

GEOG 16302-1 | Fall 2019

Urban Geography

Megan Bucknum, M.U.E.P. | bucknum@rowan.edu

Thursday 3:30-6:15pm | Robinson Hall 302

COURSE OVERVIEW The Rowan Course Catalog describes this course as "a study of the geographic principles related to the distribution, growth, function, structure and regional setting of urban centers. This course emphasizes spatial aspects of contemporary urban problems in the U.S." The goal for this course is to understand how and where cities form, as well as how cities are constructed, governed and experienced.

This course will use storytelling, oral history and observation as the lens from which to understand the historic forces that have shaped urban environments and to suggest future changes to the built, natural and social environments of urban areas. While the majority of the curriculum is lecture based, students will read historic and contemporary research on the subject, as well as conduct their own research through observation, interviews and a "pop-up" public space experiment.

REQUIRED TEXTS The following texts are required for the course. Those denoted with an asterisk are available in the e-reader pdf on Blackboard.

- Mattan, Annie and Peter Newman. *People Cities: The Life and Legacy of Jan Gehl*. Island Press, 2016.
- *Gehl, Jan and Birgitte Svarre. *How to Study Public Life*. Translated by Karen Ann Steenhard. Island Press, 2013, pp. XI-35.
- *Mumford, Lewis. "What is a City?." *Architectural Record*, 82, November 1937, n.p.
- *Ziegelman, Janet. *97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement*. Harper, 2010, pp. 83-124.
- *Gibson, DW. *The Edge Becomes the Center: An Oral History of Gentrification in the Twenty-First Century*. The Overlook Press, 2015, pp. 54-73.
- *Hunt, Marjorie. *The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide*. Smithsonian Institution, 2016, pp. 1-30.

OFFICE HOURS I am available immediately following class on Thursdays, on Fridays from 12:30 – 2:00 and on Tuesdays from 10:00-12:00 in my office within the Geography, Planning and Sustainability Department. Additional meeting times can be arranged through email.

COMMUNICATION Email is the best way to get a hold of me, and I make it a point to review messages more frequently before class and important class deadlines.

EVALUATION Final grades for the class will be calculated by the following assignments:

Class Participation + Journals	15 points
Discussion Facilitation	5 points
Online Quizzes (10 points each)	30 points
SSHP Reflection Paper	5 points
Public Space Mini-Study	10 points

Glassboro Oral History Interview	15 points
Artifacts of Urban Geography	20 points
TOTAL	100 points

The following +/-grading scale will be used to determine your final grade for the course based on the percentage of points earned throughout the semester. Check pass/fail specifications for your major.

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	Below 59	F

Class Participation Class participation is an important part of this course and students are expected to come to class regularly and on time. Participation in class is actively contribution to the class dialogue in a respectful and informed way. Cell phones should remain off during class, unless there is a critical reason to have it on, which was approved prior to the start of class.

Part of your participation will be evaluated through your course journal responses, of which students will be prompted almost every week. These prompts will be questions regarding the pre-class research, as well as the oral histories and stories that will be played in class.

Discussion Facilitation Each student will be assigned a day where they will oversee facilitating class discussion, based on the pre-class research. Students need to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned video, podcast or reading, as well as having 3-4 prepared questions to prompt a class discussion of the research.

Online Quizzes Three online quizzes will be administered to assess comprehension of pre-class research, lecture materials and in-class participation. Quizzes will be available through Blackboard the Friday prior each due date. Each quiz is due by 11:59PM on the date provided within the syllabus. **Late quizzes will not be accepted.**

SSHP Reflection Paper A major focus of this course will be public spaces. These are the social spaces, like roads, public squares, parks and beaches, that are generally open and accessible to people. To establish a strong conceptual understanding of these spaces, we will hold a special class at Spruce Street Harbor Park (SSHP) in Philadelphia on Friday, September 27th where we will conduct a class activity with students from Dr. Kitson's Sensing the Sustainable City class.

Following this activity, each student needs to write at least 1000 word reflection paper summarizing what they observed individually, any themes from their small group discussion and a reflection of their experience coming completing this assignment. Applying the Project for Public Spaces four design dimensions, students must describe how each dimension has been integrated into the design of SSHP. Lastly, students are asked to highlight an aspect of the design that could be used within "pop-up" public space

experiment later in the semester. This SSHP written response is **due by midnight on Thursday, Oct. 3rd** on Blackboard.

Public Space Mini-Study As part of the course curriculum, students will learn how to conduct a public space study. For this assignment, each student will apply observational research methods to collectively study an assigned site within Glassboro at various times within a week in preparation for the "pop-up" public space experiment. They will also submit a design suggestion, depicted graphically, for how the space could be transformed for one day.

Students will submit their observations through a Google survey link, so their research can be seen and later utilized by the class to design how this space can be converted for the "pop-up" event. More details will be shared in class and a detailed assignment overview will be posted on Blackboard.

South Jersey Oral History Interview Each student will conduct an oral history interview with someone currently living in South Jersey, with a preference towards those having lived within Glassboro, NJ or an urban area of the region. An opportunity to recruit Glassboro residents will take place during the "pop-up" experiment and potentially throughout the semester. Interviews must be recorded and a complete assignment submission will include the audio recording and an interview summary. Details regarding recording technology and summary information will be included in an assignment overview that will be shared in both class on Blackboard.

Artifacts of Urban Geography As a culminating assignment, each student will identify and collect an item that they feel symbolizes the course material, including themes identified within their experience with the "pop-up" experiment, the Oral History assignment, and the e-reader literature. This assignment entails students creating a display of their item within a small tin box (e.g. Altoids® container) that includes a museum style interpretive sign to accompany the item demonstrating why this is significant. These boxes will all be displayed the following semester within a "micro-museum" that will be set up in the Department.

In addition to creating the display for the micro-museum, students will also create an accompanying website through Google Sites that can be accessed through a printed QR code on each students' box. The website will include at least 1,000 words regarding the significance of this artifact and include information about how this item was related to course material (at least three reading assignments must be cited). A detailed assignment overview will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in class.

ATTENDANCE

Each student is allowed up to 2 class absences without being penalized. After the 2nd missed class, I will reduce your participation grade proportionately with your attendance unless arrangements are made **in advance** for University recognized reasons that are accompanied by documentation (e.g. doctor's note or other form of supporting evidence). [University recognized reasons](#) for excused absences include official University activities, documented illness, death of a family member or loved one, inclement weather and religious observance (notification must take place before the holiday)

It is the responsibility of the absent student to catch up on any missed material and do any make-up work required by the instructor. If a major life event, of any kind, is impacting your schoolwork beyond 1 week in the form of absences, tardiness, difficulty focusing in-class or completing coursework please contact the [Office of Student Life/Dean of Students](#). Their office is equipped to assist students undergoing difficult life events, including communicating with your professors if temporary accommodations are needed to help you through a difficult period. To request a meeting with the Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students, please e-mail Martha Aderinto at williamsm@rowan.edu or 856.256.4283

EXPECTATIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS

Completed assignments will be free of typographical and grammatical errors. Any late assignment will have 5 points deducted from the total. **Late assignments turned in more than two weeks after the initial deadline will not be accepted.** Papers should be original material generated for this class only, be free of all plagiarism and properly cited in MLA style. The Rowan University Writing Center is located in Campbell Library, Room 131 and they accept appointments. Additionally, Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) has incredible online resources available at: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is expected of all Rowan students. Do not accidentally or knowingly commit academic crimes (plagiarism, cheating). Never (1) turn in an assignment that you did not write yourself, (2) turn in an assignment for this class that you previously turned in for another class, (3) present ideas or sentences that are not your own without proper citation, (4) cheat on an exam, or (5) sign someone else in on an attendance sheet. Per Rowan policy, **violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated.**

Any infraction includes the possibility of failure of the entire course
<http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/AcademicIntegrity.htm>

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

Any student with a document disability is encouraged to contact me so we can consider any accommodations that could help. Likewise, if you find yourself having difficulty in class for whatever reason please let me know, I will try my best to assist you and/or connect you with the numerous resources available at the University. The Academic Success Center is located in Savitz Hall, 3rd Floor (856-256-4234):
<http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/asc/disabilityresources/>.

PREFERRED NAME POLICY

Many students prefer to be known by a name other than their legal name. Students who wish to have a preferred first and/or middle name appear (1) in the phone and email directories, (2) on their Rowan ID card, (3) on Blackboard, and (4) on Canvas may request this by sending an email to support@rowan.edu with "Preferred Name" in the subject line. Direct any questions about the policy to socialjustice@rowan.edu.

VETERANS SERVICES

There are a number of services available to assist veterans with education benefits. Staff are located in Savitz Hall, 3rd floor (856-256-4233) or visit: <http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/asc/veterans/>.

COUNSELING SERVICES

The Wellness Center at Winans Hall provides physical and mental health services for students, such as time management, test anxiety, relationship

issues, career assessment tools, and crisis situations. You can make an appointment during business hours at 856-256-4333. After hours call 856-256-4922 to speak with a counselor on call. If you are in crisis call 856-256-4911. <http://www.rowan.edu/studentaffairs/counseling/>.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS + PREVENTION

Sexual assault is one of the most underreported violent crimes on university campuses. To reach a confidential, trained sexual violence advocate 24/7 call 866-295-7378. Rowan provides resources and programs designed to prevent sexual violence and other acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, provide information about what to do when an incident has occurred, and increase awareness of campus and community resources for support and response. <http://www.rowan.edu/open/studentaffairs2/sexualviolence/>.

STARFISH

Throughout the term, you may receive email from the Rowan Success Network (RSN) team (Starfish®) regarding your academic performance. Please pay attention to these emails and consider taking the recommended actions. In addition, utilize the RSN's scheduling tools to make appointments at your convenience for advising, tutoring and more. Additional information about RSN may be found at www.rowan.edu/rsn.

Date	Week	Lecture/Assignment	Pre-Class Research
9/5/19	1	Introductions, Syllabus + Course Overview	
9/12/19	2	Urban Demographics, Design, Life and Space	<i>People Cities</i> , Ch. 1-3
9/19/19	3	View <i>The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces</i> + Spruce St. Harbor Park Activity Overview	<i>People Cities</i> , Ch. 4-5
9/26/19	4	NO CLASS – FIELD TRIP THE FOLLOWING DAY Quiz #1 DUE	
FRI. 9/27/19	4	SPRUCE ST. HARBOR PARK CLASS ACTIVITY	
10/3/19	5	Architecture, Urban Design + Public Life Studies SSHP Reflection Paper DUE	<i>How to Study Public Life</i> , Ch. 1-3*
10/10/19	6	Public Space Activation Design Lab Public Space Mini-Study DUE	<i>People Cities</i> , Ch. 6-7
10/17/19	7	Public Space Activation	
10/24/19	8	Oral History Workshop + Overview of Oral History Project	<i>The Smithsonian Folklife and Oral History Interviewing Guide</i> , pp. 1-30
10/31/19	9	The Origins and Growth of Cities and Urban Life Quiz #2 DUE	"What is a City?"*
11/7/19	10	U.S. Urban Systems	<i>97 Orchard: An Edible History of Five Immigrant Families in One New York Tenement</i> , pp. 83-124*
11/14/19	11	Urban Planning Walking Tour	Listen: "The Cheerful Hurly-Burly" *
11/21/19	12	The Urban Development Process, Gentrification and Urban Governance Glassboro Oral History Interview DUE	<i>The Edge Becomes the Center</i> , pp. 54-73*
11/28/19	13	NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING	
12/5/19	14	How Neighborhoods Change Quiz #3 DUE	Listen: "Squatters of the Lower East Side" *
FINALS	15	Artifact Show + Tell Artifacts of Urban Geography DUE	
Schedule Subject to Change. Updates will be presented in class and posted on Blackboard. *denotes the reading is included in the course e-reader (available on Blackboard)			