



Geography 365v Urban Geography Spring Term, 2020

Course Location:	Breland Hall 185
Meeting Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am
Instructor:	Dr. Christopher Brown
Office:	Breland Hall, Room 149
Office Telephone:	505-646-1892
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Office Hours:	Dr. Brown (BD 149) - Monday , 1:30-3:00 pm, Tuesday, 3-4pm, Wednesday, 2-3pm & by appt. Cory Dorn (BD 142) - Office hours, Wednesday, 1-2pm, and Tuesday and Thursday, noon-1pm.

Required textbooks and materials: The following required textbooks are available through the Barnes and Noble NMSU Bookstore, the off-campus bookstore, and on-line vendors like <http://www.amazon.com> and <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>. The Kaplan, Wheeler, and Holloway book is also on reserve in Zuhl Library, and e-versions and rentals of this book can be obtained at the above book sellers.

- Kaplan, Wheeler, & Holloway, 2014. *Urban Geography, Third Edition*, John Wiley and Sons: New York, NY.
- Strunk, W. & E.B. White. *The Elements of Style*. Longman Publishers. (Any edition).

Course description and objectives ~ This course focuses on the origins and geographies of cities in various regions of the world. We also explore the manner by which historical, economic, social, and political forces impact the spatial structure and functions of a city. The structure of a city is an outcome of the dynamic process of development and urbanization, and we will examine these important spatial processes in detail. We also examine globalization and explore how this process impacts cities, both in the developed and developing world. Lastly, we explore other spatial processes that impact cities & their residents.

The class has several learning objectives, as noted below. At the end of class, you will be able to:

- Define the concept of a city and describe the historical trajectories by which cities have developed,
- Discuss in detail the spatial structure of cities in the developed and developing world,
- Define and explore the processes of informationalization, globalization, migration, and transportation, specifically how these processes impact cities' structure & functions,
- Explore the spatial processes of development and how it impacts urban areas, and

- Demonstrate an improved ability to engage in critical thinking and writing about issues of importance dealing with urban areas and the people that live in them.

“Canvas” & Web support for this class- This class is offered as a "Web-supported" class, which means that we meet "live and in color" twice a week like a traditional class, but all of your assignments and other helpful material is served through the “Canvas" learning management program, (<http://learn.nmsu.edu>). Aside from this syllabus and a detailed course outline which I share with you on Day One (which are also available on line), **all other materials and assignments are provided to you via the Web and Canvas.** You will also turn in your Hot Topic Papers through the Assignments Tool in Canvas.

NOTE: Although I DO use the “Announcements” tool in Canvas as a means to post news blasts to students, I take email at my campus email address, brownchr@nmsu.edu. Please use my NMSU EMAIL address if you want to contact me. Also, if take your mail at a non-NMSU EMAIL address, NMSU policy requires that email sent to your NMSU EMAIL address is forwarded to this off-campus address.

Team Based Learning - Educational research indicates that more active classroom experiences are more effective at facilitating learning.... and more rewarding. An excellent tool by which active learning can be advanced is Team Based Learning, in which students do much of their work in teams. Within teams, students also take an active role in determining how work is to be weighted towards a final grade. Working in teams is a very common model by which people work in numerous professions, and the experience you gain in a team-learning environment will benefit you in the professional workplace. Remind me to tell a story about this! We will employ this model on in-class quizzes and the group problem solving exercises; more detail will be provided as the term progresses.

Grading and evaluation ~ People both learn and are able to demonstrate their mastery of material in different ways. I offer a range of class activities by which I share information and evaluate student performance, including in-class and out-of-class activities and formal versus informal ones. Final grades are based on a “90/80/70/60” classification of the percentage of the total possible points that are earned by the student.

NOTE - NMSU deploys a differential grading system, whereby +/- grades earn more or less GPA points than a straight grade of A/B/C/D. Please note I use this “+/-“ grading scheme in my classes. The following link provides detail on how this grading system generates the GPA points students will receive for the grade they earn in class, subject to the weighting scheme detailed below:

- <https://catalogs.nmsu.edu/nmsu/regulations-policies/#newitemtext>

Weights of assignments and exams on the final class grade	
Two hourly exams	20% of final grade
Final Exam (Tuesday, 7 May 2019, from 10:30am-12:30pm)	15% of final grade
Written “Hot Topic” Papers (n=2)	20% of final grade

Individual Readiness Assessment Tests (RATS); n=8	15% of final grade
Group Exercises (students weight how different elements count!)	30% of final grade

“Hot Topic Papers” are to be computer-generated, typewritten, or word-processed, and turned in on time!!! If you have a legitimate excuse for a University sanctioned activity or work-related event that causes work to be turned in late, please advise me **in advance**, turn in the work **prior** to the due date, and attach written documentation. Work coming in late due to illness also needs written documentation attached. Work turned in late for other reasons will be **grudgingly** accepted; however, 10% will be deducted for each day the assignment is late. If you have a scheduling conflict that causes you to either arrive late or leave early, please advise me of this ahead of time; otherwise, please show me and other students the courtesy of being on time and "enjoying the whole show."

Make-up policy on missed in-class work - Students who miss in-class work for acceptable, documented reasons must provide written documentation to receive credit for these exercises. Readiness Assessment Tests (RATs) are short quizzes that start out every module to gauge how prepared students are for the upcoming module. Because of the dynamic nature of RATs and the quick turnaround by which I return graded work, **STUDENTS MUST TAKE RAT's THAT THEY MISS BEFORE THE NEXT CLASS -PERIOD!!!** This means it is students' responsibility to contact me promptly to schedule a time to take the RAT **PRIOR** to these quizzes being turned back in class during the next class session; this can even be **RIGHT** before the next class session. If students miss Group Discussion Exercises for legitimate reasons, they will need to provide documentation on why class was missed, and write and turn in a 2-page write-up of the exercise in question to get credit.

NOTE ON WITHDRAWALS AND INCOMPLETES - **Withdrawals from this course are solely students' responsibility; I will not withdraw or drop students from this class UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.** If you "want out of here like the place is on fire," you must drop the class; students still on the course roll at the end of the class will be issued grades based solely on work completed. Incomplete grades will not be given except in the case of extraordinary situations related to serious illness, bereavement, or personal crises. Documentation will be required in these limited cases; incompletes will be granted solely at my discretion.

Academic Integrity - As stated in the NMSU Student Academic Code of Conduct, "Students at NMSU are expected to observe and maintain the highest academic, ethical, and professional standards of conduct, which requires honesty in all academic matters." I expect all work submitted in this class to represent each student's own individual efforts, and any student found guilty of cheating or plagiarism will be subject to the strictest disciplinary action, including issuance of a failing grade. As stated in the NMSU Student Code of Conduct, plagiarism is defined as follows:

“Plagiarism is using another person's work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one's own. Any ideas, words, pictures, or other source must be acknowledged in a citation that gives credit to the source. This is true no matter where the material comes from, including the internet, other student's work, unpublished materials, or oral sources. Intentional and unintentional instances of

plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the student submitting the work in question to know, understand, and comply with this policy” (NMSU Student Code of Conduct 2020).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the honesty or integrity of work being done by you or a classmate, please feel free to talk to me. **NOTE - NMSU has recently purchased “Turn-It-In,” a Web-based tool that allows instructors to detect and document plagiarism. I will be using the tool to review your papers, and additional detail is provided in the Hot Topic Paper assignments.** Further information concerning the University's Code of Conduct and plagiarism can be found at the following NMSU Websites:

- <http://deanofstudents.nmsu.edu/student-handbook/1-student-code-of-conduct/3-academic-misconduct.html>
- <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>

Expectations and responsibilities ~ I see university teaching as a contract between me and students, who I believe are at university because they wish to learn and gain mastery of course materials. Think of me as a kind of tour guide; I provide opportunities for you to learn, and the rest is up to you. I see you all as adults, will treat you with respect, and ask you to show the same respect to me and other students. I am particularly keen that we enhance our acceptance of diversity, especially concerning, but not limited to, gender, ethnicity, and gender orientation. I agree to prepare clear and well-structured materials; to work hard at presenting material and helping students to master the material; to be accessible for students to get assistance and feedback; and to evaluate students' work fairly and rigorously. In exchange, I ask you to attend class, do the required work, and be engaged and participate in class activities. “You paid your money; jump right in and enjoy the show!”

Workload and study habits ~ Success in university classes requires attendance, participation in class activities, and regular work outside of class. As a rule, expect to put in approximately two hours of outside work (reading, review, completion of regular assignments, and preparing for exams) for every hour of formal class time. I also suggest regularly reviewing lecture notes, readings, and assignments to avoid "falling behind," which will cause problems in meeting class requirements. Setting aside 15 minutes after each class period to look over notes, the text reading, and the slides posted on the Web, is a good way to stay on top of things.

Disabilities and discrimination issues - I subscribe to and support university policy on students with disabilities that have special needs in meeting class requirements. Students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities are encouraged to contact the office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS) concerning issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please meet with me to discuss this at the earliest opportunity. For more information about programs and services available, including academic accommodations for students with disabilities, contact the SAS office at <http://sas.nmsu.edu/> or 646-6840. If you have a condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from the premises

