UNLV
School of Public Policy and Leadership
URST301: Theories of Urban Communities

Fall 2019

Contact information:
Office Phone:
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COURSE OVERVIEW

This online course is intended to introduce you to ideas of community and to the field of urban studies. As an introduction to the city, the course will address a variety of questions: What is a city? How did cities develop? How do cities function socially, politically, and economically? Why do people live in cities versus the suburbs? What are some of the major issues facing cities in the early twenty-first century, and how can cities address these issues? As an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Urban Studies, the course will present models of how scholars approach cities from a variety of disciplinary viewpoints, including architecture, planning, law, sociology, history, political science, public policy, and geography. Students will learn some of the major concepts in the field of urban studies, and will study the works of leading scholars in the field over the last hundred years. By the end of the class the students should have a working knowledge of the cause of urban problems arising from free-market economics, government policies (both good and ill conceived), private sector incentives and regulation, and racial bias and segregation. Students in the course will approach cities from a number of disciplines (public administration, urban planning, urban design, geography, sociology and political science. The course does not assume any particular prior knowledge or urban or community studies although some exposure to sociology, political science or public administration will be helpful.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Since this is a survey course, students will be exposed to a wide range of urban studies topics. By the end of the class students should have a basic knowledge of the following:

1. City Definition and Evolution: Describe the function of cities, why cities exist and the purposes that cities serve. Describe the evolution of cities and suburbia and how cities and the suburbs has changed over the decades from a population and economic point of view. Recognize the importance of various thinkers and how their thinking changed the nature of how cities are planned and developed.
2. Community Neighborhood and Place (Urban Design): Identify characteristics that make good cities and neighborhoods and understand the experience of place and the everyday landscape. Reasons for housing discrimination and segregation and the

impacts to various groups will be discussed. Background to the urban design principles that led to the rise of New Urbanism will covered.

3. Cities and the Economy: Explain how cities and metropolitan areas contribute to national and local economic growth. Understand the rise of new economic sectors that have displaced manufacturing in the post industrial age.

4. Urban Politics: Understand basic urban political structure, reform movements, urban political theory and how urban governance has changed over time. Understand the basics of economic development why cities invest in certain industries or infrastructure over others and the controversies associated with economic development.

5. Cities and Sustainability: Define sustainability, sustainable development and the idea of resilience. Explain why patterns of urban and suburban growth in the United States are often viewed as unsustainable and not resilient. Understand recent ideas and principles of how to change current growth patterns to be more sustainable and resilient.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

This course is designed to promote critical thinking, writing skills and field study. Class will be combination of online lecture/powerpoints, readings, discussions, quizzes.

Canvas, Course Submissions, Communications and Late Policy

Please make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get familiar with this the Canvas/Webcampus learning management system if you haven't used it before. You should call the UNLV Office of Information Technology (702/895-0777) if you are having persistent difficulty that you or I can't solve. I will be making all announcements for this class on Canvas/Webcampus, including if students let me know about a problem with the course. All students are responsible for any information posted on (you should also receive an email when I post an announcement). I will also use announcements frequently for reminders, due dates, and the like.

My UNLV email is karen.danielsen@unlv.edu but you should use the communications tool (email) on Canvas which you may use to contact me. In my experience with Canvas, sometimes I can't open attachments sent through Canvas email. I will let you know if that is the case and then you should email me directly and not through Canvas.

Office Hours

If you are having difficulty with something in the course or you need to contact me, the best way is to email me. We can set up an appointment to either meet in person on campus or to schedule a phone call. For those who are off campus or in another city or state, please email me to schedule a phone call. If you are having problems or concerns with the class, don't wait until the end of the semester to take care of the problem. Contact me as soon as is possible so we can solve any issues you may be having in the course.

Late Policy

Take note that if you know that you will not be able to complete the assignment on time, please email me as soon as possible before the assignment is due. I understand that may not be possible in all cases but I tend to give more credence to those students who let me know **BEFORE** an assignment is due rather than after. Ten percent of your potential points for any assignment will be deducted if you have to hand in your assignments late and you will have only one week to complete them. After one week, your grade for that assignment will be zero unless permission is granted by me. You may have to submit written documentation to prove an emergency or illness in order to get full credit for the assignment. Be aware that I can't allow students to post comments on discussions after the due date regardless of the reason for why you couldn't complete the assignment. Therefore, if you are given permission by me to make up the assignment, the most points you can earn for a discussion post will be 15 points minus the 10 percent penalty or 13.5 points (unless told otherwise by me). I will not let students make up quizzes unless there is an emergency situation that can be documented. There will be a 10 percent penalty for any make up quizzes as well. Be sure to give yourself enough time to complete the quizzes and don't wait until the last minute to do them!

All assignments for this class will be submitted via Webcampus. That means that you should have a stable computer connections in order to submit your work. Since this is a completely online class, it is your responsibility to make sure that you have a well operating computer and good internet connections. This means if your computer breaks or is inoperable for some reason, it is your responsibility to make other arrangements to get to a workable computer such as the library to submit your work. A broken computer is not a sufficient reason to be excused for your work. Be aware that tablets and phones don't always work well with Webcampus either. Your best bet is to use a laptop or a desktop computer to submit your work.

However, if you are having difficulties submitting your work and it appears to be a problem with Webcampus, please let me know as soon as possible via email. You can also call UNLV's OIT (Office of Information Technology) office at 702-895-0777 for tech support. But I also will try to offer some solutions for you to submit your work in a timely fashion. If your computer is not allowing you to submit your work to Canvas, send me an email with your discussion post attached. So make sure to pay attention to the instructions and due dates.

All assignments and any additional readings not found in books indicated by the library links below will also be found under the appropriate module.

ASSESSMENTS

Quizzes, Mid-Term and Final Examinations

There will be **NO** midterm or final examinations in this class. But you will have an online quiz every two weeks that reflect material from the Palen text book and the primary source readings. Quizzes will be worth 50 percent of your grade.

There will be online multiple choice quizzes that you will find under each module (Module 3 will have two quizzes but they will each cover two weeks of material; Module 6 will have only 1 quiz even though it is three weeks). There will be 25 questions for each quiz. Each question will be worth one (1) point. These quizzes are open book quizzes which means you can use the powerpoints, readings and the textbook to answer these questions. You will have two hours to complete each quiz.

Questions will be drawn from material in the textbook, powerpoints and the readings. This includes readings used for the discussions. These quizzes have randomized questions and scrambled answers so that no two students should have the exact same quiz. Before taking these quizzes, please be sure to have read the assignments first and also read the discussion readings before taking the quiz. I will list all the readings that will be covered in the quiz in the instructions including any deletions or additions (if any). Please pay attention to the reading list for changes and any announcements for changes as well.

Again, please be sure to give yourself enough time to finish this quiz once you start. Also be sure that your internet connection is stable as well.

WRITTEN DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENTS

The main written assignment for this class is the online discussion. All assignments will posted on Canvas and will be conducted/handed in on Canvas.

Online Discussions.

There will be an introductory discussion due the first Sunday of the semester and seven (7) online discussions, one every two weeks (This means that Module 3 will have two of these types of discussions). Online discussions will consist of a question based on readings in that particular module (with the exception of the introductory discussion which has no readings to complete for the assignment). The readings will be found attached to the discussion assignment instructions or found in the reading list for the module. Be sure to reference the assigned readings (both the one directly assigned for the discussion and the readings assigned for the module). You will have to comment on two of your fellow classmate's responses for these assignments as well. The introductory discussion will be worth 10 points and every other discussion is worth 20 points and also worth 50 percent of your grade. Discussions will be due every other Sunday at midnight. I will try to finish grading each discussion before the next one is

due but there may be unforeseen circumstances that may delay the grading. I will make an announcement if there will a significant delay.

Cheating and Plagiarism

I take academic integrity very seriously. Unless otherwise announced, all assignments are to be done on an individual basis. You will use correct citations, not use anyone else's language (or cut and paste from a website) without attributing that language to the website or the author. I also do not want to see the same language in any student's post. Again all work should reflect your own effort and ideas.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Quizzes	175 (quizzes will have 25 questions)	50
Discussions	150 (10 for intro discussion and 20 for each of the other seven discussions	50
Total Points/Percentage		100%

BOOKS AND READING MATERIAL

We will be using a text book and also reading primary source material for this course. There will be additional readings that are associated with certain assignments as well. Other than the textbook, readings will be drawn from the books below which can be accessed through the UNLV library portal. The links for these books will be found on Canvas under each module's reading list. Please note that we will only be reading selections from these books and not the entire book. There will be other readings that are available through links provided under each module on Canvas as noted on the reading list.

MAIN TEXT BOOKS

There will be one main textbook for course (Palen, 11th edition) which you have to purchase.

Palen, J. John. 2019. *The Urban World* 11th edition. New York, Oxford University Press.rchase. It is available through the UNLV bookstore, on Amazon or directly through the publisher (see links below).

https://www.amazon.com/Urban-World-J-John-Palen/dp/0190903163

https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-urban-world-9780190903169?cc=us&lang=en

You can also rent the book the ebook for about half the cost of the printed book:

https://www.vitalsource.com/products/the-urban-world-j-john-palen-v9780190903190?duration=180&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIi5mznarz3wIVDh6tBh0MigidEAYYASABEgLNz_D_BwE

Please don't ask me if you can buy the previous editions of the book to use for this class because the author has substantially updated the material and the quiz questions are drawn from this edition (in addition to questions created for the readings). Also, this edition of the Palen book is **NOT** available through the UNLV library (as far as I know) either as a physical book or as an ebook, so you will have to purchase (or rent) the book for the class.

There will also be primary source readings drawn from the following books. You will not have to purchase these books since we can access them as an ebook on the UNLV library's website. There will be a link for each reading on Webcampus. Be sure you know how to sign into the library website so you can get access to these books.

Online books (from the Library)

LeGates, Richard T. and Frederic Stout. 2016. *The City Reader*. 6th edition. New York, Routledge.

Levine, Myron A. 2015. *Urban politics: Cities and suburbs in a global age* (Ninth ed.) New York: Routledge.

Simpson, Dick, Dennis R. Judd, Janet L. Abu-Lughod, eds. 2011.*The City Revisited: Urban Theory from Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York*.

Gieseking, Jen Jack and William Mangold with Susan Saegert, Setha Low, Cindi, Katz eds. 2014. *The People, Space, and Place Reader*. New York, Routledge.

There will a few other readings that are not from the library or the Palen book but will be posted to Webcampus. Again, there will be a link for all required readings (with the exception of the Palen book) on the Webcampus reading list for each module

MODULES

This class is organized into six modules of two weeks except Module 3 which is 4 weeks and Module 6 which is three weeks (see schedule below). The readings for the class will be found below the class schedule below and on Canvas under each module. Some assignments will require you to watch a video or two with and a discussion

following each video so please pay attention to announcements for these assignments. Some videos are posted to accompany the powerpoint outlines for additional explanation of concepts but don't require a direct discussion assignment with it. You may reference these films in your discussion posts if you wish.

PLEASE NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADD OR REMOVE READINGS FROM THE COURSE. PLEASE PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO CANVAS FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS AND READING LIST.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Misconduct
Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the Campus community; we all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Conduct Code, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/student-conduct.

Auditing Classes
Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct
Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn or of instructors to teach. Use of electronic devices such as pagers, cellular phones, or recording devices, or potentially disruptive devices or activities, are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative drop of the student from the course.

Copyright
The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional copyright policy information is available at http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)
The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A, Room 143, https://www.unlv.edu/drc, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to injury, disability, or due to pregnancy should contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours, so that you may work together to develop strategies forimplementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Final Examinations
The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The general schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the Final Exam Schedule, https://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars.

Identity Verification in Online Courses
All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, https://www.unlv.edu/studentconduct/misconduct/policy, which defines, "acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment" as a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy, https://www.it.unlv.edu/policies/acceptable-use-computing-and-information-technology-resources-policy, which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades
The grade of "I" (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student's control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of "F" will be recorded, and the student's GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not register for the course, but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the "I" grade.

Library Resources
Librarians are available to consult with students on research needs, including developing research topics, finding information, and evaluating sources. To make an appointment with a subject expert for this class, please visit the Libraries' Research Consultation website: http://guides.library.unlv.edu/appointments/librarian. You can also ask the library staff questions via chat and text message at: http://ask.library.unlv.edu/.

Missed Classwork
Any student missing class, quizzes, examinations, or any other class or laboratory work because of observance of religious holidays will be given an opportunity during that semester to make up the missed work. The make-up opportunity will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It is

the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor within the first 14 calendar days of the course for Fall and Spring courses (except for modular courses), or within the first 7 calendar days of the course for Summer and modular courses, of their intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit the Policy for Missed Work, under Registration Policies, on the Academic Policies webpage, https://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531.

In accordance with the policy approved by the Faculty Senate regarding missed class time and assignments, students who represent UNLV in any official extracurricular activity will also have the opportunity to make up assignments, provided that the student provides official written notification to the instructor no less than one week prior to the missed class(es).

The spirit and intent of the policy for missed classwork is to offer fair and equitable assessment opportunities to all students, including those representing the University in extracurricular activities. Instructors should consider, for example, that in courses which offer a "Drop one" option for the lowest assignment, quiz, or exam, assigning the student a grade of zero for an excused absence for extracurricular activity is both contrary to the intent of the Faculty Senate's policy, and an infringement on the student's right to complete all work for the course.

This policy will not apply in the event that completing the assignment or administering the examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the University that could reasonably have been avoided. There should be a good faith effort by both the instructor and the student to agree to a reasonable resolution. When disagreements regarding this policy arise, decisions can be appealed to the Department Chair/Unit Director, College/School Dean, and/or the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee.

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to: fine arts activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, science and engineering competitions, liberal arts competitions, academic recruitment activities, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail
Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students, and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Emailing within WebCampus is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching
The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the ASC website, https://www.unlv.edu/asc, or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of SSC A, Room 254. Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library, and on the second floor of the College of Engineering building (TBE A 207).

UNLV Writing Center
One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, https://writingcenter.unlv.edu/, located in the Central Desert Complex, Building 3, Room 301 (CDC 3–301). Walk-in consultations are sometimes available, but students

with appointments receive priority assistance. Students may make appointments in person or by calling the Center, 702-895-3908. Students are requested to bring to their appointments their Rebel ID Card, a copy of the instructions for their assignment, and two copies of any writing they have completed on their assignment.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date 2019	Wk #	Module/Topics	Readings/Assignments
08/26-08/31	1	**Module 1:** Community Theory and the Problem of Urbanization	**Readings:** Palen Chapters 1 and 2 See Module 1 online **Assignments:** Introduction Discussion Quiz 1
09/01-09/07	2		
09/08-09/14	3	**Module 2:** City Form, Urbanization and Growth	**Readings:** Palen Chapters 3 and 4 (don't read 77-81. We will cover this in the last module) See Module 2 online **Assignments:** Online Discussion 2 Quiz 2
09/15-09/21	4		
09/22-09/28	5	**Module 3:** Neighborhoods; Segregation, Discrimination Spaces and Districts	**Readings:** Palen Chapters 5 and 6 Palen Chapters 7 and 8 See Module 3 online **Assignments:** Online Discussion 3 Online Discussion 4 Quiz 3 Quiz 4
09/29-10/05	6		
10/06-10/12	7		
10/13-10/19	8		
10/20-10/26	9		
10/27-11/02	10	**Module 4:** Urban Decline; Urban Revitalization and Gentrification; Economic Development; Inequality	**Readings:** Palen Chapters 9 and 11 See Module 4 online **Assignments:** Online Discussion 5 Quiz 5
11/03-11/09	11		
11/10-11/16	12	**Module 5:** Post-World War II Suburbanization; Sprawl, Resiliency; Sustainability	**Readings:** Palen Chapters 12 and 13 See Module 5 online **Assignments:** Online Discussion 6 Quiz 6
11/17-11/23	13		
11/24-11/30	14	**Module 6:** Urban Politics and Governance	**Readings:** Palen Chapter 4 pp 77-81 only See Module 6 online **Assignments:** Online Discussion 7 Quiz 7
12/01-12/07	15		
12/08-12/14	16		
		No Final Exam	