



# Geography 365v Urban Geography Spring Term, 2022

Course Location:	Breland 185, we are back to F2F classes – How cool is this?!
Meeting Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am
Instructor:	Dr. Christopher Brown
Office:	Breland 149
Office Telephone:	505-646-1892
EMAIL:	<a href="mailto:brownchr@nmsu.edu">brownchr@nmsu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Brown (BD 149) - Monday/Wednesday, 9-10am, Tuesday/Thursday, 4:30-5:30pm, &amp; by appt.</li><li>• TA = TA = Hardt Bergman (BD 140 and in Zoom), Tuesdays, from 2-5 pm, hybrid. Zoom link will be in Canvas.</li></ul>

**NMSU COVID-19 policy** - per the 8.10.21 memo from Ruth A. Johnston, Vice Chancellor, "Students will be expected to wear a mask at all times while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Students will also be required to agree to the updated Crimson Commitment at the start of the semester (which loads as you login to Looking Glass), so this expectation should be clear to all students." Current policy is that all students attending F2F classes are either vaccinated or provide negative COVID test results on a weekly basis via the [VaxTrax](#) site. I also ask that you view the [Crimson Commitment video](#), read the [COVID-19 Expectations and the Crimson Commitment document](#), and abide by the commitment. If you are not willing to get vaccinated or submit weekly negative COVID test results, and comply with this commitment, please register for a class that does not meet F2F. We're all in this together, let's stay safe!

**Required textbooks and materials:** The following required textbooks are available through the Follette NMSU Bookstore, the off-campus bookstore, and on-line vendors like <http://www.amazon.com> and <http://www.barnesandnoble.com/>. E-versions and rentals of these book can be obtained at the above book sellers. Please use whatever format suits you best.

- 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 processes 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 locations, & 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 from various statistical and historical perspectives;
- Analyze how the historical formation of cities affects their form and function;
- Relate how the spatial processes of globalization, migration, transportation, informationalization, and development impact form and function of urban areas;
- Articulate how cultural and economic landscapes of cities impact residents and their quality of life;
- Conduct library research on key concepts from class and articulate your results through clear and concise writing; and
- Synthesize research findings to solve contemporary real-world problems in urban areas.

**Web Support for this class** - This class is offered as a "Web-supported" class, which means that we meet "live and in color" as in a traditional class, but course notes, relevant literature, assignments, and other helpful material will be provided on the Web via Canvas ([learn.nmsu.edu](https://learn.nmsu.edu)). Aside from this syllabus, a course schedule, and some miscellaneous materials I provide the first day in class (all of which are also available in Canvas), most other materials and assignments are provided to you via Canvas. You will also turn in your Hot Topic Papers through the Assignments Tool in Canvas, and make postings on Team Exercises in Canvas Discussions. **NOTE - NMSU policy may mandate that we pivot to 100% online delivery as the Omicron variant surge continues. I REALLY hope we do not need to do this, but if we do, I am ready to move our class meetings to Zoom sessions.**

**NOTE: Although I DO use the "Announcements" tool in Canvas to post news blasts to students, I take email at my campus email address, [brownchr@nmsu.edu](mailto: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 non-NMSU address. Given the fluidity of our COVID-19 challenges and situation, it is critical that you receive and check your email regularly.**

**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 team 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. (see item in Canvas → Front Matter for how % points → grades).

**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>

The specific weights that various exercises are worth are noted in the table below, and note, **YOU** will set the weights the team exercises we do are worth. More detail provided in separate document posted to Canvas.

Weights of assignments and exams on the final class grade	
Individual exercises – 70% of final grade	
Two hourly exams	20% of final grade
Final Exam (Held 3 May 2022, details to be provided)	15% of final grade
Written “Hot Topic Papers” (n=2)	20% of final grade
Individual Readiness Assessment Tests (RATS); n=8	13% of final grade
Class participation surveys	2% of final grade
Team Exercises – 30% of final grade ( <u>YOU</u> decide how different elements count!)	
Team RATs (TRATs)	<u>YOU</u> decide
Team Discussion Exercises	<u>YOU</u> decide
Peer Evaluations	<u>YOU</u> decide

**“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 provide written documentation. Work coming in late due to illness also needs written documentation. Work turned in late for other reasons will be **grudgingly** accepted; however, 10% will be deducted from the score that you earn. 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 Team 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 (yes, this include COVID), 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 Undergraduate Catalog, "Students at NMSU are expected to observe and maintain the highest academic, ethical, and professional standards of conduct." I expect all individual work submitted in this class to represent your 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 for the class. NMSU has purchased "[Turnitin](#)," a plagiarism detection tool, and I will deploy this on all written exercises. As stated by the NMSU Student Code of Conduct, plagiarism is defined as follows:

“Plagiarism is the use of 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. The prohibition of plagiarism applies irrespective of the origin of the material, including the Internet, another person’s work, unpublished materials, or oral sources. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct.” ([NMSU Student Code of Conduct 2018](#)). Please note – direct quotes must be set within quotation marks, with page(s) # noted; direct quotes should also be **very** limited in number and length.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the honesty or integrity of work being done by you or a classmate, please contact me. Further information concerning the University's Code of Conduct can be found at the URL noted above. Further information on plagiarism can be found at the [NMSU Library Website](#).

**Expectations and responsibilities** ~ I see university teaching as a contract between me and you, who I believe are at university because you wish to learn. 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 identity and orientation. I agree to prepare clear and well-structured materials; to work hard at presenting material and helping you master the

material; to be accessible for you to get assistance and feedback; and to evaluate your work fairly and rigorously. In exchange, I ask you to attend class, do the required work, 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 slide decks, 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.

**Students with disabilities and discrimination issues** - I subscribe to and fully support university policy on students with disabilities and special needs in meeting class requirements. Students with physical, psychological, or learning disabilities are encouraged to contact the office of [Disability Access Services](#) (DAS) 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 soon. For more information about the programs and services available, including academic accommodations for students with disabilities, contact the office of DAS, at 646-6840, [das@nmsu.edu](mailto:das@nmsu.edu), or at [das.nmsu.edu/](http://das.nmsu.edu/). Also, if you have a medical condition which may affect your ability to exit safely from class in an emergency or which may cause an emergency during class, please advise me of this at the earliest opportunity. All information shared with me in this area will be treated confidentially.

**Supporting a safe learning environment** - NMSU policy prohibits discrimination based on age, ancestry, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, gender, spousal affiliation, and protected veteran's status. Furthermore, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. I fully support and abide by these policies to support a work and study environment free of harassment and discrimination. Laura Castille, Director of NMSU's Office of Institutional Equity, can be contacted at 575-646-2446, or [castille@nmsu.edu](mailto:castille@nmsu.edu), with any questions you may have about NMSU's Non-Discrimination Policy or concerns you have related to discrimination or harassment.

**Seeking help and access to faculty** - If you feel that you are having difficulty keeping up with class assignments or understanding material we are covering, please see me **as soon as possible!!!** Falling behind due to problems with time management, personal issues, study habits, or concepts you are having trouble mastering will pose problems in earning a passing grade for the class. I am very willing to help you, but I need to hear from you if you are having difficulty. Please note the office hours posted at the beginning of the syllabus. If you cannot make these regularly scheduled hours, please contact me via EMAIL or phone to make an appointment.



