison. Chapter 3 of her book <i>Policing Black Lives: State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present</i> . Fernwood Publishing.
24. April 3	Policing & Incarceration II  In-class Film: <i>The Prison in Twelve Landscapes</i>	Bonds, Anne (2009) Discipline and devolution: Constructions of poverty, race, and criminality in the politics of rural prison development. <i>Antipode</i> 41(3): 416-438.
25. April 8	Policing & Incarceration III	Dhillon, Jaskiran (2015) Indigenous girls and the violence of settler colonial policing. <i>Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education and Society</i> 4(2): 1-13.
26. April 10	Wrap up and review	

***The final exam, which includes course material from Lectures 15-25, will be held during the Exam Week (date TBD).***