

**Urban Geography**  
**GEOL 4301 Section 02**  
**Department of Earth and Space Sciences**  
**Fall 2017 / TTh 2:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m. / Geology 105**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Sarah Schwartz

**OFFICE:** 217 Geology Building

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays 3:30 – 4:30, or by appointment

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E-mail is the best way to contact me.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND DOCUMENTARIES:**

Saunders, D. 2011. *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in the History is Reshaping Our World*. New York: Vintage Books.

ISBN-13: 978-0307388568

Ehrenhalt, A. 2012. *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City*. New York: Random House. ISBN: 9780307474377

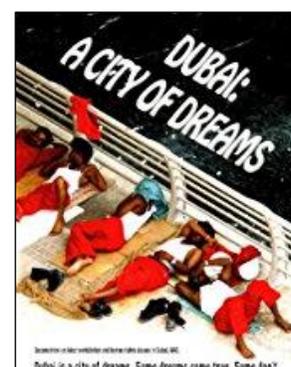
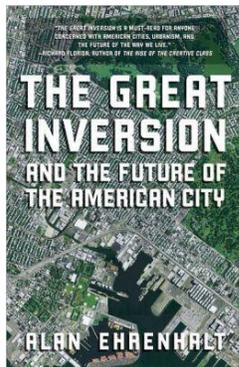
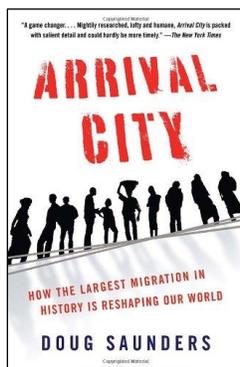
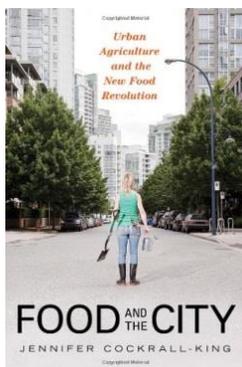
Knox, P. and S. Pinch. 2010. *Urban Social Geography: An Introduction, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*. London: Pearson. ISBN: 9780273717638

Freidrichs, C. 2012. *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*. Documentary – available Amazon Video, iTunes, and Netflix.

[https://www.amazon.com/Pruitt-Igoe-Myth-Sylvester-Brown/dp/B016VEHQN2/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1503941524&sr=1-1&keywords=pruitt+igoe+myth](https://www.amazon.com/Pruitt-Igoe-Myth-Sylvester-Brown/dp/B016VEHQN2/ref=sr_1_1?s=instant-video&ie=UTF8&qid=1503941524&sr=1-1&keywords=pruitt+igoe+myth)

Tutak, R. 2010. *Dubai: A City of Dreams*. Documentary – available on Amazon Video

[https://www.amazon.com/Dubai-City-Dreams-Robert-Tutak/dp/B006S2ALJ4/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1503941483&sr=1-1&keywords=dubai+city+of+dreams&refinements=p\\_n\\_theme\\_browse-bin%3A2650367011](https://www.amazon.com/Dubai-City-Dreams-Robert-Tutak/dp/B006S2ALJ4/ref=sr_1_1?s=movies-tv&ie=UTF8&qid=1503941483&sr=1-1&keywords=dubai+city+of+dreams&refinements=p_n_theme_browse-bin%3A2650367011)



**READINGS:** Additional readings for the week will be posted on Blackboard two weeks in advance. Changes to the reading schedule may be made. You will be notified of such changes in class and via Blackboard.

**POWERPOINTS:** The Powerpoints that I show in class will be posted on Blackboard. The Powerpoints are intended to serve as a guide for you to follow as you take notes. Printing them out and looking them over is NOT a substitute for attending class.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course explores a number of urban-related topics including the ways in which an individual's identity may positively or negatively affect his or her experiences within a given urban environment, the ways in which migration and immigration patterns impact cities in both the developed and developing world, and the ways in which discriminatory practices have shaped cities. Students will also become familiar with some of the innovative ways in which people are currently altering and utilizing urban spaces, as well as some of the environmental challenges cities are facing today.

**PREREQUISITES:** None.

**STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Over the course of the semester, students will:

- Become more aware of the ways in which they interact with urban environments
- Become more aware of how different people perceive and experience urban environments
- Learn what motivates some people to move into urban areas and others to leave them
- Learn about many of the challenges facing cities in both developing and developed countries

**GRADING:**

Assignment/Exam	Points each	% of final grade each	Combined points	Combined % of final grade
10 Quizzes	25	3.125%	250	31.25%
10 Participation Opportunities	25	3.125%	250	31.25%
3 Assignments				
Assignment 1: Hurricane Harvey paper	25	3.125%	25	3.125%
Assignment 2a: Observation paper	100	12.5%	100	12.5%
Assignment 2b: Observation paper presentation	25	3.125%	25	3.125%
Assignment 3a: Annotated bibliography for research paper	50	6.25%	50	6.25%
Assignment 3b: Research paper	100	12.5%	100	12.25%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>800</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Total Points Earned	Percentage of Points Earned
A	720 – 800	90 – 100%
B	640 – 719	80 – 89%
C	560 – 639	70 – 79%
D	480 – 559	60 – 69%
F	< 480	0 – 59%

**QUIZZES:** Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and they will cover all the material covered since the previous quiz. For example, the quiz given on September 19<sup>th</sup> will cover all lectures given since the beginning of the semester as well as the documentary *Urbanized*. The quiz given on September 26<sup>th</sup> will cover the lecture given on September 19<sup>th</sup> and the readings that you should have read for class on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Quizzes will consist of short answer questions and they will be closed book and closed note. You will have twelve minutes to complete the quizzes. If you arrive to class three minutes after the quiz begins, then you will have only nine minutes to complete the quiz; if you arrive four minutes after the start, you will have eight minutes, and so on. Each quiz is worth 25 points. For all quiz dates, see the schedule below.

**PARTICIPATION:** During the weeks in which we have class discussions, you will have the opportunity to earn 25 participation points. Points will be awarded based on your discussion questions and on your participation during class discussions. By 1:00 p.m. on each day that you have assigned readings, you will submit two discussion questions for class that afternoon. Please e-mail them to me at [sschwartz@lamar.edu](mailto:sschwartz@lamar.edu) with a heading like “Urban Questions” and be sure to include your name somewhere in the e-mail. I will compile the questions and print them out and we will use them as a starting point for our class discussion. I expect you to come to class on time, having completed the readings, and prepared to offer observations, thoughts and opinions that are grounded in those readings. I expect you to listen to your classmates’ comments and to respond thoughtfully and respectfully to them.

**URBAN LANDSCAPE OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION PAPER:** For this assignment, you will choose a suburban neighborhood, urban neighborhood, park, shopping complex, or mall to observe for a minimum of three hours. You may walk around the area or remain in one place and you may split the time up into multiple visits. There are two parts to the paper and detailed instructions for each part will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

**Part 1 – Observation Paper:** Papers should be 3-5 pages in length (1”margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced).

**Part 2 – Class Presentation:** Presentations should be on Prezi or Powerpoint and 5-10 minutes in length.

**RESEARCH PAPER:** The objective of this assignment is to allow you to explore in depth a topic related to the urban geography that is of particular interest to you. You may choose a current issue or a historical one and you may compare and contrast the ways in which two or more cities are/were affected by a particular challenge or event. There are two parts to the paper and detailed instructions for each part will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

**Part 1 – Annotated Bibliography:** Acceptable sources for the paper include journal articles, academic books and newspaper and magazine articles from reputable news sources.

**Part 2 – Research Paper:** Papers should be 4-6 pages in length (1” margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, double spaced).

All assignments are due at the **BEGINNING** of class. Assignments turned in at the end of class will be penalized 5 points. Do not hand in assignments during the middle of class. For each additional day the assignment is late, 10 more points will be deducted. It is better to hand in a late assignment than to not turn anything in at all. **All written assignments must be typed. No electronically submitted assignments will be accepted. Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a zero on that assignment.** Assignment grades will be posted on Blackboard. See the schedule below for due dates.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is important. Coming to class, paying attention, participating in discussions, and taking notes is the easiest way to learn the material covered in this course.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** Extra credit is NOT available. Please keep this in mind over the course of the semester. Studying an extra hour may not seem important in September, but you may wish you had studied that extra hour in December. Similarly, turning an assignment in at the end of class instead of at the beginning may seem trivial at the time, but the 5 points you will lose may be the difference between a B and a C.

**CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:** Students are expected to contribute to an environment appropriate for learning that considers and respects the needs and rights of others. Students are asked to refrain from disruptive conversations, to come to class on time, and to stay until the class is dismissed. Students who persist in disruptive behavior will be asked to leave. iPads, tablets, phones, PDAs, etc. must be turned off and newspapers and other reading materials put away. Laptops may be used for note taking with the instructor’s permission.

**DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER:** "Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) is located in the Communications building room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations. For students: If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the DRC at 409-880-8347 or [drc@lamar.edu](mailto:drc@lamar.edu) to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the DRC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations. If you are registered with DRC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course."

**ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:** At a MINIMUM, any evidence of cheating on exams, quizzes or assignments will earn an automatic zero for all involved on the exam, quiz or assignment in question. It is expected that students will adhere to Lamar University’s Academic Honesty Policy or face failure and subsequent disciplinary action. The Academic Honesty can be viewed at: <http://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/academic-policies.html>

**CHANGES TO SYLLABUS:** This syllabus and/or lecture schedule may be modified or changed as necessary. Students will be notified of the changes in class.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:** As we begin this semester, I want to take a few minutes and discuss emergency preparedness. Lamar is a very safe campus and there is a low probability that a serious incident will occur here. However, we want to emphasize our emergency procedures for evacuation and shelter in place incidents. Our preparedness will be critical IF an unexpected event occurs! Instructions for specific emergencies, such as severe weather, chemical release, active shooter, or fire can be found at: <http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html>  
Here are some simple things you should do in the event an emergency occurs during our class.

- Always follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel
- If told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- If told to shelter-in-place, find a room, in the center of the building with few windows, on the lowest level of the building.
- If told to lockdown, lock and barricade the door if possible. Turn off the lights and wait for police to arrive.

**EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at: <http://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html> Following are procedures for the first two:

**Severe Weather:**

- Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.
- Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.
- If you are in a multi-story building, and you cannot get to the lowest floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.
- Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

**Violence/Active Shooter (CADD):**

- CALL - 8-3-1-1 from a campus phone (880-8311 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 9-1-1 from either a campus phone or cell phone will contact Beaumont City Police Dispatch rather than University Police.
- AVOID- If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.
- DENY- Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.
- DEFEND- Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Date	Day	Week	Topics	Readings
8/29	Tuesday	1	<b>NO CLASS – HARVEY</b>	None
8/31	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – HARVEY</b>	None
9/5	Tuesday	2	<b>NO CLASS – HARVEY</b>	None
9/7	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – HARVEY</b>	None
9/12	Tuesday	3	1. Review of syllabus 2. Explanation of final paper 3. Lecture: Introduction to Urban Geography	None
9/14	Thursday		1. Lecture: Early Cities	None
9/19	Tuesday	4	1. Lecture Quiz 2. Lecture: Migration and Immigration 3. <b>HURRICANE HARVEY PAPER DUE</b>	None
9/21	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS FOR TUESDAY</b>	
9/26	Tuesday	5	1. Lecture and Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Migration and Immigration I: Focus on US Cities	Prologue and Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4, Ehrenhalt Article, Smajda and Gerteis Article, Preston
9/28	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS AND WATCH DOCUMENTARY</b>	
10/3	Tuesday	6	1. Reading Quiz 2. Explanation of observation paper 3. Discussion: Migration and Immigration II: Focus on non-US Cities	Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 and 9, Saunders Documentary: <i>Dubai: A City of Dreams</i>
10/5	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS FOR TUESDAY AND THINK ABOUT OBSERVATION PAPER TOPICS</b>	
10/10	Tuesday	7	1. Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Observing and Experiencing Cities 3. Discussion: Observation Paper Topics	Chapter 1 Section 3, Gehl Article, Degen et al.
10/12	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS FOR TUESDAY</b>	
10/17	Tuesday	8	1. Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Fear and the City	Article, Staples Article, Kern Article, Ohikware
10/19	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS FOR TUESDAY</b>	
10/24	Tuesday	9	1. Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Bodies and Sexuality: Disabled, Homeless, and LGBT experiences in the City	Article, Nonko Article, Wasserman and Clair Article, Farber
10/26	Thursday		<b>OBSERVATION PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS</b>	
10/31	Tuesday	10	1. Lecture: White Flight, Discriminatory Housing Practices, and Environmental Racism	None
11/2	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS AND WATCH DOCUMENTARY</b>	
11/7	Tuesday	11	1. Lecture and Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: White Flight, Discriminatory Housing Practices, and Environmental Racism	Article, Eligion Article, Semuels Documentary: <i>The Pruitt-Igoe Myth</i>
11/9	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS FOR TUESDAY</b>	
11/14	Tuesday	12	1. Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Food and the City	Chapters 1, 5, 6, 11, 13 and 14, Cockrall-King Article, Singh
11/16	Thursday		1. Lecture: Environmental Challenges <b>ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE</b>	None
11/21	Tuesday	13	<b>NO CLASS – COMPLETE READINGS FOR TUESDAY</b>	

11/23	Thursday		<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING</b>	
11/28	Tuesday	14	1. Lecture and Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Environmental Challenges	Article, Schulz Article, Schiavenza Article, Barry
11/30	Thursday		1. Reading Quiz 2. Discussion: Events and Cities	Article, Fan Article, Applebaum Article, Izadi
12/5	Tuesday	15	<b>RESEARCH PAPER DUE</b>	

READINGS (you need to be prepared to discuss the readings and take the quiz on the give day):

**Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> – Migration and Immigration I: Focus on US Cities**

Ehrenhalt, A. 2012. ‘A backward glance,’ in *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City*, pp. 22-40. Random House, New York.

Ehrenhalt, A. 2012. ‘A neighborhood in Chicago,’ in *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City*, pp. 416-4. Random House, New York.

Ehrenhalt, A. 2012. ‘Re-creation in New York,’ in *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City*, pp. 65-90. Random House, New York.

Smajda, J. and J. Gerteis. 2012. Ethnic community and ethnic boundaries in a “sauce-scented neighborhood,” *Sociological Forum*, 27(3): 617-640.

Preston, J. “Ailing Midwestern cities extend a welcoming hand to immigrants,” *The New York Times*, October 6, 2013.

**Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Migration and Immigration II: Focus on Non-US Cities**

Saunders, D. 2011. ‘On the edge of the city,’ in *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in the History is Reshaping Our World*, pp. 5-36. Vintage Books, New York.

Saunders, D. 2011. ‘Outside in: The lives of the new city,’ in *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in the History is Reshaping Our World*, pp. 37-75. Vintage Books, New York.

Saunders, D. 2011. ‘Arriving at the top of the pyramid,’ in *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in the History is Reshaping Our World*, pp. 76-100. Vintage Books, New York.

Saunders, D. 2011. ‘The urbanization of the village,’ in *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in the History is Reshaping Our World*, pp. 101-129. Vintage Books, New York.

Saunders, D. 2011. ‘Arrival’s end: mud floor to middle class,’ in *Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in the History is Reshaping Our World*, pp. 261-288. Vintage Books, New York.

Documentary: *Dubai: A City of Dreams* [http://www.amazon.com/Dubai-City-Dreams-RobertTutak/dp/B007MFJDJU/ref=tmm\\_aiv\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](http://www.amazon.com/Dubai-City-Dreams-RobertTutak/dp/B007MFJDJU/ref=tmm_aiv_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

## **Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – Observing and Experiencing Cities**

Gehl, J. 2010. 'The city as meeting place,' in *Cities for People*, pp. 19-29. Island Press, Washington.

Degen, M., C. De Silvey, and G. Rose. 2008. Experiencing visualities in designed urban environments: learning from Milton Keynes, *Environment and Planning A*, 40(8): 1901 – 1920.

## **Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Fear and the City**

Staples, B. 1986. Just walk on by: A black man ponders his power to alter public space (first published as Black men in public space). *Ms. Magazine*.

Kern, L. Selling the 'scary city': gendering freedom, fear and condominium development in the neoliberal city, *Social & Cultural Geography*, 11(3): 209-230.

Ohikuare, J. "An App to Help Women Avoid Street Harassment," *The Atlantic*, September 13, 2013.

## **Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> – Bodies and Sexuality: Disabled, Homeless, and LGBT Experiences in the City**

Nonko, E. "How Wheelchair Accessibility Ramped Up," *The Atlantic*, June 22, 2017.

Wasserman, J. A. and J. M. Clair. 2011. 'Housing patterns of homeless people: the ecology of the street in the era of urban renewal', *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 40(1): 71-101.

Farber, J. "How 'Gay' Should a Gay Bar Be?" *The New York Times*, June 24, 2017.

## **Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – White Flight, Discriminatory Housing Practices, and Environmental Racism**

Eligion, J. "A Question of Environmental Racism in Flint," *The New York Times*. January 21, 2016.

Samuels, A. "How to Decimate a City," *The Atlantic*. November 20, 2015.

Documentary: Freidrichs, C. 2012. *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*. [https://www.amazon.com/Pruitt-Igoe-Myth-SylvesterBrown/dp/B016VEHHTA/ref=tmm\\_aiv\\_swatch\\_1?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=](https://www.amazon.com/Pruitt-Igoe-Myth-SylvesterBrown/dp/B016VEHHTA/ref=tmm_aiv_swatch_1?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=)

## **Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> – Food and the City**

Cockrall-King, J. 2012. 'The façade of the modern grocery store,' in *Food and the City*, pp. 23-31. Prometheus Books, New York.

Cockrall-King, J. 2012. 'The new food movement and the rise of urban agriculture,' in *Food and the City*, pp. 73-80. Prometheus Books, New York.

Cockrall-King, J. 2012. 'Paris: The roots of modern urban agriculture,' in *Food and the City*, pp. 81-105. Prometheus Books, New York.

Cockrall-King, J. 2012. 'Milwaukee: Growing a social revolution,' in *Food and the City*, pp. 227-239. Prometheus Books, New York.

Cockrall-King, J. 2012. 'Chicago: The vertical farm,' in *Food and the City*, pp. 263-282. Prometheus Books, New York.

Cockrall-King, J. 2012. 'Cuba: Urban agriculture on a national scale,' in *Food and the City*, pp. 283-306. Prometheus Books, New York.

Singh, M. "Why a Philadelphia grocery chain is thriving in food deserts," *NPR*, May 14, 2015.

### **Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> – Environmental Challenges**

Schulz, K. “The really big one,” *The New Yorker*, July 20, 2015.

Schiavenza, M. “Why earthquakes in China are so damaging,” *The Atlantic*, July 25, 2013.

Barry, E. “Smog Chokes Delhi, Leaving Residents ‘Cowering by Our Air Purifiers,’” *The New York Times*, November 7, 2016.

### **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Cities and Events**

Fan, M., ‘As Olympics near, many Chinese homes face wrecking ball: worry, waiting for residents in key city areas,’ *Washington Post*, July 16, 2008.

Applebaum, B. ‘Does hosting the Olympics actually pay off?’ *The New York Times*, August 5, 2014.

Izadi, E. ‘Austin’s weird festival-based economy,’ *The Atlantic*, October 2, 2013.