

URBAN GEOGRAPHY

Instructor: Dr. Elisa Ravazzoli

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Office hours: Monday 10.15-11.15, Room 2.16, Second floor (on appointment)

Period: first semester (**Sem. IB**): Monday 8:30 -10:10, Aula 1.2 e Friday 15:10 – 18:30, Aula SPA.

Website:

Attendance: not mandatory

Prerequisites: none

Total number of credits: 6

Teaching activity: 36 hours

Course purpose: The course presents some of the major categories and concept uses in urban geography and explores the phenomena, processes and main urban problems that characterize our society, revealing the critical role of geographical knowledge both for the analysis and interpretation of the city and its issues, as well as for supporting urban policy and planning decisions.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of this course students will be expected to:

1. *Understand* the urban geography main concepts necessary to understand the city and its urban processes (Class 1);
2. *Recognize* the character of the urbanization process, distinguish different city urban forms, as well as distinguish and compare the characters of historical and contemporary cities (Class 2)
3. *Describe* the complex system of economic, social, infrastructure and cultural forces determining urban development processes and shaping the city (class 3);
4. *Explain* the internal structure of the city, the interactions within cities (e.g. center-periphery) as well as the interaction between different cities and urban systems(e.g. city networks) (Class 4/class 5)
5. *Explain* the importance of the environmental dimension and the presence of high-quality public spaces (Class 6/ Class 7);
6. *Recognize* and analyze some urban phenomena including suburbanization, gentrification and spatial segregation (Class 8 / Class 9);
7. *Recognize* the characteristics of urban policies and their implications in social and environmental terms (class 11 / class 12);
8. *Understand* how to use the operational tools suitable for the investigation of city and urban phenomena (Lesson 6 / Lesson 10)
9. *Connect* geographical concepts to reality (Lesson 13).

Learning activities and exercises: The course is based on the active involvement of students' in-group activities: Additionally to traditional lectures, several types of group activities will be performed: group debates, scenario building, case studies, concept maps, practical exercises, group presentation.

Final Exam: The final exam consist of an oral exam based on the discussion of the of required texts, and materials provided in the classroom, and in the delivery of a written paper in which the student will apply the methodological tools provided during the course. The scope of the paper is to analyze an urban problem / urban phenomenon / urban process using as a case study the city of Verona.

Grading and evaluation: for students who attend classes, the final grade is based on the oral exam (50%), on the quality of the paper delivered (25%) and on active participation during group activities in class (25%). For students who do not attend classes, the final grade is based on the oral exam (60%) and on the delivery of the paper (40%). Please contact the instructor to get more information.

Course schedule, topic and materials:

Day	Topic
Class 1	Introduction to concepts of urban geography The role of the urban geographer
Material	- <i>Definizioni di città: concetti e teorie nella geografia urbana</i> , Geografia dell'urbano - <i>Il caleidoscopio urbano</i> , Le città del mondo
Learning activity	Debate: what interests you more about cities? What would you like to know about cities in particular?
Class 2	The cities from medieval time until today Demographic growth and urbanization Cities urban forms
Material	- <i>Le forme della crescita urbana in Europa</i> , Geografia dell'urbano; - <i>Il fenomeno urbano e le città contemporanee</i> , Geografia dell'urbano; - <i>Valori del suolo, trasporti e forma urbana</i> , Le città del mondo, pp. 184-188
Learning activity	Debate: does exists an optimal dimension of the city? Scenario building: what is the future of the rural landscape? Will it disappear?
Class 3	Economy, Society and Urban change The culture and the city
Material	- <i>Economia, società e cambiamento urbano</i> , Geografia dell'urbano; - <i>La città contemporanea di fronte al cultural turn</i> , Geografia dell'urbano; - <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Case study: New York Debate: material vs immaterial cities
Class 4	Urban functions
Material	- <i>Funzioni e crescita delle città</i> , Le città del mondo - <i>Valori del suolo, trasporti e forma urbana</i> , Le città del mondo
Learning activity	Case study: Atlantic Avenue, New York
Class 5	Urban hierarchies Urban aggregated/ the sprawling city Urban territorial system and city networks
Material	- <i>Sistemi territoriali urbani e reti di città</i> , Le città del mondo - <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Concept map: relation between urban gerarchies and urban systems
Class 6	Describe and analyze the city: methods, approaches and tools
Material	- <i>Descrivere la città: metodologie, metodi e tecniche</i> , Geografia dell'urbano

	- <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Practical exercise: qualitative and quantitative methods Practical exercise: cartographic analysis
Class 7	The city, the environment and the landscape City public spaces
Material	- <i>Ambiente e paesaggio</i> , Le città del mondo - <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Documentary: "The social life of Small Urban Spaces" di Whilliam H. White, 1980 Case study: public spaces of New York vs Buenos Aires vs Stoccolma Debate: public spaces in contemporary cities Practical exercise: public space analysis
Class 8	The urban problems: cities' peripheries
Material	- <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Case study: urban peripheries in comparison Debate: which future for Italian peripheries? Desolation or renewal?
Class 9	Urban regeneration and Gentrification Socio and spatial segregation Suburbanization
Material	- <i>Popolazioni urbana</i> , Le città del mondo (p. 200-213) - <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Debate: gentrified city vs segregated city Debate: pro e contra of urban regeneration
Class 10	Describe and analyze urban phenomena: data collection and quality
Material	- <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Practical exercise: data collection and organization of statistical data
Class 11	Actors, urban policy and politics The right to the city City involvement in urban planning processes
Material	- <i>Politiche urbane</i> , Le città del mondo - <i>Attori, città e politiche urbane</i> , Geografia dell'urbano - <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Debate: the involvement of society in decision making processes Debate: who's the city? Is it of the citizens or of the public administrators?
Class 12	Contemporary urban policies : sustainable, smart and creative city
Material	- <i>Sistemi territoriali urbani e reti di città</i> , Le città del mondo (p. 260) - <i>Funzioni e crescita della città</i> , Le città del mondo (p. 97) - <i>Material provided by the instructor in class/online</i>
Learning activity	Documentary: "La escala humana", Jan Ghel, 2014 Case study: Debate: Smart and intelligent city: risk or opportunity?
Class 13	Group presentation (topic of written paper) Verona walking tour

Required texts for student who attend classes:

- Dematteis G. e Lanza C. (a cura di), *Le città del mondo. Una geografia urbana*, Torino, UTET Università, 2014.
- Governa F., Memoli M. (a cura di), *Geografie dell'urbano. Spazi, politiche, pratiche della città*, Roma, Carocci, 2015.
- Additional materials (reports; book chapters) will be provided during classes by the instructor or posted on the course website

Required texts for student who do not attend classes:

- Dematteis G. e Lanza C. (a cura di), *Le città del mondo. Una geografia urbana*, Torino, UTET Università, 2014.
- Governa F., Memoli M. (a cura di), *Geografie dell'urbano. Spazi, politiche, pratiche della città*, Roma, Carocci, 2015.

One book among the following:

- Castells M., *La città delle reti*, Marsilio, 2004
- Mumford L., *La cultura delle città*, Einaudi, 2007 (o altre edizioni)
- Sassen S., *Le città nell'economia globale*, Il Mulino, 2010
- Jacobs J., *Vita e morte delle grandi città*, Einaudi, 2009

Class timetable

Hour Location	November 2016		December 2016		January 2017	
	8:30-10:10 Room 1.2	15:10-18:30 Room SPA	8:30-10:10 Room 1.2	15:10-18:30 Room SPA	8:30-10:10 Room 1.2	15:10-18:30 Room SPA
1 week.	-	-		Class 5 Friday 2	-	-
2 week..	Class 1 Monday 7		Class 6 Monday 5		-	-
		Class 2 Friday 11		Class 7 Friday 9		
3 week	Class 3 Monday 14		Class 8 Monday 12		Class 11 Monday 9	
		-		Class 9 Friday 16		Class 12 Friday 13
4 week	-		Class 10 Monday 19		Class 13 Monday 16	
		-		-		
5 week	Class 4 Monday 28		-			
		-		-		