

Urban Anthropology.Summer2023

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“The city is the maximal expression of the human need – and capacity – for interdependence.”
~ Ulf Hannerz

“Cities are problems in organized complexity.” ~ Jane Jacobs

“Cities are places where strangers are likely to meet.” ~ Richard Sennett

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores the city as a product of, and a rich site for, human beings’ negotiations over social and economic rights, power, identity, memory, meaning, and community. Drawing on a variety of historical, geographic, and ethnographic studies, we will ask what is qualitatively unique about urban life. The city is a site of economic and political centralization, but also a landscape of sentiment and belonging. It is a space of ritual observance and spectacle, as well as the locus of inequality, alienation, suffering, and dysfunction. Debates over urban planning encompass moral, cultural, and personal concerns, not simply the blueprints of economists, policymakers, and architects. Throughout the course, methodological questions regarding the city as an object of historical and ethnographic study are highlighted. We will look at Tokyo’s fish markets, mid-20th century New York City, contemporary Washington, DC and Baltimore, and the wounded cities of Beirut and New Orleans in order to understand the complexity of the urban experience through a holistic and critical anthropological lens.

Whether you realize it or not, you are part of a city. Each of you participates, to one degree or another, in the social, economic, recreational, and cultural matrices of Washington, DC. Although you might spend most of your time west of Wisconsin Avenue, you are intricately intermeshed in the ecological, infrastructural, economic, administrative, and imaginative systems of our nation’s capital. The anchor text of this course, Ulf Hannerz’s *Exploring the City*, states that cities are the “maximal expression of the human need–and capacity–for interdependence.” Cities present us with the opportunity and necessity to play different roles at different times, and to traverse spaces and places in unpredictable ways that can open new horizons, attitudes, and relationships to us in serendipitous ways. As we will see, the quality, not just the quantity, of human interactions are what makes a city a city.

Two key themes of this course will be **interdependence** and **interrelationship**. We will explore these themes through our readings and discussions.

COURSE TEXTS:

Hannerz, Ulf. 1980. *Exploring the City*.



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ON CANVAS:

Krieger, P. "Aesthetics and Anthropology of Megacities: A New Field of Art Historical Research"

<http://actesbranly.revues.org/318#text>  (<http://actesbranly.revues.org/318#text>)

Pickett, Cadenasso, et al., "Beyond Urban Legends: An Emerging Framework of Urban Ecology, as Illustrated by the Baltimore Ecosystem Study"

Gmelch, George, Robert V. Kemper, Walter P. Zenner. 2010. *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City*. (Selected chapters.)

King, L., 2005. "The Millennial Medina: Discourses of Time, Space, and Authenticity in Projects to Market and Renovate Beirut and Nazareth" (on Canvas)

King, L. 2008. "A Nixed, not a Mixed, City."

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Participation and attendance: Read the weekly assigned material in a timely fashion. You should take an **active role in discussions** (10%) since your participation will indicate your level of engagement with the readings. **Your regular attendance** (5%) is required.
2. Cognitive mapping exercise (5%)
3. Two analytical essays (40%)
4. Two field research exercises (24%) (Details to be provided in class.)
5. Research proposal exercise (16%) (Details to be provided in class.)

SUMMARY OF STUDENT EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Assessment	% of grade	Due on:
Class Attendance and Participation	15%	Throughout the semester.
Cognitive Mapping	5%	June 11th
Two Analytical Essays (20 points each)	40%	June 25th July 10th



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(12 points each)

(You will post these on Discussion Board)

Research Proposal Exercise 16% July 10th


Total 100%

GRADING SCALE

A	B		C		D		F				
	-	+	-	+	-	+	-				
100-96	92	89	86	82	79	76	72	69	66	62	Below
97	-93	-90	-87	-83	-80	-77	-73	-70	-67	-63	60
											Percent




Please keep your cell phones and Internet off as a common courtesy to your colleagues and instructor.

Take notes by hand, not on your laptop. Here's why:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/> 
[\(http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/\)](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1:

- Introduction to the course and each other.
- ASSIGNMENT: Cognitive mapping of Washington, DC, and your hometown.
<https://www.handmaps.org/>  [\(https://www.handmaps.org/\)](https://www.handmaps.org/)
- <https://www.fastcompany.com/3053172/these-beautiful-mental-maps-of-cities-help-your-brain-regain-what-it-has-lost-to-gps>  [\(https://www.fastcompany.com/3053172/these-beautiful-mental-maps-of-cities-help-your-brain-regain-what-it-has-lost-to-gps\)](https://www.fastcompany.com/3053172/these-beautiful-mental-maps-of-cities-help-your-brain-regain-what-it-has-lost-to-gps)
- Krieger, P. "Aesthetics and Anthropology of Megacities: A New Field of Art Historical Research"
<http://actesbranly.revues.org/318#text> 
 [\(http://actesbranly.revues.org/318%22%20%5C1%20%22text\)](http://actesbranly.revues.org/318%22%20%5C1%20%22text)



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and around a city, but rather, simply to learn that there are many different ways of looking at and understanding cities, and anthropology's interdisciplinary nature requires us to take many perspectives into account.)

- “Anaquash” (short film about life along the Anacostia River) <https://vimeo.com/61503905> 
- Chapters 1, 2, 4 and 6 in Gmelch, Kemper, and Zenner, *Urban Lives* (on Canvas).
- [“Concrete Jungle” - Bob Marley & The Wailers | Songs Of Freedom \(1992\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNzQL3MQDkE) 



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNzQL3MQDkE>

- [Tracking the health of Baltimore's streams' systems](https://vimeo.com/204377323)  <https://vimeo.com/204377323>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/video/nyregion/10000001167211/nature-in-the-city-.html> 
- <https://www.nytimes.com/video/nyregion/10000001167211/nature-in-the-city-.html>

Week 2:

- Chapter 7 in Gmelch, Kemper, and Zenner, *Urban Lives*. (On Canvas)
- Chapters 1 and 2 in Hannerz, *Exploring the City*. (Read these two chapters in their entirety)
- Field trip to Eastern Market

Week 3:

- Hannerz, *Exploring the City*.
 - Chapter 3: pp. 59-72 and pp. 76-118. (Monday)
 - Chapter 4: pp. 119-135 and pp. 140-144. (Tuesday)
 - Chapter 5: pp. 163-180, pp. 186-192, and pp. 200-201. (Tuesday and Wednesday)
 - Chapter 6: entire. (Thursday)
 - Chapter 7: pp. 242-261, pp. 276-288, and pp. 296-315. (Thursday)
 - Appendix (entire) (Thursday)

FIRST ESSAY DUE ON June 27th

Week 4:

Selected chapters in Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

- Documentary about Jane Jacobs:



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMnUnp0ifgo>

- North Philadelphia case study on “border vacuums”

[Jane Jacobs' "Curse of Border Vacuums".mov](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OFQayXduvA&feature=youtu.be>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-OFQayXduvA&feature=youtu.be>

- Jane Jacobs on the importance of city economies

[Jane Jacobs on the nature of economies](#) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPNPpdBCqzU>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPNPpdBCqzU>

- Hi-Rise Projects Were Never a Good Idea

[Why did we build high-rise public housing projects?](#) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eGTU_uXLKk



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eGTU_uXLKk

- Jane Jacobs Revisited

[Jane Jacobs Revisited](#) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlkzwyIgA4g>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlkzwyIgA4g>



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- Field Trip to Anacostia

Wednesday and Thursday:

- Selected Chapters in Steinberg, Phil and Rob Shields, *What is a City? Rethinking the Urban after Hurricane Katrina* (on Canvas)
- "The Big Uneasy" (documentary about the impact of hurricane Katrina on New Orleans) Watch this film on your own, before class on Wednesday: <https://vimeo.com/137159734> 
(<https://vimeo.com/137159734>)

Friday:

- King, L., "The Millennial Medina: Discourses of Time, Space, and Authenticity in Projects to Market and Renovate Beirut and Nazareth" (on Canvas)
- King, L. "A Nixed, not a Mixed, City."

[4." lebanon rebuilt" 1944 - 2005 .mp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHfnw17g9jU)  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHfnw17g9jU>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHfnw17g9jU>)

[Beirut the Ancient City of the Future](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkp8xa5vaIM)  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkp8xa5vaIM>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jkp8xa5vaIM>)

[Nazareth, The Magical City](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wElb1YtyFXw)  (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wElb1YtyFXw>)



(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wElb1YtyFXw>)

[Palestine Remix - The Slow Destruction of Arab Life in Nazareth](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4Ah5mZSz9o) 

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4Ah5mZSz9o>)



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(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4Ah5mZSz9o>)

SECOND ANALYTICAL PAPER and RESEARCH PROPOSAL are due on Monday, July 10th by Noon

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jun 12, 2023	Cognitive Mapping: Your Hometown and Washington, DC https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885478	due by 3pm
Sun Jul 2, 2023	First Essay Due on Wednesday, June 28th https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885482	due by 12pm
	Reflections on our Field Trip to Eastern Market https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885477	due by 5:59pm
Sun Jul 9, 2023	Reflections on our Field Trip to Anacostia https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885476	due by 5:59pm
	Final Quiz https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/907195	due by 6pm
Mon Jul 10, 2023	Field Research Proposal Due on July 12th https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885479	due by 9pm
	Second Essay due on July 12 https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885483	due by 9pm





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Date	Details	Due
Wed Jul 12, 2023	 Hannerz Exercise: Social Role Domain and Network Mapping Exercise (https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/873706)	due by 5pm
	 Field Trip to Anacostia, Thursday, July 8 (1:00 - 3:30) Meet at Main Gate by 12:55 to board the 1:00 G2 Bus. (https://georgetown.instructure.com/courses/170114/assignments/885480)	

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Collapse All

▼ Week 1: June 5-8: Introductions and Explorations (June 7 - 11)

 Podcast: Why We Can't Quit Cities Summer in the City Introducing Urban Anthropology [Gangnam Style!](https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=4AgDYTuZW0w)  (https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=4AgDYTuZW0w) Beyond Urban Legends: An Emerging Framework of Urban Ecology, as Illustrated by the Baltimore Ecosystem Study Interdigitation and Cities as Open Systems.pptx Bob Marley, "Concrete Jungle" Tuesday: Baltimore Ecological System: Aerial Maps Baltimore Urban "Heat Islands" From the Field: Tracking the health of Baltimore's hidden streams [Anaquash: A Photo Essay about Anacostia](https://vimeo.com/61503905)  (https://vimeo.com/61503905) Aerial View of Washington DC.jpg David Byrne, "Dirty Old Town"

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 **CitAmblers: Imagery from the Megacity of Mexico City**

Thursday: Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 6 in the Urban Lives Reader (on Canvas in Course Texts file folder)

 **Cognitive mapping of cities: experience and context**

 **Cognitive Mapping: Your Hometown and Washington, DC**
Jun 12, 2023 5 pts

▼ **Week 2: June 12 - 15**

 **People are Strange When You're a Stranger**

 **Monday: Urban Lives Reader, Chapter 7**

 **Tuesday: Hannerz, Exploring the City, Chapters 1 and 2**

 **Chicago's Geographic Advantage**

 **Concentric Zone Theory of City Layout**

 **Rolling Stones, "Factory Girl"**

 **["The Recipe," by Kendrick Lamar](https://youtu.be/YpugK0RpEaU)**  [\(https://youtu.be/YpugK0RpEaU\)](https://youtu.be/YpugK0RpEaU)

Wednesday and Thursday: Chapter 3 in Hannerz, Exploring the City

 **HANNERZ OVERVIEW**

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▼ **Week 3: June 19 -22**



 **M.I.A., "Paper Planes"**

 **[Social Network Theory](https://youtu.be/fgr_g1q2ikA)**  [\(https://youtu.be/fgr_g1q2ikA\)](https://youtu.be/fgr_g1q2ikA)

Monday: Hannerz Chapter 4: pp. 119-135 and pp. 140-144 (Tuesday); Chapter 5: pp. 163-180, pp. 186-192, and pp. 200-201 (Tuesday and Wednesday); Chapter 6: entire (Thursday) Chapter 7: pp. 242-261, pp. 276-288, and pp. 296-315. (Thursday) Appendix (entire) (Thursday)

 **First Essay Due on Wednesday, June 28th** 

Jul 2, 2023 20 pts

 **[The Hidden Influence of Social Networks](https://www.ted.com/talks/nicholas_christakis_the_hidden_influence_of_social_networks?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)** 
[\(https://www.ted.com/talks/nicholas_christakis_the_hidden_influence_of_social_networks?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare\)](https://www.ted.com/talks/nicholas_christakis_the_hidden_influence_of_social_networks?utm_campaign=tedsread&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=tedcomshare)

 **[Paul Simon, "Diamonds on the Soles of her Shoes](https://youtu.be/-l_T3XvzPaM)**  [\(https://youtu.be/-l_T3XvzPaM\)](https://youtu.be/-l_T3XvzPaM)

▼ **Week 4 (June 26 - 29)**

 **Jacobs, The Life and Death of Great American Cities**

Monday: Introduction and Part I

 **American Masters (PBS): Jane Jacobs**

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 **Redlining**

 **Mapping Urban Segregation: Day vs. Night**

Tuesday: Part II

 **"On the Sidewalks of New York" (1894)**

 [Jane Jacobs Felt Cities Should be Fun](https://www.vox.com/2016/5/4/11583342/jane-jacobs-100th-birthday) 
(<https://www.vox.com/2016/5/4/11583342/jane-jacobs-100th-birthday>)

 **Jane Jacobs on the nature of urban economies**

 **The "Curse" of Border Vacuums"**

Wednesday, Part III

 **Marvin Gaye, "Inner City Blues"**

 **High Rise Housing Projects: Why Were They Built?**

 **"Shattered," 1980, by the Rolling Stones**

 **Washington DC burns in aftermath of MLK Jr.'s assassination**

 **Jane Jacobs Overview.pptx**

Thursday, Part IV: pp. 338-391; pp. 405-448

 **The Clash, "Somebody Got Murdered" (1980)**

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 **Cities According to Intensity of Gentrification.jpg**


 **Gentrification Explained**


 **Gentrification and Displacement, DC and Baltimore.jpg**

 **Gentrification in DC**

 **DC neighborhood fights gentrification**

▼ **Week 5: (July 6 - 9) NOTE: This week is a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday sched...**

 **"The Big Uneasy," Documentary about New Orleans post-Katrina. Watch this over the weekend in your own time.**

 **Field Trip to Anacostia, Thursday, July 8 (1:00 - 3:30) Meet at Main Gate by 12:55 to board the 1:00 G2 Bus.**

0 pts

 **Jon Batiste, "Freedom!"**

 **Aaron Neville, "Louisiana 1927"**

 **Reliving Katrina: Media coverage from 2005**

 [How Deltas Form](https://youtu.be/xz_zRqq3JIA)  https://youtu.be/xz_zRqq3JIA

 **Profile of Urban Resilience: New Orleans**

 **What is a City?: New Orleans After Hurricane Katrina (Monday and Wednesday)**

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Gentrification by Flood: New Orleans' 9th Ward a decade after Katrina

 **Paul Simon, "Take me to the Mardi Gras"**

 **Paul Salem, "Madinatuna" (Our City, Beirut)**

 **Friday: King, "The Millennial Medina" (Friday)**

 **Friday: King, "A Nixed, not a Mixed, City: Nazareth, Capital of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel" (Friday)**

 **Second Essay due on July 12**

Jul 10, 2023 20 pts



 **Field Research Proposal Due on July 12th**

Jul 10, 2023 16 pts



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