Urban Geography
Topics

- Defining Urbanism
- Systems of Cities
- Internal Cities
- Comparative Urbanization
Part One: Key Concepts
A) Introduction
What is urban geography?
Urban Geography focuses on how cities function, their internal systems and structures, and the external influences on them.
Two Sub-Fields of Urban Geography

The Study of City Systems
- Where cities are located and why.
- An external view of how:
  - Cities influenced the landscape.
  - How they connect to one another.
  - How they are distributed.

The Study of Internal Cities
- The internal structure of cities.
- Patterns of:
  - Land Use
  - Racial and Ethnic Segregation
  - Architectural Styles
  - Intracity Transportation
  - Cycles of Construction and Development
Urban Areas

Nucleated

Have Non-Agricultural Jobs
What is an urbanized area?
Urbanized Areas are areas where cities and towns are located so close together that political boundaries become imaginary lines.
Metropolitan Area

- Contains a number of Physical Cities
- Operates as Integrated Whole

Physical City

- Continuous Development
- Contains a Central City and many nearby towns and cities.

Central City

- The major city of an area.
- Contains the Central Business District (CBD)
Two Types of Metropolitan Areas

**Metropolitan Statistical Area**
- Central County with at least one urbanized area with a population of at least 50,000.
- Outlying areas with a large number of commuting residents.

**Micropolitan Statistical Area**
- Central County with a population of 10,000 – 50,000
- Outlying counties with significant social and economic integration
Megalopolis
  • Multiple cities that have grown together.
  • Bosnywash
    • Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C

City
  • Well Defined CBDs
  • Suburbs with their own economic activity
  • Dallas

Town
  • Contains more specialized services such as hospitals, or post offices.
  • Contains a Hinterland
  • Corsicana

Village
  • Several dozen services that are more specialized.
  • Blooming Grove

Hamlet
  • Small cluster of houses with a few basic services.
  • Mildred
B) Social Characteristics of Urban Areas
What is Louis Wirth’s definition of a city?
Louis Wirth defined a city as a permanent settlement that has three characteristics: Large Size, High Density, and Social Heterogeneity.
Large Size
- A resident can only know so many people.
- Most interactions are in passing.

High Density
- Specialized jobs allows many people to live in the same place.
- A lot of people with limited space can mean competition.
- Space issues also differentiates between rich and poor.

Social Heterogeneity
- People in cities have diverse backgrounds.
- This diversity allows greater freedom in cities.
- It also contributes to isolationism.
Part Two: Systems of Cities
A) Origin and Evolution of Cities
10,000 Years Ago
• Neolithic Revolution caused permanent settlements.

3000 BCE
• Southwest Asia: Large scale farming and agriculture caused societies to become more complex.
• A surplus of food caused specialization to become possible.

1000 BCE
• First major Mediterranean settlements.

202 BCE
• The city of Chan’an in China was one of the largest in the world.
The Role of Government in Ancient Cities:

• As cities increased in complexity during the **formative era** between 4000 and 2000 BCE, the greater the need for a central government.

• The rise of the earliest states are linked to the rise of cities.
Function and Location of Ancient Cities

Centers of Power
• Cities were often headquarters for heads of state.

Religious Centers
• Priests and temples were often located in cities.

Economic Centers
• Most cities had markets for trade.

Educational Centers
• Cities included places and people to educate the urban elite.
What is a primate city?
A primate city is the largest city in a state. It is generally two or three times the size of the second to largest and represents a national culture.
What is a mercantile city?
A mercantile city is a city where trade is central to its design. These were stimulated by trade routes. Name at least one mercantile city in the U.S.
A manufacturing city (originally) a city formed in the industrial revolution. Many people lived in tenements built for workers. Roads were wider for commercial traffic. Land was separated into regular sized lots. Name at least 2 examples in the U.S.
B) Rural-Urban Migration and Urban Growth
Trends in Urbanization, by Region

Urban Population
Percent

- World: 29% (1950), 47% (2000), 61% (2030)
- Africa: 15% (1950), 37% (2000), 54% (2030)
- Asia: 17% (1950), 37% (2000), 55% (2030)
- Latin America/Caribbean: 42% (1950), 76% (2000), 85% (2030)
- More Developed Regions: 53% (1950), 74% (2000), 82% (2030)

What are some centripetal factors that would cause people to move to cities? Centrifugal factors?
C) World Cities and Megacities
What is a world city?
A world city is a city whose socioeconomics impact the entire world.
Economic Characteristics

- Corporate headquarters for multinational corporations and financial institutions
- Stock Exchanges

Political Characteristics

- Active influence on international events.
- A large population within the city
- Hosting headquarters for international entities (NATO, World Bank)

Cultural Characteristics

- First Name Familiarity
- Renowned Cultural Institutions
- Large Media Outlets

Infrastructure Characteristics

- Well developed transportation
- International Airport
- Prominent Skylines
What is a mega city?
A mega city is a city whose population is greater than 10 million people. There are over 25 of them today.
Top 5 Megacities

Tokyo, Japan
Mexico City, Mexico
Seoul, South Korea
New York City, USA
Sao Paulo, Brazil
D) Functions of Cities
Central Places

Transportation Center
• A place where major routes converge.

Special Function Cities
• Mining, Recreation, Manufacturing

Multi-Functional Cities
• Do a number of activities based on the needs of the population
E) The Economic Base of a City
Types of Jobs in a City

Basic Sector Jobs
- Production of goods and services for sale outside of the city.

Non-Basic Sector Jobs
- Goods and services for the inside city itself.
How economists compare cities:

Workers in Basic Sector : Workers in Non-Basic Sector

1. Larger cities have a larger ratio of Non-Basic Workers to Basic Workers.

2. Eventually a multiplier effect occurs: for every 1 basic-job you may have 3 non-basic jobs.
What is an urban influence zone?
An urban influence zone is the area around a city that is affected by it.
F) The Changing City
The Sail Wagon Epoch
• 1790 – 1830

The Iron Horse Epoch
• 1830 - 1870

The Steel-Rail Epoch
• 1870 – 1920

The Auto-Air-Amenity Epoch
• 1920s – 1960s
F) Models of Urban Systems
What is the rank-size rule?
The rank-size rule says that the nth largest city will be \( \frac{1}{n} \) the size of the largest city.
For Example:

- The second largest city will be $\frac{1}{2}$ the size of the first ranked city, third largest will be $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of the first ranked city, etcetera.
Does Not Work With:

- Countries with primate cities.
- Newly industrialized countries.
What is the central-place theory?
The central place theory is a theory by Walter Christaller that views urban settlements as centers for the distribution of economic goods and services to non-urban populations.
### Important Vocabulary

#### Central Place
- A settlement

#### Range
- The maximum distance people are prepared to travel.

#### Threshold
- Minimum number of people required for a good or service to stay alive

#### Low Order Goods
- Necessities (Bread)

#### Higher Order Goods
- Luxuries (Computer)

#### Sphere of Influence
- Area served and affected by a settlement
Assumptions

- No topographic barriers
- Purchase of goods and services at the nearest center.
- No difference in farm productivity
- Different thresholds to support different products
- An evenly dispersed farm population
1) The landscape is divided into non-competing market areas called **complementary regions**.
2) The market areas form a series of hexagons that cover the area.
3) The central place is at the center of each hexagon and supplies goods and services to the consumer in that area.
4) The size of the market area is based on the number of goods and services offered.
Why Not Another Shape?

Circles either overlap or leave out spaces.
Within each hexagon lie smaller hexagons with central places that serve smaller areas.
Two Conclusions

Towns of the same size are evenly spaced. Larger towns will be farther apart because their market areas are larger.

Towns are part of an interdependent system. Changing one hexagon adjusts the rest.
Part Three: Internal Cities
A) Factors of City Development
Accessibility

- Functions must be filled in spaces accessible to inhabitants
- Example: Early industrial cities

High Cost of Space

- The limited size of cities creates a premium on land prices.

Transportation

- Development often occurs along transportation lines.
- The most expensive land has the most access to transportation lines.

Societal and Cultural Needs

- While economics is important, other needs such as the need for schools, churches, etcetera can determine city models.
B) Models of Urban Land Use
Introduction

• Three models help describe city development within the United States:
  • The Concentric Zone Model, Sector Model, and Multiple Nuclei Model were all developed in Chicago as the city developed.
  • All models have a CBD.
Concentric Zone Model

- Developed by E.W. Burgess in 1923.
- Views cities as growing outward from a central area in a series of rings.
- Dynamic model where inner rings invade the spaces of rings farther out. Neighborhoods go through a process of invasion and succession where the poorer class moves wealthier residents away from the inner city.
Zone One
• Central Business District

Zone Two
• Zone in Transition

Zone Three
• Independent Worker Homes

Zone Four
• Zone of Better Residences

Zone Five
• Commuter’s Zone
# Traits of the CZM

## Zone One
- Nonresidential areas are concentrated.
- Few residences exist.
- Property Costs are high.

## Zone Two
- Contains light industry and housing for the poor
- Houses once occupied by the wealthy now abandoned or bought by the poorer class.
- Owners looking for cheaper land.

## Zone Three
- Working Class homes
- Less expensive homes.

## Zone Four
- Middle Class Residences
- Residents can afford the cost of travel into the CBD

## Zone Five
- Beyond the built up area of the city.
- People live in small towns and villages.
The Sector Model

- Developed by Homer Hoyt in 1939.
- The city develops in a series of sectors.
- As a city grows areas grow out from the center like wedges.
- The wealthy are still pushed from the inside to the outside as in Burgess’ model.
The Multiple-Nuclei Model

• Developed by C.D. Harris and E.L. Ullman
• Large cities develop by spreading from several nodes.
• Individual nodes have special functions.
C) Patterns of Class, Age, Gender, Race, and Ethnicity
What is social-area analysis?
Social Area Analysis is a study that puts together information from the census tracts to create an overall picture of how people are distributed within an area.
Social class is measured by income, education, and occupation.

People in higher social classes by homes that are larger and with people of similar status.

Social class can be determined by the number of people per room.

Best shown in Hoyt’s Model
Younger families live farther from the city.

Older families live closer to the city.

Young professionals live close to the city center.

Much of these statistics are about how much space is needed.

Age and Marital Status
28% of families are headed by one adult. The lack of another income increases the likelihood of poverty.

78% of all one-parent households are headed by women. This is explained as the feminization of poverty.
Explained best by the multiple-nuclei model.

Ethnic and racial groups tend to cluster together.

Historical minorities are often found living together in ghettos.

Black/white separation is highest in the Northeast and Midwest.
D) Ghettoization
What is ghettoization?
Ghettoization is when forced segregation limits residential choices and confine a group to older, lower-cost housing near a city’s center.
African-American Ghettoization

Early Southern
- Pre Civil-War
- Confined to small houses in alleys and back streets.
- Close to the white community because of slave jobs.

Classic Southern
- After emancipation
- Houses on undesirable land such as swampland.
- Far enough away from whites for total segregation.

Early Northern
- With the migration to the North in the early 20th century.
- Ended up in high-density housing near the CBD.

Classic Northern
- Often surrounds the CBD
- Contained by white communities that resist blacks moving into the area.
- This tendency overcrowds the ghetto adding to the problems.
Practices of Ghettoization

**Blockbusting**
- Selling houses in a white neighborhood for a low price.

**Redlining**
- Refusing to give loans to low-income housing.

**Racial Steering**
- Showing houses to whites in black neighborhoods and vice versa.
E) Political Organization and Urban Planning
What is zoning?
Zoning encourages spatial separation by preventing mixing of land use in the same district.
It was considered inefficient and sometimes unhealthy to locate different land uses in the same area.

For example: Locating a chemical plant next to a neighborhood.
Effects of Zoning

- Makes it difficult for poor residents to escape their neighborhoods.
- Criticized because it interferes with the market allocation of land.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Smart Growth</th>
<th>Urban renewal</th>
<th>Councils of Government</th>
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| • Produce a pattern of controlled development. | • Renovation of inner-city housing.  
• Causes gentrification – attracting middle class families back to the city. | • Trying to unify governments in urban sprawl. |
I. Suburbs began expanding prior to WWII with the growing popularity of cars.

II. After WWII this growth increased exponentially because of:
   I. The interstate system
   II. G.I. Bill
   III. Demand for new homes
I. While the suburbs expanded, city services did not follow. As a result, business had to follow instead.

II. This movement of business to the suburbs led to businesses such as chain stores and megastores.

III. Eventually, these suburbs chose not to pay city taxes and instead created their own ‘edge-city’
What is an edge city?
Edge cities – Suburban cities that surround larger cities. These have their own CBD and city structures.
Chauncy’s Peripheral Model

An urban area consisting of an inner-city surrounded by a large suburban residential and business area.

The density gradient explains that as the distance increases from the center, the density of residents and houses decrease.
What is urban sprawl?
Urban Sprawl—The progressive development of suburban areas.
Problems with Sprawl

Wastes Agricultural Land

Wastes Energy

Requires a lot of transportation expenses
Greenbelts

• In Europe the growth of sprawl is restricted by greenbelts around cities – areas where houses cannot be built.
Part Four: Comparative Urbanization
European Cities

Upper class residential extends around a sector from the CBD

Wealthy live close to the city center.

Crime exists largely in the Suburbs where the poor live.
Latin American Cities

- The CBD is separated into a Market Sector and High Rise Sector
- A commercial spine runs from the CBD
- Elite Residential Sector surrounds the spine.
- Around the Elite are the middle class homes.
- Around the middle-class homes is a ring of modest housing that transitions to poverty. Known as "In Situ Accretion"
- The Disamenity Sector is a stable slum area that radiates from the CBD.
- Outermost ring is a squatter settlement.
Latin-America City Model
African City Model

- Part of Wallerstein’s Periphery
- Huge cities characterized by squatter settlements on the outskirts.
- Cities in the North influenced by Islamic Tradition (Mosque at the Center with a nearby Bazaar)
- One model has three CBDs – Colonial, Open-Air, Transitional Business
- Residential Zones Based on Ethnicity
- South African cities are largely western.
Asian Cities

Largely Developed by Europeans

CBD is Western-Styled surrounded by “alien commercial zones”