

Urban Anthropology

Anthropology 4701.004

Time: Monday/Wednesday 2-3:20

Place: Matthew 311

Instructor: Dr. Andrew Nelson

Office: 330N Chilton Hall

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12-2; or by appointment

E-Mail: andrew.nelson@unt.edu

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) What is a city? What sort of conditions produced this spatial category in different parts of the world throughout history?
- (2) How did the industrial revolution reshape the city and structure contemporary notions of spatial planning, social engineering and capitalist production?
- (3) What is the future of the city in the postmodern, post-industrial and post-national global era? Will future cities reduce or exacerbate social and economic inequality?
- (4) How might we see histories of social and economic divisions in the layout and structure of contemporary Denton and Dallas?

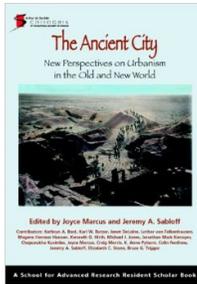
Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to critically compare ancient cities in multiple continents to analyze what is a city.
2. Students will identify (and critique) the role of industrialism, capitalism, colonialism and urban planning in structuring contemporary notions of the city.
3. Students will critically assess how the global economy is restructuring the city in the post-industrial/informational era.

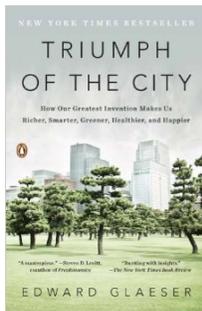
4. Students will identify and map the signs of socio-economic and spatial division in the histories of Denton and Dallas.

Required Texts:

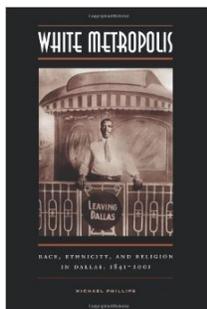
1. *The Ancient City*. Edited by Joyce Marcus and Jeremy A. Sabloff. 2008. Santa Fe, New Mexico: School for Advanced Research Press. **Noted as TAC in calendar.**



2. *Triumph of the City: How our Greatest Invention makes us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier*. By Edward Glaeser. 2011. London: Penguin Press. **Noted as TOTC in calendar.**



3. *White Metropolis: Race, Ethnicity and Religion in Dallas, 1841-2001*. By Michael Phillips. 2006. Austin: University of Texas Press. **Noted as WM in calendar.**



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

Course Requirements:

I. Learning Catalytics

Students will work with a learning technology that UNT is considering for other classes. This technology allows students to interact with the professor and classmates using a digital device (laptop, smart phone or tablet). Students will be required to bring one of these devices to class on most days. If a student does not have access to one of these devices, he or she needs to notify the professor. Failure to complete Learning Catalytics assignments (LC in schedule) will hurt students' participation grades.

II. 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. Participation will be graded both by in-class and out-of-class interaction, as well as completion of 'informal daily assignments'.

III. Assignments

There are four assignments: class debate and short written response, short paper about history of planning in students' neighborhoods, photo essay/blog on future city, and group presentation on Dallas neighborhood.

IV. Weekly Quizzes

There will be twelve weekly quizzes. Exam quiz will consist of multiple-choice questions that will measure student comprehension of reading assignments. The two lowest scores will be dropped. There will be no makeup quizzes.

V. Field Trips

The class will have two mandatory field trips. The first will be conducted on students' own time over the weekend of September 25-27 in the city of Denton. The second will be a 'class trip' on November 7 in which the entire class will take the A-Train from Denton to Dallas. It is expected that working students will arrange their schedules now in August/September in order to ensure availability on this date. The trip will cost \$10 (students who live in Dallas or Ft. Worth may drive to the meeting point in Dallas).

Grade Makeup

Type of Work	Percentage of Final Grade	Proportion per work
Attendance & Participation	30%	1% (per class)
4 Assignments	40%	10%
12 Weekly Quizzes	30%	2.5%

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 (unless on days of Learning Catalytics). 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, the first two through turnitin, the third through BB's blog function.**

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. 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/>.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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: The Ancient City

Date	Topic	Readings/Viewings	Graded Work Due	Cities Covered
August 24	Course Introduction: What is a City?			
August 26	The Ancient City: the first Urban Revolution	Childe, TAC: chs. 1, 2	Quiz 1	
August 31	Asia	TAC: chs. 8-11	Assn. #1 distributed	Mesopotamia, Anatolia, Indus, Egypt, China, Kathmandu
September 2	Europe	TAC: chs. 6, 7	Quiz 2	Roman Cities
September 7	No Class: Labor day			
September 9	Africa	TAC: ch. 12		Swahili coastal towns, Zimbabwe
September 14	Americas	TAC: chs. 13-15	Quiz 3	Mayan, Aztec, Inkan cities
September 16	Debate & LC-1: 'The Final Four of Ancient Cities'		Assn. 1 draft due	

Unit Two: The Modern/Industrial City

September 21	Industrial City	Palen: 33-40, 49-60	Assn. #1-final due	Manchester, New York
September 23	Urban Planning & Colonialism	De Certeau, Palen: 13, King	Quiz 4	Paris, DC, New Delhi
September 28	LC-2; The City Beautiful: Quakertown-SE Denton	Denton History Pamphlet, Re Cruz	Assn. 2 distributed	Denton
September 30	Zoning and the 'Burbs	Le Corbusier, TOTS: ch. 7	Quiz 5	Levittown, The Woodlands (Houston)
October 5	Guest Lecture by Seth English-Young, Planner	TBA		Portland
October 7	Critique	Holston, Jacobs	Quiz 6	New York, Brasilia, Kathmandu

Unit Three: The Post-Modern City of the Future

October 12	The Silicon Plateau and the Rustbelt	TOTC: chs. 1, 2	Assn. #2 due	Bangalore, Detroit
October 14	The LA School of Urbanism	Castells, Sassen, Soja	Assn. 3 distributed Quiz 7	Los Angeles
October 19	Upper End: Cities of Pleasure	TOTS: ch. 5		London, New York, Paris
October 21	Lower End: Cities of Slums	TOTS: ch. 3, 4	Quiz 8	Kinshasha, Baltimore, Bombay, Rio

October 26	Green Cities, Smart Cities	TOTS: chs. 8, 9		Singapore, Vancouver, Boston, Milan, Minneapolis, Gaborone
October 28	Film Discussion & LC-3: Future of Inequality	Watch: Detropia, Coding Culture, Learning Catalytics #3	Quiz 9	

Unit 4: Dallas Case Study

November 2	Urban Ethnography	Caldwell, Bestor	Assn. 3 due	Tokyo, Moscow
November 4	Dallas Intro	WM: prologue	Quiz 10, Assn. 4 distributed	Dallas
November 7	Dallas A-Train Trip			
November 9	Race	WM: chs. 1-2		Dallas
November 11	Class	WM: chs. 3-4	Quiz 11	Dallas
November 16	Ethnicity	WM: chs. 5-7		
November 18	Class Cancelled, AAA meetings			
November 23	Workshop & LC-4: Socio-mapping Dallas	Engels, TBA	Quiz 12	
November 25	Class Cancelled,			

	Thanksgiving			
November 30	Final Presentations		Assn. 4	
December 2	Final Presentations		Assn. 4	