GEOG 331: URBAN SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY
FALL 2016
Thursdays – 14:35-17:25, Burnside 306

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Office: Room 418, Burnside Hall.
Office hours: Thursdays 1:00-2:15

Course Description:

The course provides an overview of how socially constructed ‘differences’ shape spatial relationships in cities. It begins by introducing the Chicago School’s traditional understanding of the city as a ‘mosaic’ of neighbourhoods shaped by the interplay between social class, family status and ethnicity. This is juxtaposed with a ‘Cities of Difference’ approach to understanding how multiple and shifting aspects of identity make cities contested terrains of difference. We will examine how difference is produced and experienced in urban space drawing on insights of critical, feminist, queer and anti-racist geographers. Special effort will be made to ground these complex aspects of identity and difference in lived realities through the use of documentary film.

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

Readings: Permalinks to all the readings for the course have been posted on ‘myCourses,’ following the schedule laid out in the course outline. This requires students to follow the links on the MyCourses GEOG 331 page to download PDFs of the readings, however, it also means that all the readings are free (as opposed to having a course pack which students must pay for). Students are expected to read the assigned readings prior to class and be prepared to discuss them.

Course format:
The first 6 weeks of class will have the following format: 1) lecture by instructor; 2) documentary film excerpts that ground lecture themes in everyday realities; 3) questions and discussion. Beginning in Week 7 the class format will change slightly. The second half of the course will have the following format: 1) lecture by instructor; 2) student presentations; 3) questions and discussion.

Evaluation:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class test 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>October 6th, 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class test 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>November 3rd, 2016</td>
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<td>In-class test 3</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>December 1st, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group project/presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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In-class tests:
More information on the format of in-class tests will be provided in class. Students who miss an in-class test and have a valid reason (emergency, illness, etc.) must inform the instructor as soon as possible. Upon presentation of authoritative documentation of their circumstances a make-up test will be given (during the instructor’s office hours).

Group project: Social Geographies of Montreal
The goal of the group project is for you to explore part of Montreal in relation to the themes that we examine in the course. In groups of 4, you will choose a site, for example, a neighbourhood, a street, a monument, or a building. You will conduct both primary research (on-site observations, photos, etc.) and secondary research (existing academic studies, reports, etc.) and explore that site in relation to 2 of the themes of the course.

Your grade for this assignment will be based upon two components.
1) Presentation outline and preliminary bibliography (5%). Two weeks before your groups assigned presentation date, each group will be required to come to the instructor’s office hours for a 20-minute meeting to discuss their topic and progress to date. At this time, each group must submit a 1-page presentation outline and preliminary bibliography.
2) The bulk of your grade for the group project will be for the presentation to the class and will be worth 15% of your overall grade in the course. Students are expected to use PowerPoint and will submit a copy of their PowerPoint to the instructor the day of the presentation. Student presentations will begin in the 7th week of the course. The instructor will assign each group a presentation date. Group presentations should average 15 minutes, with 10 minutes per group for questions and discussion. Material from the student presentations may be on in-class tests #2 and #3.

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

Detailed Course Outline and Reading List: 2016

Week 1: September 8th, 2016 - The City as a Mosaic?


Week 2: September 15th, 2016 - Cities of Difference ***** Formation of groups for group project*****


Week 3: September 22nd - Radical Urban Geographies: Framing Homelessness


Week 4: September 29th - Gentrification, Diversity and Social Mix


Week 5: October 6th - In-class Test #1

Week 6: October 13th - Gender Relations and Urban Space


**Week 7: October 20th - Young People in Urban Public Space***** Student Presentations begin in 2nd half of Class*****


**Week 8: October 27th – Urban Segregation: Comparing the U.S. and Canada**


**Week 9: November 3rd – In-Class Test #2**

**Week 10: November 10th – Diversity in Immigrants Settlements – From Enclave to Ethnoburb**


**Week 11: November 17th – Racialized Privilege in Urban Space**


Housel, J. A. (2009). Geographies of whiteness: the active construction of racialized privilege in

**Week 12: November 24th – Sexuality and the City**


**Week 13: December 1st – In-class Test #3**