

## Geography 448

### Urban Social Geographies: Difference, Diversity, and the Urban-Public Realm

University of Victoria

January 2018 – April 2018

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an advanced overview of research in urban social geography. One of the primary concerns of contemporary urban geographers is to explore the social geographies of public space in the modern city. For this reason, there are two main objectives for this course: (1) to critically engage with classic and contemporary writings on urban social life and the politics of public space; and (2) to practice, gain, and enhance research and writing skills through a research paper.

How we “theorize,” or think about, the city has a profound effect on the type of planning solutions we propose to solve urban social problems. It is important, then, to think *critically* about what taken-for-granted assumptions we bring to our study of the city and how these assumptions relate to broader questions of social justice, ethics, politics, and human rights. By the end of the semester, students will have acquired the skills necessary to analyze and interpret a variety of important socio-spatial issues currently facing cities today, while also practicing field research in order to conduct primary research.



**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Mateer  
**Email:** [jennifercmateer@gmail.com](mailto:jennifercmateer@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 1:30-3:30  
**Room:** TBA

### **CLASS FORMAT**

Since this is an advanced-level undergraduate course, it will be run largely as a seminar, allowing for more group discussion of the assigned readings. Some weeks, you will be afforded one class session to complete your independent research. In general, this will be Tuesday except when indicated otherwise. Wednesday, I will check-in with you on your research, so please bring any findings or notes with you. We shall also begin discussing the readings on Wednesday and continue this on Friday. Although I will be using .ppt slides, I hope our classes can include a significant amount of roundtable discussions. For this reason, students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to attending class on Wednesday as well as actively participate in class discussions and independent research activities.

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS**

Required readings, such as journal articles, book chapters, and other sources will be posted on the CourseSpaces site (<http://CourseSpaces.uvic.ca/>) and should be read thoroughly and brought to class. While readings are peripheral to learning in some courses, **they are central to this one.**

Reading effectively is absolutely essential for success in this course. Be mindful that simply reading without engaging with the material (i.e. marking, highlighting, frequent re-reading, taking notes and critical reflection) will limit the movement of material from short to long term memory.

Lecture PPT slides will be posted as .pdf's on CourseSpaces. These files will not include everything. You are expected to attend lectures and take notes because some information (concepts, ideas, themes, examples) will be discussed in the class that may not be on the lecture slides due to size and content restrictions with online publishing.

Note on CourseSpaces: You will Access the CourseSpaces site for required readings, important announcements, assignment submissions, instructor notes, your grades and additional information.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

- Critically engage with both classic and contemporary writings on the social and cultural geography of cities
- Develop the ability to evaluate critically contrasting paradigms and approaches to urban social geography
- Improve research and writing skills in preparation for graduate school and/or a professional career in an urban-related field

**Course Schedule:**

I will try to stick as closely as possible to the following schedule, however, this may not always be possible.

<p>January 3 &amp; 5</p>	<p><b>Introduction to the course and discussion of methods for urban and social geography</b></p> <p>Roy – “The 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Metropolis”</p>
<p>January 9,10 &amp; 12</p>	<p><b>New ways of Conceptualizing the “Urban”</b></p> <p>Dear and Flusty – “Postmodern Urbanism” Renner and Schmid – “Towards a New Epistemology of the Urban?”</p>
<p>January 16,17 &amp; 19</p>	<p><b>Phenomenologies of the City and the Social Life of Urban Spaces</b></p> <p>Jacobs – “The Uses of Sidewalks Safety” Seamon – “A ‘Jumping, Joyous Urban Jumble’” <i>Additional Reading:</i> Seedat et al. – “The Phenomenology of Being a Female Pedestrian in an African and Asian City”</p>
<p>January 23, 24 &amp; 26</p>	<p><b>Rhythmanalysis and Music Geographies in Public Urban Places</b></p> <p>Doughty and Lagerqvist – “The Ethical Potential of Sound in Public Space” Simpson – “Apprehending Everyday Rhythms” Wissman – “Sound in the City”</p>
<p>January 30, 31 &amp; February 2</p>	<p><b>Gender and the Production of Urban Space</b></p> <p>Spain – “What Happened to Gender Relations on the Way from Chicago to Los Angeles?” Sommers – “Men at the Margin” <i>Additional Reading:</i> Michel “Response to Spain”</p>
<p>February 6, 7 &amp; 9</p>	<p>Review 9: Midterm (take-home to be submitted via coursespaces)</p>
<p>February 13, 14 &amp; 16</p>	<p>Reading Break</p>
<p>February 20, 21 &amp; 23</p>	<p><b>Capitalism and the Political Economy of Cities</b></p>

	<p>23: Outline and Field Notes due, hard copy in-class.</p> <p>Molotch – “The City as a Growth Machine” Harvey – “The Urban Process Under Capitalism”</p>
February 27, 28 & March 2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Capitalism and the Political Economy of Cities Continued</b></p> <p>Moreno – “The Urban Process Under Financial Capitalism” Brenner and Theodore – “Cities and the Geographies of “Actually Existing Neoliberalism”</p>
March 6, 7 & 9	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The City as "Panopticon"</b></p> <p>Koskela – “The Gaze Without Eyes” Wright et al. – “It Depends on Who You Are, What You Are” <i>Additional Reading:</i> Foucault – “‘Panopticism’ from Discipline &amp; Punish”</p>
March 13, 14 & 16	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Spaces of Exception in the City</b></p> <p>Pratt – “Abandoned Women and Spaces of the Exception” Sanyal – “Refugees and the City” <i>Additional Reading:</i> Ek – “ Giorgio Agamben and the Spatialities of the Camp”</p>
March 20, 21 & 23	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Multicultural City: Race, Racism and (In) Tolerance</b></p> <p>Amin – “Ethnicity and the Multicultural City” Nayak – “Race, Affect, and Emotion”</p>
March 27 & 28	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Multicultural City Continued</b></p> <p>27 – Multicultural City Continued 28 – Term Paper Due (submission via coursespaces) 30 – no class (Holiday)</p> <p>Peterson – “Living with Difference in Hyper-Diverse Areas” Watson – “Making Multiculturalism”</p>
April 3, 4 & 6	<p>April 3: Research Paper Findings Discussion and Presentations April 4: Research Paper Findings Discussion and Presentations</p>

	April 6: Exam Review
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**Assessments:** Students will be evaluated on the following required elements:

**10% Participation:** Based on the *quality* of your contributions to class discussion, and/or extra-curricular involvement. This is not an attendance mark, however, it will not be possible to gain participation grades if you do not regularly attend. Being disruptive (i.e. texting or using electronic devices for reasons not related to the course, arriving late, continually leaving and re-entering class, talking over others, etc.) will negatively impact the quality of your participation.

**10% Outline and Research Notes:** Each student will have an opportunity to conduct primary qualitative research as part of the course. Some methods you may want to consider include: transact walks, interviews, focus groups, participant observations, and informational interviews. Please speak to me if you would like to conduct research using another method. While you conduct your research, you will keep detailed field notes, which you will submit on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, along with an outline of your proposed research paper. The outline should include:

- Thesis Statement
- Literature Review topic, authors whose work you will be consulting, and the theoretical framework you will be working within
- Methods discussion, what methods did you use and why were these the best choice for your topic?
- Preliminary Findings/ Analysis
- Any outstanding research still to be conducted

**20% Midterm Exam:** Exam questions will be given to you in class on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Submissions will be made via coursespaces. The exam will include short and long answer questions. Testable material includes readings, lectures, class discussion/activity, and films. APA citations should be included in your answers.

**30% Term Paper:** Due on the March 28<sup>th</sup>, and with a presentation of your findings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of April.

This assignment will allow you to focus on thinking and writing about some of the themes and topics relevant to the course, as well as developing your research skills. You may work independently or in pairs.

instructions as you write your paper:

- The paper should be between 1200 and 1500 words, double-spaced, 12 pt. font size, 2.54 cm margins with proper in-text citations. Your reference list will not count towards your word count, nor will graphs, figures, maps, etc.
- APA style referencing, with a minimum 11 academic and geography-specific references (based on the guide posted on coursespaces).
- Be connected with course content without overlapping with lecture material (i.e., do not submit an essay that outlines the same arguments and materials made in class during discussions and/or activities – demonstrate your analytical thinking in a novel way).
- Your essay will be evaluated based upon the following:
  - o Quality of your thesis statement (5)

## Geog448 - Urban Social Geographies - Syllabus

- Connection to course material (5)
- Quality of sources used (5)
- Quality of content in terms of research skill demonstrated, analytical skills through critiques and linkages to course content (50)
- Good and logical structure and organization of paper (5)
- Mechanics (grammar and spelling) (10)
- Proper APA in-text citations and reference list (10)

**5% Research Findings Presentation:** In class, you will present your research findings to your peers on April 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. More information will be provided in class.

**25% Final Exam:** To be held during the exam period. You will be tested using the format of a take-home exam for which you will have one week to submit your responses. The testable material will be cumulative, covering material from the beginning of the semester to the end. These will be short and long-answer questions.

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

1. Collegial Respect: Do your part to ensure a classroom environment conducive to learning. Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to be in class and prepared to begin on time. Arriving late, talking, texting, surfing the internet, etc. all disrupt the flow of the class and will impact your participation grade. Be respectful to the instructor and to colleagues. Being at university is a unique privilege. Be sure to make the most of it!

2. Late / Missing Work: If for a legitimate reason (e.g. verifiable serious illness or family emergency) you must miss the midterm/exam/assignment deadline you must notify the instructor before the date to make alternative arrangements. Failure to do so will result in a mark of zero. Your required hand-in assignments will be accepted up to three days after the due date with a 15% penalty applied per day. This means that if an assignment is not submitted at the beginning of class, there is a 15% penalty and a further 15% for the following day. Extensions will only be granted ahead of the deadline and with a doctor's note or equivalent – travel is not considered a reason to miss a deadline or exam.

3. Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability (RCSD) as soon as possible. The RCSD staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations <http://rcsd.uvic.ca/>.

4. Email: I often receive a high volume of emails and may not always be able to respond in less than 48 hours. Be sure to plan ahead, read the syllabus closely and/or ask peers for clarification.

5. Withdrawal: For information regarding withdrawal from class, please see: <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2015/FACS/UnIn/UARe/With.html> for dates and other information.

6. Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: Plagiarism in any written assignment will not be tolerated. Plagiarism means representing someone else's work as your own. It is a serious offence, punishable by

academic sanctions. When you incorporate the words, ideas, graphics, or other products from someone else's work into your projects, you must give credit by providing a citation and reference to the source work. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic "F" for that assignment or test and possibly the course for ALL individuals involved. Note: plagiarism detection software will be used in this class. It is your responsibility to:

- understand what plagiarism is
- be familiar with and understand the information on plagiarism outlined in UVic Libraries' plagiarism policy at <http://library.uvic.ca/instruction/cite/plagiarism.html>
- be familiar with UVic's policies on student responsibilities, conduct, discipline, and academic offences, as described in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are reminded that submitting for credit any academic work which has been submitted (or where credit has already been obtained) in another course is listed among academic offences

7. Grade Revisions: If you believe your grade does not reflect the quality of your work, you may resubmit the assignment with a one or two paragraph justification for why your mark should be changed.

8. I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of the term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.

Note on Undergraduate Grading: Grading practices and procedures are guided by University policies specified in the Calendar. The geography department is concerned about the potential problem of grade inflation and wishes to ensure equity in grading standards among colleagues. In cases in which grades for a course are substantially outside normal ranges, the department Chair may ask the instructor to justify or revise those grades. Instructors submit grades online as soon as they have been approved by the Chair. If the grades for a course are not available online, it means that the grades have not yet been approved by the Chair, and any grades posted elsewhere are unofficial and subject to change. Students should pay particular attention to the qualitative indicators associated with each grade

A+ (90-100%); A (85-89%); A- 80-84% Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance- normally achieved only by a small group of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.

B+ (77-79%); B (73-76%); B- (70-72%): Very good / acceptable work fulfilling expectations. These grades indicate a good or satisfactory grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area with no major weakness.

C+ (65-69); C (60-64%); D (50-59): Deficiencies in knowledge, understanding or techniques; Mastery of some relevant techniques or concepts lacking.

F (0-49): Failing grade- unsatisfactory performance.  
<http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2014/GRAD/FARe/Grad.html>