

Montgomery County Community College
GEO 137
Urban Geography
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introduction to urban geography surveys the patterns of urbanization. The course includes a brief history of cities, models of morphology and location, transportation systems, economics, and social patterns associated with urban areas. A focus on urban areas in the United States (with an emphasis on Philadelphia) is used to explore and explain the urban patterns found in places around the world.

REQUISITES:

Previous Course Requirements

None

Concurrent Course Requirements

None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Use maps, photographs, and historical aerial photos to gather and interpret information, as well as locate important places.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Location Quizzes Written Assignments Final Project
2. Describe spatial and social concepts of location, ethnicity, gender, poverty, and prosperity as they relate to urban areas.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
3. Apply visual and spatial knowledge to patterns found in urban areas.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
4. Describe, using graphs and models, human population densities related to the size and hierarchy of urban areas and the economic, political and social structures shaping them.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
5. Describe the difference between urban and suburban land-use patterns, how urbanized areas relate to the hinterlands, and the transportation systems that shape them.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
6. Evaluate location for economic development considering accessibility and transportation technologies.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
7. Develop field skills that utilize architecture, infrastructure, and other urban landscape features to interpret the history and morphology of urban areas.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
8. Verbalize an appreciation of diverse cultural and social perspectives that shape urban patterns both locally and globally.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources Field Work and Trips	Written Examinations Written Assignments Final Project
9. Develop an effective, efficient and ethical strategy to locate and evaluate information from a variety of sources.	Assigned Readings AV/Multimedia Materials Lecture/Discussion Maps Research Resources	Final Project

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:

1. Introduction to Urban Geography
2. Maps, Map Interpretation, and Accessing Maps
3. History of Urban Places
4. Transportation Technologies, Site, Situation, Theory, and the Location of Cities
5. Population and the hierarchy of Urban Areas
6. Economics and location of activities in Urban Areas
7. Patterns and Morphology within Urban Areas
8. The Social, Economic, Government Policy, and Transportation Technologies that Created the Suburbs
9. Suburbs and the Evolution of the "Edge City"
10. Interpreting the Urban Landscape through architecture, infrastructure, transportation routes, historic maps and photographs
11. Patterns, policy, and economics related to Gentrification, Poverty, Gender, Ethnicity, and Public Housing
12. Sprawl, Zoning, Tax-Base, the Loss of Community, and Other Contemporary Urban Issues
13. Globalization and cities around the World

LEARNING MATERIALS:

Texts:

Jackson, Kenneth. *Crabgrass Frontier*.

Simon, Roger. *Philadelphia: A Brief History*.

Other learning materials may be required and made available directly to the student and/or via the College's Libraries and/or course management system.

COURSE APPROVAL:

Prepared by:	C. Sodano, D. Creciun	Date:	10/1995
Revised by:	Wayne Brew and Samuel Wallace	Date:	3/14/2009
Revised by:	Wayne Brew	Date:	4/2012
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date:	6/18/2012
Revised by:	Wayne Brew	Date:	5/2013
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:	Victoria L. Bastecki-Perez, Ed.D.	Date:	5/28/2013
Revised by:	Wayne Brew	Date:	5/25/2017
VPAA/Provost or designee Compliance Verification:		Date:	12/1/2017



This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.