

# Geography 217: Cities in the Modern World

Winter 2015

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:05 - 2:25 p.m.  
MacDonald-Harrington Building, room G-10

Prof. Benjamin Forest  
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by appointment  
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*\*Use only in emergencies.*

*All course-related communications should be done by email.*

**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 addresses two major areas. First, the historical development, internal structures, and basic urban functions of North American and European “industrial” cities. Second, the notion of “global cities” and the transformations that the relationship between urbanization and globalization has brought to cities around the world.

## Required texts:

*GEOG 217 Coursepack volumes 1 & 2:* Available for purchase at the McGill Bookstore as a hard copy or e-book.

- All readings in volume 1 are also available either from Course Reserves at the Humanities and Social Science Library or through myCourses.

## Course Evaluation:

Assignment	Weight	Date Due
<b>Examination 1</b>	35%	February 18 6-8 PM, Leacock 132
<b>Examination 2</b>	30%	April 2 During class time
<b>Conferences</b> <i>Participation in two 1-hour conferences</i>	5%	February 23-27 March 23-27 Burnside 308
<b>Project: Urban Transect of Montreal</b>	30%	March 13– data (5%)* April 9 – report (25%)

\*Students must submit data correctly to earn 5% credit; failure to do so will also result in a 40% penalty on the report.

*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:** This semester, we are lucky to have two Tomlinson Teaching Assistants (TTAs) for the class, in addition to our regular complement of Graduate Teaching Assistants.

- **Tomlinson Teaching Assistants:** The TTAs are undergraduate students whose primary responsibility is assisting students with the Transect Project. They will run two **required** one-hour conferences as indicated above. *The TTAs do not have grading responsibilities and cannot discuss either examination with you.*
- **Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs):** The GTAs serve primarily as graders for the course, but they may meet with students over miscellaneous issues.

**Communication and myCourses:** All course-related communications with the instructors and the TAs can be done through *myCourses*. If you do not know how to use email or if you have questions about using it, ask a fellow student for help, or call ICS Customer Support at 514-398-3398.

We will make every effort to respond to email within 48 hours. If you are unable to email us in an *emergency*, you can call our office numbers and leave a message. Be aware, however, that we will not receive voicemail messages on weekends or after regular business hours; email is almost always faster.

**Expectations:** Assignments, including the set reading, should be completed in a timely fashion. Illness or family misfortune are legitimate reasons for extensions on assignments or the postponement of exams. In such cases please advise the instructors in advance of the assignment due date or exam whenever possible to make suitable arrangements. You are required to provide adequate supporting documentation. All assignments are due at the *beginning* of class and will otherwise be assessed a penalty of 10% per day (including weekends).

**Examinations:** The standard rules for closed book, closed note exams apply: You must not receive any assistance during the 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:** This is a large lecture class, and there is no formal credit for class participation other than the conferences. Nonetheless, we expect you to be *active listeners*: attend class, take notes, and ask questions. Disruptive activities such as excessive talking, web surfing, email, newspaper reading, and the like will not be tolerated. Students doing so will be told to leave class.

We encourage you to see one or both of us during office hours to discuss the class.

**Deferred examination policy:** If you are unable to attend either examination due to illness, you will be offered a deferred examination during the lecture period as indicated on the schedule. The deferred examination will be different from, but equivalent to, the original examination.

Students will only be allowed to take a deferred examination if they provide a signed note from a *doctor* attesting specifically that the student was too ill to take the exam on the scheduled day. All such notes will be verified by the instructors, and therefore must include the physician's correct phone number. Students who miss the test must notify us by email or phone within 24 hours of the exam (preferably before the exam begins), but do not need to provide the medical note until the date of the deferred exam.

Non-medical reasons, such as a death or serious illness in the family, will be handled on a case-by-case basis, but all cases must include satisfactory documentation.

If a student misses the first deferred exam and/or lacks an adequate excuse for missing the original exam, *s/he might* be allowed to increase the weight of the second exam to partially compensate for the missed exam. The *ability* to do so, and the associated *penalty* are at the sole discretion of the instructors.

**Late Assignment Policy:** The project for the class has two deadlines (see below). In general, the same guidelines apply to the assignment deadlines as to the examinations: Only properly documented medical excuses will be accepted. To avoid delays caused by last-minute emergencies, you are urged to complete and submit your assignments before the deadlines. Assignments turned in after the deadline will be penalized 10% (points) per day, including weekends.

You are encouraged to consult with the instructors about the project before the deadline. *No consultation will be offered after the deadline regardless of circumstances.*

**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 upwards (*e.g.*, A=100 to 83; A- = 78 to 83; etc.) at the end of the semester.

**Project: Urban Transect of Montreal.** You will receive detailed directions for this project in class, but please note the following: The project requires you to use one of the Metro lines to construct a transect of Montreal. You will need to spend considerable time gathering data between mid-February and mid-March, so please plan your time accordingly.

The project includes attendance and participation in two conferences (discussions). Together these are worth 5% of your grade. You must attend conferences as indicated above. Meetings are scheduled twice each day, 10-11 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. Further information will be given in class.

You must complete all parts of the project, including data gathering, analysis and writing independently. You may not cooperate, share data, or otherwise combine efforts. The report must be from your own labor, and you must properly cite any publication or material that you use.

The following two statements are required by University policy:

**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).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).

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## Schedule of Classes

### Part I: Cites: Systems, Structures, & Imaginations (Prof. Forest)

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
January 6	Introduction	---
January 8	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; 427-441.
January 13	Urban Patterns and Processes	Badcock (2002) “Urban Systems and the Growth of Cities” in <i>Making Sense of Cities</i> . London: Hodder Arnold: pp. 34-60.
January 15	Urban Systems	Chase-Dunn (1985) “The System of World Cities A.D. 800-1975” in <i>Urbanization in the World Economy</i> edited by M. Timberlake, E. Shorter, and C. Tilly (Orlando: Academic Press): pp. 269-292
January 20	The Internal Structure of North American Cities	Brunn and Williams (1993). “Internal Structure of North American Cities” in <i>Cities of the World: World Regional Urban Development</i> . (New York: Harper & Row): pp. 54-74.
January 22	Transportation and Urban Morphology	Knox and McCarthy (2005) “Changing Metropolitan Form” in <i>Urbanization</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> edition (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall): pp. 139-163.
January 27	The Industrial City and Its Critics	Hall (1996) “The City of Dreadful Night” in <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers): pp. 13-46.  Relph (1987). “The Invention of Modern Town Planning” in <i>The Modern Urban Landscape</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press): pp. 49-75.

January 29	New (Sub)Urban Visions Video: <i>The City</i> (1939)	McCann (1996). "Planning and Building the Corporate Suburb of Mount Royal, 1910-1925" <i>Planning Perspectives</i> 11: pp. 259-301.
February 3	Mass-Production Suburbs	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.
February 5	Modernist Urban Design Video: <i>Farwell Oak Street</i> (1953)	Hall (1996) "The City of Towers" in <i>Cities of Tomorrow</i> (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers): pp. 201-240.
February 10	The End of Modernism Video: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i> (2011)	Jacobs (1961) "Introduction" in <i>The Death and Life of Great American Cities</i> (New York: Vintage Books): pp. 1-25.
February 12 <b>Project introduction</b>	Urban Transect of Montreal: From Periphery to Center ("Il fait beau dan l'metro")	Jackson (1973) "Urban Land Use Studies" in <i>The Canadian City</i> (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson): pp. 113-129.

***Examination 1, which includes course material covered through February 12, will be held on February 18. See details below.***

## Part II: Urbanizations / Globalizations (Prof. Oswin)

February 17	**No class**	
<b>February 18 (Wednesday)</b>	<b>Examination I Leacock 132 6-8 PM</b>	<b><i>The exam includes material covered through February 12.</i></b>
February 19	What is a Global City?	Sassen, Saskia (2006) "The Urban Impact of Economic Globalization" in <i>Cities in a World Economy</i> (London: Sage), pp. 15-44
February 24  <b>Deferred Examination I</b>	The Urban World	Beall, Jo and Sean Fox (2009) "Urbanisation and development in historical perspective," Chapter two of their <i>Cities and Development</i> (New York: Routledge), pp. 34-64
February 26	Re-mapping Industrial Cities I	Hutton, Tom (2010) "Economic change in Canadian cities: Locational dynamics of employment," in T. Bunting, P. Filion & R. Walker, eds., <i>Canadian Cities in Transition</i> 4 <sup>th</sup> edition (Don Mills: Oxford University Press), pp. 110-130.
March 3-7	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<b>Relax, enjoy, and work on your project</b>
March 10	Re-mapping Industrial Cities II  Video: <i>Foreign Parts</i> (2010)	McCann "Urban political economy beyond the 'global city'" <i>Urban Studies</i> 41(12): pp. 2315-2333.
March 12	Urban Development in the Global South	Crankshaw and Parnell (2004) "Johannesburg: Race, inequality and urbanization" in <i>World Cities beyond the West</i> (New York: Cambridge University Press), pp. 348-370.
<b>March 13 (Friday)</b>	<b>Project data due</b>	
March 17	Informality and Enclaves  Video: <i>I am Gurgaon</i> (2009)	Grant and Rosen (2009) "Armed compounds and broken arms: The cultural production of gated communities," <i>Annals of the AAG</i> 99(3): pp. 575-589.
March 19	Worlding Cities	Moser (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.

March 24	Urban Cultures	Degen (2004) “Barcelona’s games: the Olympics, urban design and global tourism” in Sheller and Urry, <i>Tourism Mobilities: Places to Play, Places in Play</i> (New York: Routledge) pp. 131-142.  McNeill (2007) “Office buildings and the signature architect: Piano and Foster in Sydney,” <i>Environment and Planning A</i> 39(2): pp. 487-501.
March 26	Cities of Migrants I	Smith and Ley (2008) “Even in Canada? The multiscalar construction and experience of concentrated immigrant poverty in gateway cities,” <i>Annals of the Association of American Geographers</i> 93(3): pp. 686-713.
March 31	Cities of Migrants II Video: <i>B.A.T.A.M.</i> (2005)	Constable (2009) “Migrant workers and the many states of protest in Hong Kong,” <i>Critical Asian Studies</i> 41(1): pp. 143-164.
April 2	<b>Examination II</b>	<b><i>The exam includes material covered from Feb 19 through March 31.</i></b>
April 7	Project consultations	
April 9  <b>Deferred Examination II</b>	Wrap up <b>Projects due in class</b>	