

GEOG 331: URBAN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY

Fall 2014

Mon 11:35-2:25, Burnside 306

Prof. Natalie Oswin

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TA

Kai Kenttamaa Squires

Course description: Urban environments shape and are shaped by social relations. The aim of this course is to achieve a critical understanding of this relationship between society and urban space. In the first section of the course, we will explore various theoretical approaches within the field of urban geography. Next we will examine class, race, gender and sexuality as spatially produced. Finally, we will look at the ways in which cities are produced through connections to other places and times. Topics here include global cities, transnationalism, postcoloniality and memory.

Prerequisites: GEOG 216 or GEOG 217 or permission of the instructor.

Readings: Course readings are compiled in a course pack available for purchase at the McGill Bookstore. Additional materials may be posted on 'myCourses'. You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class and be prepared to discuss them.

Evaluation:

Requirement	Value	Date
In-class test 1	20%	Sept 29
In-class test 2	30%	Nov 3
In-class test 3	30%	Dec 1
Group project	20%	Dec 4 - Project presentations

In-class tests

Details of the format of the tests will be given in class. Should you miss any of the tests for any valid reason (illness, family emergency, etc.), the instructor must be informed as soon as possible. Upon presentation of appropriate documentation, a make-up test (during class time) will be given.

Group project: Social Geographies of Montreal

The purpose of this project is to get you to examine your own city, Montreal, in relation to the themes of the course. In groups of 4, you will choose a site – for example, a building, a monument or a neighbourhood. You will examine that site in relation to two to three of the topics covered in the course.

Your grade for this assignment will comprise 20% of your overall grade and will be based on your group's presentation to the class. Further guidelines will be provided in class.

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 for more information).

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

For information on university and department policies for student assessment, please go to <http://www.mcgill.ca/geography/studentassessment>

Class schedule and readings:

1. Sept 8

Introduction to the course

Delcasino, Vincent (2009) *Social geography: A critical introduction*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 1-3, 11-28.

Section 1: Situating Urban Social Geography

2. Sept 15

Spatial science and the Marxist critique

Chauncey D. Harris and Edward L. Ullman (1959 [1945]) 'The Nature of Cities,' In Harold Mayer and Clyde Kohn (eds) *Readings in Urban Geography*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 277-286.

Berry, Brian J. and William L. Garrison (1958) 'The functional bases of the central place hierarchy,' *Economic Geography* 34: 145-154.

Harvey, David. "The Urban Process Under Capitalism: A Framework for Analysis." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 2 (1978): 101-2, 113-131.

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3. Sept 22 The postmodern condition and ‘New’ urban social geographies
- Dear, Michael and Steven Flusty (1998) ‘Postmodern Urbanism,’ *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 88: 50-72.
- Hubbard, Phil (2006) ‘The represented city,’ Chapter 2 of his *City*, London: Routledge, pp. 59-60, 68-94.
- Jacobs, Jane M. and Ruth Fincher (1998) ‘Introduction,’ Chapter 1 of R. Fincher and J. Jacobs (eds) *Cities of Difference*. New York: Guilford Press, pp. 1-10.
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4. Sept 29 **In class test #1**
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Section 2: The Spatial Production of Difference

5. Oct 6 Public space
- Blomley, Nicholas (2004) ‘Un-real estate: Proprietary space and public gardening,’ *Antipode* 36(4): 614-641.
- Mitchell, Don (1997) ‘The annihilation of space by law: The roots and implications of anti-homeless laws in the United States,’ *Antipode* 29(3): 303-335.
- In-class video: *Dark Days* (2001, 90 minutes)
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Oct 13 ****No class – Thanksgiving holiday****

6. Oct 20 Race/ multiculturalism AND Gender
- Amin, Ash (2002) ‘Ethnicity and the multicultural city: living with diversity,’ *Environment and Planning A* 34: 959-80.
- Winders, Jamie (2008) ‘An ‘Incomplete’ Picture? Race, Latino Migration, and Urban Politics in Nashville, Tennessee,’ *Urban Geography* 29(3): 246-263.
- Wright, Melissa (2001) ‘Feminine villains, masculine heroes, and the reproduction of Ciudad Juarez,’ *Social Text* 19(4): 93-113.
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7. Oct 27

Sexuality AND Gentrification

Martin, Fran (2000) 'From Citizenship to Queer Counterpublic: Reading Taipei's New Park,' *Communal/ Plural* 8(1): 81 - 94.

Raimondo, Meredith (2005) "'AIDS capital of the world": Representing race, sex and space in Belle Glade, Florida,' *Gender, place and culture* 12(1): 53-70.

Slater, Tom (2004) 'Municipally-managed gentrification in South Parkdale, Toronto,' *The Canadian Geographer* 48(3): 303-325.

Shaw, Wendy (2006) 'Sydney's SoHo Syndrome: The Urbane City,' *Cultural Geographies* 13: 182-206.

In-class video: *Flag Wars*, 2003 (86 minutes)

8. Nov 3

In class test #2

Section 3: Urban connectivities

9. Nov 10

Global cities AND Transnational Urbanism

Friedmann, John (1986) 'The World City Hypothesis,' *Development and Change* 17: 69-83.

Massey, Doreen (1994) 'A global sense of place,' In her *Space, place and gender*, Cambridge: Polity, pp. 146-156.

Smith, Michael Peter (2001) 'Reimagining Los Angeles from the ground up,' Chapter 4 of *Transnational Urbanism: Locating globalization*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, pp. 72-98.

10. Nov 17

Colonial and postcolonial cities AND Mobilities I

Jacobs, Jane M. (1996) 'Eastern trading: Diasporas, dwelling and place,' Chapter 4 of *Edge of empire: Postcolonialism and the city*. New York: Routledge, pp. 76-102.

Cresswell, Tim (2006) 'The production of mobilities at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam,' Chapter 9 of *On the move: Mobility in the western world*. New York: Routledge, pp. 219-258.

11. Nov 24

Mobilities II AND Memory and Memorialization

Beaverstock, Jonathan (2002) 'Transnational elites in global cities: British expatriates in Singapore's financial district,' *Geoforum* 33(4): 525-538.

Olds, Kris (1997) 'Globalizing Shanghai: the 'global intelligence corps' and the building of Pudong', *Cities* 14(2): 109-123.

In-class video: *In this world* (2002, 88 minutes)

Till, Karen (2005) 'The Gestapo terrain: Landscape, digging, open wounds,' Chapter 3 of her *The New Berlin: Memory, Politics, Place*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, pp. 63-105.

12. Dec 1

In class test #3

13. *Thursday* Dec 4 **Project presentations**