

## Geography 128: Urban Geography Fall 2004

### Contact

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### Class Meetings

Mondays & Wednesdays 3:30am-4:45pm  
Gardner 209

“City maps are supposed to help people get where they want to go, but because the map-makers ignore so many differences among cities, there maps are often much less useful than they ought to be.”  
- *Harvey Molotch*

### Course overview

This class will introduce students to the ways in which people (mainly geographers) have thought about, researched, and studied the meaning of home and its connection to urban geography. When speaking of urban geography, urban geographers mean both the discourses surrounding how urban places and spaces get talked about (for example, by professors and students) as well as the practices of living in, around and near cities. Part of the class will provide a historical-geographic accounting of the urbanization of the United States, and then the class will broaden out to cover issues using examples from multiple locales across the globe. In addition, part of the course will be framed with a broad concept of home. By using the idea of home as the lens through which to look at urban geography, we will engage a unique and interesting way to examine how cities have been conceptualized, investigated, experienced and lived in, and how urban geography immediately touches upon questions of belonging, identity, responsibility, obligation, ethics and social justice. By focusing on how the meaning of home has contributed to an understanding of urban geography, this class will also consider how themes of otherness, strangeness, exclusion, alienation and difference underpin conceptions of urban geography. At heart, this class will push students to consider how boundaries get drawn in urban geography, where those boundaries exist and what the consequences are for such boundaries.

### Course format and expectations

It is expected that students will have all readings and assignments for the class date completed before class sessions begin. Individual class sessions will be primarily structured around a 45 minute lecture and 30 minutes of discussion, group activities and in class writing/reflection. In addition to the readings, assignments and journal entries, students will write two papers. Students are expected to adhere to the University honor code, which can be viewed at <http://instrument.unc.edu/basicframe.html>.

### Grading

Grading will follow the standard grading system of the university (A, B, C, D, F). You will be writing three papers for this class that will be 10-15 pages in length. Each paper assignment will constitute 30% of your final class grade. There is no final examination. Class participation will account for 10% of the course grade. For a general indication of how grades are to be assigned, “A” course work demonstrates an excellent understanding of course material and themes, significant contributions in class discussions, completion of well argued papers indicating a high level of critical thinking. “B” course work demonstrates a strong understanding of course

material and themes, consistent contributions in class discussions, completion of well written papers that demonstrate some critical thinking. “C” course work demonstrates a general understanding of course material and themes, minimal contributions in class discussions, and completion of papers that summarize ideas examined in the course. “D” course work demonstrates a vague understanding of course material and themes, occasional or no contributions in class discussions, incompleteness of, or poorly written, assignments. “F” course work demonstrates that a student was a virtual class member, did not demonstrate completion of readings, or turn in satisfactory assignments.

### *Readings & Course Materials*

There are four books that may be found at the student bookstore:

1. Monkkonen, Eric. H. 1988. America Becomes Urban: The Development of U.S. Cities and Towns 1780-1980. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press (ISBN 0-520-06972-2)
2. Hanchett, Thomas. 1998. Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development In Charlotte, 1875-1975. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. (ISBN 0-8078-4677-5)
3. Smith, Michael Peter. 2001. Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers. (ISBN 0-631-18424-4)
4. Solnit, Rebecca, and Susan Schwartzberg. 2000. Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism. New York: Verso (ISBN 1-85984-794-3).

All other readings will be on reserve at the Undergraduate Library unless the url is given in the syllabus.

### **Schedule of Classes**

#### *Part 1: Developing a Spatial-Temporal Framework*

##### Week 1

- 25 AUG Introduction

##### Week 2

- 30 AUG Writing about cities – developing a geographic imagination
- 1 SEP Urbanization of the U.S. – Part 1: City life in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century: growth and immigration and the rise of industrial America
- 6 SEP **Labor Day: No class**
- 8 SEP **Begin paper assignment #1: No class**

##### Week 3

- 13 SEP Urbanization of the U.S. Part 2 – The expansion of city services and the development of the welfare state
- 15 SEP Guest lecture: Roberto Quercia - Evolution of federal housing policy

##### Week 4

- 20 SEP Urbanization of the U.S. – Part 3: Transportation and the geography of cities
- 22 SEP Race, class, and the urbanization of U.S. cities

Week 5

- 27 SEP                   Sorting Out the New South City: Guest Lecture by Thomas Hanchett
- **29 SEP**                   **No class; Paper assignment #1 due (Send via e-mail, pavement@unc.edu)**

*Part 2: Home and the City*

Week 6

- 04 OCT                   Individuals, bodies, and negotiating the city
- 06 OCT                   Households, family, and representation

Week 7

- 11 OCT                   Households, family, and poverty
- 13 OCT                   Neighborhoods as home?: Sites of inclusion and exclusion

Week 8

- 18 OCT                   Urban Revitalization Part 1: Neoliberalism and the city
- 20 OCT                   Urban Revitalization Part 2: Governance and the city

Week 9

- 25 OCT                   Strategies for growth and sustainability: part 1
- 27 OCT                   Strategies for growth and sustainability: part 2

Week 10

- 25 OCT                   Gentrification
- 27 OCT                   Rethinking the city as home: homelessness and public policy

Week 11

- 01 NOV                   Case study: San Francisco
- 03 NOV                   Case study: San Francisco

Week 12

- 08 NOV                   Rethinking the city as home: controlling place-making
- 10 NOV                   Rethinking the city as home: place-making and its effects; **Paper assignment #2 due (Send via e-mail, pavement@unc.edu)**

Week 13

- 15 NOV                   Risks in the city: migration and day labor practices
- 17 NOV                   A global sense of place

Week 14

- 29 NOV                   Transnational urban experiences of home
- 01 DEC                   Transnational urbanism and social movements

Week 15

- 06 DEC                   Wrapping up class

**Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @2PM**

- **Paper assignment #3 due (bring to class)**
- Presentation: Temporary cities: Coventry and Bonnaroo

## Readings, Activities, and Assignments

### Week 1

- Monkkonen, Eric. H. 1988. America Becomes Urban: The Development of U.S. Cities and Towns 1780-1980. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.
- Gary Bridge & Sophie Watson, “City Imaginaries” (in *A Companion to the City* Ed. Gary Bridge & Sophie Watson)

### Week 2

- Monkkonen, Eric. H. 1988. America Becomes Urban: The Development of U.S. Cities and Towns 1780-1980. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.
- Krumholz, Norman. 2004. “The Reluctant Hand: Privatization of Public Housing in the U.S.” City Futures Conference, Chicago, July 8-10.  
[http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures/papers/webpapers/cityfuturespapers/session1\\_4/1\\_4\\_reluctanthand.pdf](http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/cityfutures/papers/webpapers/cityfuturespapers/session1_4/1_4_reluctanthand.pdf)
- Optional: Orlebeke, Charles. 2000. “The Evolution of Low-Income Housing Policy, 1949-1999.” *Housing Policy Debate* 11(2): 489-520.  
[http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd\\_1102\\_orlebeke.pdf](http://www.fanniemaefoundation.org/programs/hpd/pdf/hpd_1102_orlebeke.pdf)

### Week 3

- Monkkonen, Eric. H. 1988. America Becomes Urban: The Development of U.S. Cities and Towns 1780-1980. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press.
- Hanchett, Thomas. 1998. Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Fogelson, Robert. 2001. “Wishful Thinking: Downtown and the Automotive Revolution,” p.249-316 in, Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Optional: Fogelson, Robert. 2001. “Derailing the Subways: The Politics of Rapid Transit,” p.45-111, in Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1880-1950. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Come to class with three questions/speaking points on housing for Roberto Quercia

### Week 4

- Hanchett, Thomas. 1998. Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press.
- Jackson, Kenneth. 1985. “Home, Sweet, Home: The House and the Yard,” in p.45-72 in, Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Baxandall, Rosalyn, and Elizabeth Ewen. 2000. “Part 2: New Thoughts, New Deals,” p. 37-83 in, Picture Windows: How the Suburbs Happened. New York: Basic Books.

## Week 5

Monday

- Come to class with three questions/speaking points for Thomas Hanchett

Wednesday

- **Writing Assignment 1 Due (Send via e-mail, pavement@unc.edu)**
- No Class

## Week 6

Monday

- Georg Simmel, "Metropolis & Mental Life"
- Discussion: How does the individual experience the city?
  
- Allen Pred, (1984) "Social reproduction and the time-geography of everyday life" *Geografiska Annaler*, 63B, pp. 5-22
- Sketch your own body in space
- Investigate <http://www.waag.org/realtime/>
- Discussion of applications of GPS for time-space studies: livability and urban form

Wednesday

- Leith Mullings, "Households Headed by Women" (in *The New Poverty Studies* Ed. Judith Goode & Jeff Maskovsky)
- Stephanie Coontz, "'Leave It To Beaver' and 'Ozzie and Harriet': American Families in the 1950s" (in *Undoing Place?* Ed. Linda McDowell)
- Optional: Gaston Bachelard, "The House. From Cellar to Garret. The Significance of the Hut" (from *The Poetics of Space*)
- Discussion on representations of households and family

## Week 7

Monday

- Tama Levanthal, et al., "Communities as Place, Face and Space: Provision of Services to Poor, Urban Children and Their Families" (in *Neighborhood Poverty* vol. 2 Ed. Jeanne Brooks-Gunn et al.)
- Peter Kwong, "Poverty despite Family Ties" (in *The New Poverty Studies* Ed. Judith Goode & Jeff Maskovsky)
- Discussion: The significance of households and the family in identifying problems in urban geography...

Wednesday

- Robert Halpern, "The Emergence of Neighborhood Initiatives" (in *Rebuilding the Inner City*)
- Robert Chaskin, "Defining Neighborhood: History, Theory and Practice" at <http://www.planning.org/casey/pdf/chaskin.pdf>
- Optional: Jim Fraser and J. Lepofsky, "The Uses of Knowledge in Community Building" [http://www.unc.edu/~fraser18/publications/The\\_%20Uses\\_%20of\\_Knowledge\\_in\\_Neighborhood\\_Revitalization.pdf](http://www.unc.edu/~fraser18/publications/The_%20Uses_%20of_Knowledge_in_Neighborhood_Revitalization.pdf)
- Discussion on the historical articulation of family and community problems; Does it take a village? Connecting family values and neighborhood norms

## Week 8

Monday and Wednesday

- Susan George. A Short History of Neo-liberalism Twenty Years of Elite Economics and Emerging Opportunities for Structural Change, March 1999:  
<http://www.globalexchange.org/economy/econ101/neoliberalism.html>
- Donald F. Kettl, “The Transformation of Governance: Globalization, Devolution, and the Role of Government”
- Optional: Janice Bockmeyer, “Devolution and the transformation of community housing activism”
- Discussion on urban restructuring post 1970s with emphases on the dismantling of the welfare state and the rolling out of new institutional arrangements

## Week 9

Monday and Wednesday (Read in order)

- John Logan and Harvey Molotch, “The City As Growth Machine” (in *Readings in Urban Theory*)
- Gregory Squires, “Partnership and the Pursuit of the Private City” (in *Readings in Urban Theory*)
- Dennis Judd, “Promoting Tourism in US Cities” (in *Readings in Urban Theory*)
- Bruce Katz, *Smart Growth: the Future of the American Metropolis*
- Discussion on modes of urban governance and smart growth

## Week 10

Monday

- Neil Smith, “Class Struggle on Avenue B: The Lower East Side As Wild Wild West” (in *The New Urban Frontier*)
- Loretta Lees, “A reappraisal of gentrification: towards a 'geography of gentrification'”
- Discussion: Change, Mobility & Gentrification: Who Belongs Here?

Wednesday

- Don Mitchell, “The Annihilation of Space By Law”
- Neil Smith, “Contours of a Spatialized Politics: Homeless Vehicles and the Production of Geographical Scale”
- Discussion on homelessness and public space

## Week 11

- Solnit, Rebecca, and Susan Schwartzberg. 2000. Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of American Urbanism. New York: Verso
- Case Study, San Francisco: Class discussion on social forces that affect city space, place-making, and uneven experiences of the city for different populations

## Week 12

Monday

- Deborah Martin, “Place-Framing” as Place-Making: Constituting a Neighborhood for Organizing and Activism
- Eugene McCann, “Collaborative Visioning of Urban Planning as Therapy? The Politics of Public-Private Policy Making”
- Discussion on the role of state, market, and civil society in urban planning

Wednesday

- Emily Talen, “The Problem with Community in Planning”
- Dean McCannell, “New Urbanism and its Discontents”
- Discussion on rethinking the city as home: control, surveillance, and rights to the city

**Week 13**

Monday

- Nik Theodore, “Political Economies of Day Labour: Regulation and Restructuring of Chicago’s Contingent Labour Markets”
- Discussion on transnational migration, work, and citizenship rights

Wednesday

- Doreen Massey, “A Global Sense of Place” (in *Space, Place & Gender*)
- Doreen Massey, “A Place Called Home?” (in *Space, Place & Gender*)
- Optional: Katherine T. Jones, “Scale as epistemology”
- Optional: Henri Lefebvre, “The Right to the City” (in *Writings On Cities*)
- Discussion on aspects of rights to the city

**Week 14**

- Smith, Michael Peter. 2001. Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Discussion on theories of the local and the global, and how these match everyday life

**Week 15**

- Smith, Michael Peter. 2001. Transnational Urbanism: Locating Globalization. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
- Discussion of the significance of city discourse for social movements