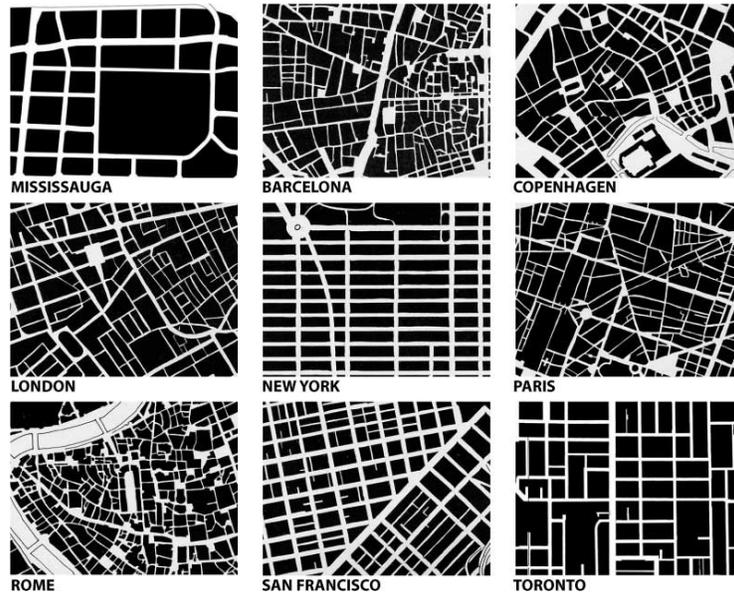


GEO 420 Urban Morphology

Geographies of Idealism



DETAILS

Spring 2016
Mondays & Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:45
Building D Room 206

Sig Langegger PhD
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DESCRIPTION

Cities are time machines. By solidifying abstract concepts into patterns of land use, as concrete webs of transportation infrastructure, and within the bricks, steel, and glass of architecture cities embody and give form to esoteric ideologies. The permanence of the built environment allows these concretized ideas to travel into the future, to our present. This course takes a close look at urban morphology allowing students to better understand various ideologies as they travel through time. Throughout the semester we will grapple with big ideas. And we will consider how they produced specific urban environments. For example, we will consider, how mercantilism made Copenhagen, how colonialism shaped cities like Nairobi and Ho Chi Men City, how capitalism impacted the morphologies of New York and Detroit, how racism splits cities like Chicago and Johannesburg, and how neoliberalism is remaking cities like London and Mumbai.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Have gained insight into how big ideas drive spatial development.
2. Be conversant with the central premises of these big ideas.
3. Be comfortable using geographic terminology in written and verbal communication.
4. Have achieved a high degree of competence in urban morphology.
5. Have become comfortable presenting and discussing complex ideas in a seminar setting.
6. Be able to think, write, and argue critically about ideology and urban morphology.
7. Have developed a geographic imagination, itself a comprehension of how people and places interact, conflict, and align in shaping the shared destinies that follow.

READING

Each week we will carefully read a journal article, a book chapter, as well as topically relevant selections from investigative journalism. Students will find all readings posted in PDF format on AIMS.

ASSESSMENT

Class Format

This is an intensive reading, writing, and discussion class. Each week will pivot two points a lecture and a seminar. At the beginning of the week I will introduce the ideas and the cities they made which lays the theoretical and contextual formation for the seminar discussion to follow. Weekly seminars will be based around student presentations of their response papers. This type of format depends upon continual engagement of both professor and students. Each seminar discussion will be led by a student (Each students will lead one seminar) who will give a synopsis of the reading outline their argument of assent or dissent and then begin a general debate. All students are expected to contribute to the ensuing discussion.

Response Papers

Length: each response paper must be between 500 and 750 words.

<u>Weekly Paper</u>	<u>3 points</u>
14 Weeks	42 points

Response papers must accomplish two tasks. First, they must adequately summarize the main points and arguments presented by the author. Second, they must critically engage with the author's central argument. In other words, if you agree with the central tenants of the piece you must, using lecture

content, contemporary or historical examples, scholarly literature, or journalism, state convincingly why you agree. If you disagree with the author, you must offer a convincing critical counter argument, one based on lecture content, scholarly literature, contemporary or historical examples, or journalism.

Each paper must have a solid introduction, a logically organized body and a conclusion summarizing the argument of assent or dissent.

The grading rubric I use to assess response papers is posted on AIMS.

Final Exam

The final exam, primarily an essay exam, will cover material presented in lectures as well as ideas germinated during seminar discussions.

Course Assessment Breakdown

Scholarly Debate

Engagement in Seminars	20
Leading a Seminar	5
Total Possible	25 points

Writing

Response Papers	42
Total Possible	42 points

Knowledge Acquisition

Final Exam	33
Total Possible	33 points

Course Assessment

Scholarly Debate	25
Writing	42
Final Exam	33
Total Possible	100 points

ASSESSMENT POLICIES

Format Requirements

All written assignments must include the following in the upper left corner of the first page: Student's name, student ID number, assignment name, and due date. All assignments must be formatted in the following manner: double spaced, font size of 11 or 12 point, standard margins, and an indented first line for each paragraph.

Submission Requirements

Unless otherwise instructed, students are expected to submit written assignments on the AIMS platform. I will only accept Word (.doc or .docx)

or PDF (.pdf) formats. All files submitted must be saved in the following manner: Student Name_Assignment Name.docx. I expect assignments to be submitted via AIMS on time. Assignments due in class must be turned in at the beginning of class. I reserve the right to deduct points for late submissions and I reserve the right to determine the percentage to be deducted.

Makeup work

Aside from exceptional situations, there will be no chance to make up missed exams or quizzes or turn assignments in past their due day/time. Proof of an exceptional situation must be submitted to me in writing and signed by the appropriate authority within 24 hours of the beginning of the missed exam. I reserve the right to define an exceptional situation and furthermore to make all final decisions relating to amending, redoing, or making up late, incomplete, or not-completed work.

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and may lead to failure on an assignment, failing the class, and possibly dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for being observant of and attentive to Akita International University's policies about academic honesty.

Attendance

This course is not an online or distance course—being in class matters! Learning is an ongoing process; one that builds upon previously acquired insights and skills. Consistent and engaged attendance is vital for success in this and all college courses. I will sanction attendance by tracking assignments and random roll calls. I reserve the right to deal with or exceptional or extended absences, on a case-by-case basis.

Special Needs

If you require accommodations, please alert me of your needs on the first day of class so that I can work within Akita International University policies to adequately provide them.

Civility & Classroom Decorum

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc. during class. Speaking on cell phones, texting, or using electronic equipment in any way that is not directly related to class (i.e. taking notes, using a translation program during lectures, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

Student Participation

Learning is a participatory process; therefore student contribution to class is important. This course is based in large measure on critical thinking and class discussion. Disagreement is part of these processes. Colleagues can disagree *and* maintain respect for each other and one another's views. I insist that we strive to learn from the differences that manifest while debating the merit of theoretical and empirical evidence by maintaining an atmosphere of civility during discussion. I will sanction participation by tracking of individual student contribution to the in-class learning environment.

SCHEDULE

Week 1	Urban Geography
April 8	Lecture
April 10	Lecture
Reading	
Week 2	Urban Morphology
April 8	Lecture
April 10	Lecture
Reading	
Week 3	Medieval European Mercantilism
April 13	Lecture
April 15	Seminar
Cities	Hannover & Copenhagen
Reading	
Week 4	Colonialism in Africa
April 20	Lecture
April 22	Seminar
Cities	Algiers & Nairobi
Reading	
Week 5	Colonialism in Asia
April 27	Lecture
April 29	Seminar
Cities	Singapore & Ho Chi Men City
Reading	
Week 6	Anarchism
April 27	Lecture
April 29	Seminar
Cities	Barcelona & Paris
Reading	

Week 7	Capitalism
May 4	Lecture
May 6	Seminar
Cities	New York & Los Angeles
Reading	
Week 8	Capitalism
May 4	Lecture
May 6	Seminar
Cities	Cincinnati & Detroit
Reading	
Week 9	Fascism
May 11	Lecture
May 13	Seminar
Cities	Berlin & Yokohama
Reading	
Week 10	Racism
May 18	Lecture
May 20	Seminar
Cities	New Orleans & Washington DC
Reading	
Week 11	Racism
May 18	Lecture
May 20	Seminar
Cities	Chicago & Johannesburg
Reading	
Week 12	Communism
May 25	Lecture
May 27	Seminar
Cities	Beijing & Ho Chi Men City
Reading	
Week 13	Neoliberalism
June 1	Lecture
June 3	Seminar
Cities	London & Toronto
Reading	
Week 14	Neoliberalism
June 8	Lecture
June 10	Seminar
Cities	New Delhi & Bangalore
Reading	

Week 15

June 15

June 17

Cities

Reading

Anarchism

Lecture

Seminar

Ho Chi Men City & Tokyo

Week 16

June 22

June 24

Cities

Reading

Anarchism

Lecture

Seminar

Kansas City & Oakland