

Urban Anthropology

Anthropology 4701

Time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00-12:50

Place: Business Leadership Building 050

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: 330N Chilton Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12; or by appointment

E-Mail: andrew.nelson@unt.edu

Course Grader: Stephen Gonzalez

Course Description: Toward an Anthropology of the City

As more of the world's population settles in cities, anthropologists have increasingly shifted their sites of study from rural to urban settings. Despite this new geographic focus, it remains debatable whether anthropological studies merely take place *in* cities or are *of* the city. Our goal in this class is to question how anthropological insights and methods might contribute to our understandings of urban phenomena. In order to do so, we will ask the following big questions:

- (1) How might anthropology expand and enhance our notions of what cities *have been* in the history of humanity and *could be* in the future?
- (2) How can anthropology contribute to an urban planning that represents the social, economic, religious, ecological, and political needs of different societies?
- (3) How might anthropology illuminate the causes and effects of the urban socio-economic and spatial divisions between people that perpetuate structures of inequality?
- (4) How might anthropology articulate new models for understanding the complex flows of people, services, ideas, goods, and technology in the postmodern, post-industrial and post-national global era?

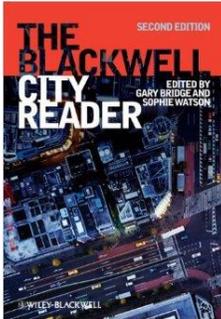
Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to understand the contributions of anthropological methods to urban studies.
2. Students will be able to appreciate the dominant theoretical approaches in urban studies.
3. Students will be able to articulate the anthropological critique of urban planning.

4. Students will be able to identify signs of social and spatial division in urban spaces.
5. Students will be able identify and explain case studies of urban phenomena in the global era.
6. Students will be able to work in groups to conduct fieldwork in urban settings.

Required Texts:

1. *The Blackwell City Reader*. Edited by Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson. 2nd Edition. 2010. Wiley-Blackwell. Noted as CR in the course schedule.



2. All other materials can be found on Blackboard under Course Content and marked as BB in the course schedule.

Course Requirements:

I. Attendance & Participation

This is an advanced seminar class, which means your attendance and participation is required. You are expected to arrive on time and be ready to engage in meaningful discussion. Arriving late to class will count as an unexcused absence.

II. Field Trips

The course will include four different field trips. Participation and involvement in these trips is required. For each trip that happens outside of class time, one class will be cancelled.

1. Sacred Space: On their own, or in small groups, students will visit a sacred space in the DFW area during September 19-22.
2. East Denton: On October 10th during class, we will visit parts of East Denton.
3. A-Train to Dallas: On November 1st, the class will take the A-Train and connect with the DART system to study particular neighborhoods and issues in Dallas. Alternative arrangements will only be allowed if the student provides a signed letter from an employee stating their contractual obligation to be at working on this day.

4. Post-Modern Spaces in DFW: In between November 25-30, students will be expected to plan and conduct a visit to a particular site in the DFW area in small groups of five.

III. Assignments

You will have four assignments. The first three will be writing assignments. The last will be a 10-minute group presentation. In these assignments you will be asked to apply urban theories discussed in the class to real life cases that you study in the DFW area.

IV. Exams

There will be two exams. Exam questions will consist of multiple choice questions and short responses. Each exam will cover only the material of the given unit of the course. They will not be cumulative.

Grade Makeup

Type of Work	Percentage of Final Grade	Proportion per work
Attendance & Participation	20%	20%
4 Assignments	40%	10%
2 Exams	40%	20%

All grades will be assigned based on the following grading scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59-under	F

COURSE POLICIES

1. WITHDRAWAL: If you are unable to complete this course you must officially withdraw by the University-designated date (for a “W” with instructor approval). Withdrawing from a course is a formal procedure that YOU must initiate. I cannot do it for you. If you simply stop attending and do not withdraw, you will receive a performance grade, usually an “F.”

2. Acceptable Student Behavior: Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The

university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.deanofstudents.unt.edu.

In this classroom, **“acceptable student behavior”** specifically means:

A. No cell phone usage. I will ask you to leave the classroom if I see you using your phone.

B. Maintain one classroom conversation. Sometimes topics in this class can get socially controversial and emotionally exciting, but please contribute only to the central conversation.

C. Engage in the classroom material, not your computer. If you use a computer in class, you will be requested to sit in the front rows.

D. Always be respectful of other students' thoughts, opinions, and perspectives.

E. Do not come to class late.

3. Coursework Submissions:

A. All written assignments (1-3) must be submitted **via BB**. At the bottom of each Assignments page, you will find a link to turnitin where you will submit your paper.

B. I will NOT accept work via email, so please do not send it. Late work will only be accepted for credit if accompanied by a note from a medical professional attesting to your inability to complete it. No other exceptions will be considered.

4. Extra Credit: There will be a few opportunities for extra credit as announced during the class.

5. DO NOT MISS EXAMS. If you have a conflict with one of the course exams, it is your responsibility to make alternative arrangements as soon as you know – NOT the week of the exam. I allow exam make-up under one circumstance: If a medical professional documents that you are incapable of taking the exam. Mark the test dates on your calendar: **October 17th and December 5th.**

6. ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: The Department of Anthropology does not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or helping others to cheat. Students suspected of any of these will be provided the opportunity for a hearing; a guilty finding will merit an automatic “F” in the course. For information on the University’s policies regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, see the UNT Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities, <http://www.unt.edu/csrr/>.

7. ADA: The Anthropology Department does not discriminate based on an individual's disability, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Our program provides academic adjustments or help to individuals with disabilities, and attempts will be made to meet all certified requirements. Please see me if you have a documented disability so that appropriate arrangements can be made to help you get the most out of this class.

8. Instructor Communication

- a) The instructor will be happy to answer questions regarding lectures, grades, discussions, assignments, quizzes, projects or any anything covered in the course.
- b) Students can expect to hear back from the instructor within 24 hours of the initial email (48 hours on the weekend).
- c) Students are expected to state their name and course number in the subject line of emails. The instructor teaches four classes with over 400 students.
- d) Please use a respectful and polite tone in emails. Do NOT ask questions covered in this syllabus! And if using a mobile device, remember to proofread your message before sending!

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Unit One: Introduction to Urban Theory and Anthropology

Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings	Graded Work Due	Cities Covered
August 25	Course Introduction			
August 27	What is a City?	Mumford (and other web articles) (BB)		
August 29	History of Cities	Palen: ch. 2, 3 (BB)		Tenochtitlan, Athens, Rome, Boston, New York
September 3	Cultural Approaches (Chicago School)	Simmel (CR), Wirth (BB)		Chicago
September 5	Marxist Approaches	Engels (CR), Harvey (CR)		Manchester, Baltimore

September 8	Urban Anthropology	Foster/Kemper (BB)		
September 10	Ethnographies of the City	Bestor (BB), Caldwell (BB)		Tokyo, Moscow
September 12	Putting Theory to Practice	TBA		

Unit Two: The Organic City

September 15	Introduction	Levy (BB)		Bhaktapur, Nepal
September 17	Bhaktapur, Nepal	Gellner (BB), Parish (BB)	Assignment #1 distributed	Kathmandu Valley, Nepal
September 19	Workshop			
September 19-22	Field Trip #1: Sacred Space in DFW			
September 22	Class Cancelled (for field trip #1 to sacred space)			
September 24	Discussion Day			

Unit Three: The Modernist City (Urban Planning)

September 26	Introduction to Planning	de Certeau (CR)	Assignment #1: due by 5pm	New York, Mogadishu
September 29	History of Planning	Palen: ch. 13 (BB),		Washington DC, Paris, Reston, VA
October 1	The Modernists	Le Corbusier (CR), Burgess (CR)		

October 3	The Critique of Planning	Jacobs (CR), King (CR)		New York, New Delhi
October 6	Case Study: Brasilia	Holston (CR)	Assignment #2 distributed	Brasilia
October 8	Workshop	Re Cruz (BB)		Denton
October 10	Field Trip #2: East Denton			
October 13	Guest Lecture			Portland
October 15	The Future of Planning	Fainstein (CR) <i>View: Designing a Great Neighborhood (in class)</i>		
October 17	Exam #1		Exam #1	
October 19			Assignment #2 due	

Unit Four: City Divided (Social Conflict)

October 20	Introduction	Foucault (CR), Mitchell (CR)		
October 22	Class	Phillips: ch. 11 (BB)		Yankee City and Jonesville
October 24	Race/Ethnicity	Massey/Denton (CR), Wilson (CR) Optional: Palen, chs. 9-10 (BB)		Dallas, Harlem
October 27	Suburbia	Phillips: ch. 8 (BB), Jackson (BB), Bruegmann (BB)		Milpitas, CA
October 29	Gentrification	Smith (CR), Palen: ch. 11 (BB)	Assignment #3 distributed	Thompkins Square, NYC
October 31	Workshop			

November 1	Fieldtrip #3: A-Train to the Big D			
November 3	Class Cancelled			
November 5	Discussion/Start Film	View: <i>Do The Right Thing</i>		Bed-Stuy (Brooklyn)
November 7	Film	View: <i>Do the Right Thing</i>	Assignment #3: due by 5pm	

Unit Five: Post-Modern City

November 10	Introduction: the LA School	Soja (CR), Davis (CR), Dear (BB)		Los Angeles
November 12	Technoburbs (Post-industrialism)	Castells (CR), Florida (BB), Fishman (BB)		Redmond, WA and Cupertino, CA
November 14	Global City (Neo-Liberalism)	Sassen (CR), Brenner & Theodore (CR)		Tokyo, London, New York
November 17	Migrant City (Transnationalism)	Foner (BB), Dear/Lucero (CR), Gardner (BB)		New York, Bajaalta, CA, Manama, Bahrain
November 19	Fortified Enclaves	Caldeira (BB)		Kathmandu, Rio de Janiero
November 21	Tourist Spaces	Handler (BB), Zukin (CR)	Assignment #4 distributed	Colonial Williamsburg, Disneyland
November 24	Workshop			
November 25 – November	Field Trip #4: Postmodern Spaces of DFW			

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November 26	Class Cancelled			
December 1	Presentations 1			
December 3	Presentations 2			
December 5	Exam #2		Exam #2	