Cities, Crime, & Space  
GEOG 484
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Description
How does urban space structure crime? How does crime structure urban space?  
Focusing on US cities, this theory-intensive module surveys traditional and critical perspectives on relations between crime, space, and place. We will explore this interplay within broader contexts of industrial and post-industrial urbanization, concentrating on dynamics including governances, economic processes, and social transformations. Emphasis will be placed on the extent to which these interwoven processes generate, classify, organize, and react to crime across cityscapes.

Course Objectives
Course objectives are threefold. Upon successfully completing this module, students will be able to:
• Compare and contrast traditional and critical perspectives on relations between cities, crime, space, and place in writing and discussion.
• Express basic competence in the historical significance crime control has had for urban planners in US cities.
• Utilize theoretical tools to critically analyze empirical cases related to course materials and articulate findings in a cogent research paper.

Attendance
Attendance is crucial for your learning experience. This module is designed to be interactive, and class discussions are vital for developing our ideas. You will be allowed 3 absences. Thereafter, each unexcused absence will result in the deduction of 3 percentage points from your final grade.

If you have a legitimate reason for missing class you may contact me beforehand to avoid penalization. In the case of emergencies, you may present explanations and/or verification (i.e. a doctor’s note) afterwards to avoid penalization. Absences cannot be cleared after the semester ends.

Papers/Presentations/Participation
Students will be responsible for two presentations and two type-written papers during the course of the semester.
• Presentation: Each individual student will be responsible for summarizing two readings during the semester. Presentations may incorporate PowerPoint, Google Presentation, or other visual mediums. Summaries of presentation will be typed and distributed to class at the beginning of the session.
• **Paper 1**: The first paper consists of a 10 to 15-page analysis of key concepts from the traditional perspectives section of the course. Students enrolled for undergraduate credits will respond to 4 pre-written essay questions, while students enrolled for graduate credit will respond to 6 pre-written questions.

• **Paper 2 (undergraduate credit)**: The second paper will similarly consist of a critical synopsis of the literature. Students are expected to identify core ideas in TWO readings, and apply them to a present day debate using an article from a reputable news source (i.e. *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*). Students will meet with instructor before writing the paper during office hours.

• **Paper 2 (graduate credit)**: The second paper will consist of a 15-20 research paper. The aim of the paper is to assess the relative strengths and weaknesses of a traditional and critical school of thought by testing theories against an empirical case. Students will include an expanded literature review drawing recommended texts in the syllabus, and incorporate data from both pre-approved databases and government studies.

• **Discussion circles**: The module will involve four discussion circle session, which will consist of 5 groups’ a semi-structured recap of the major themes from readings. I will provide a list of key terms to guide these sessions, and each group will be responsible for producing a handwritten response. These sessions will count towards participation on final grades.

**Grading system**
Presentation 1: 15%  
Presentation 2: 15%  
Paper 1: 25%  
Paper 2: 25%  
Discussion Circles: 20%

100 - 94% A  
93-90% A-  
89-87% B+  
86-84% B  
83-80% B-  
79-77% C+  
76-74% C  
73-70% C-  
69-67% D+  
66-64% D

*There is no extra credit. Use of personal electronic devices will result in point deductions. However, I will, according to my discretion, award up to 5pts based on exceptional attendance and class participation. Your final grade will be on a scale. I will not be curving the grades.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is using others’ writing and/or ideas without providing a proper citation. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and
for avoiding both. If a student is uncertain of what constitutes plagiarism, s/he may contact the instructor for clarification. Students caught plagiarizing will fail the assignment. Repeat offenders will automatically fail the course.

Required Materials
** copies on Compass
*** articles found at: http://www.library.illinois.edu/

Course Schedule
- M 8/25
  Introduction
- W 8/27
  In-class exercise
- ** M 9/1: NO CLASS

  Traditional Perspectives
  - W 9/3 *Urban Ecology*
  - M 9/8
  - W 9/10: *Routine Activity Theory*
  - M 9/15
  - W 9/17: *Crime Pattern Theory*
- M 9/22

• W 9/24: *Social Disorganization Theory*

**DISCUSSION CIRCLE ONE**

• M 9/29 *Psycho-geography*

• W 10/1: *Spatial Mismatch Theory*

*Recommended

• M 10/6

• W 10/8: *Defensible Space Theory*

• M 10/13: **NO CLASS**

• W 10/15

• M 10/20

**DISCUSSION CIRCLE TWO**

**Critical Perspectives**

• W 10/22: *Deindustrialization & Neoliberalization*

**PAPER 1 DUE**
M 10/27

W 10/29

M 11/3

W 11/5: Urban Core Redevelopment

M 11/10


W 11/12

DISCUSSION CIRCLE THREE

M 11/17: Underground Economies (Critical Gang Studies)

W 11/19

M 11/24: NO CLASS

W 11/26: NO CLASS

M 12/1: Receiver Communities

- M 12/8
  Ibid, chapters 3-6

- W 12/10
  Ibid (chapters 7, 8)

**DISCUSSION CIRCLE FOUR**

**PAPER 2 TBA**