

GEOG URPL 503: Researching the City

Spring 2018

Sarah A. Moore

sarah.moore@wisc.edu

Office hours: Tues 4:00-5:30 or by appointment

Science Hall 243

3 Credits

Course Description

This course explores, and applies, qualitative research approaches in urban geography. Debates over the analysis and interpretation of qualitative data are examined through concrete urban research as students develop their own Madison-based research project. The course as a whole will focus on 1-2 major issues facing contemporary cities and that are relevant to Madison. There will be opportunities to reach out to personnel involved in addressing these issues from the city of Madison and Dane County.

Learning Objectives

In this class you will:

- Identify and create research questions about cities
- Identify and collect data suitable for qualitative analyses of cities
- Identify and use modes of analysis popular in urban studies
- Write a mini-research proposal focused on qualitative analyses of cities
- Execute a qualitative research project centered on Madison, Wisconsin

Assignments

There are two major assignments in this class. The first is a 4 page research proposal, due on March 8th. The second is a final project that you will share with the class in a mini-powerpoint presentation on May 3rd. You will also hand in a 10 page final paper to Professor Moore on the same day. You will receive more detailed instructions for each of these by the fourth week of class.

Classroom Expectations

In addition to the above assignments, you will be expected to read and comment on academic investigations of cities assigned by Professor Moore, as well as proposal and paper drafts produced by other students in the class.

Below you will find a brief description of course deadlines. This table will be filled in by Professor Moore after the first class meeting, according to students' interests.

Week	Date	Topic	Due	Readings
Week 1:	25- Jan	Introduction to the Course		
Week 2	1-Feb	Qualitative vs. Quantitative Research History of Methods in Urban Geography		Gomez and Jones, Chs 1 Clifford and Valentine Ch. 1
Week 3	8-Feb	Research Ethics and Frameworks History of Approaches in Urban Geography		Gomez and Jones, Ch 24, 2 Clifford and Valentine Ch 3 Jonas, Ch. 1 pp. 17-26
Week 4	15-Feb	Literature Searches, Context of Study Survey of Current Debates in Urban Geography		Clifford and Valentine Ch 2 Jonas Ch. 2 27-45 +51-52 Progress articles in urban, trans, food
Week 5	22-Feb	Data Collection		TBD
Week 6	1-Mar	Analysis and Distributing Results		TBD
Week 7	8-Mar	Project Proposals Due	Proposals	Guide to proposal review
Week 8	15-Mar	Project Proposal Workshop/Feedback		Peer evaluation of proposals
Week 9	22-Mar	Project work time		
Week 10	5-Apr	Project work time		
Week 11	12-Apr	Project work time		
Week 12	19-Apr	Draft Projects Due	Project Drafts	
Week 13	26-Apr	Projects Workshop/Feedback		Peer Review of Project Draft
Week 14	3-May	Final Projects/Wrap Up	Final Papers & Presentations	

Course bibliography (subject to change)

Clifford, N.J. and G. Valentine (2003) *Key Methods in Geography*. London: Sage

Gomez, B. and J.P Jones (2010) *Research Methods in Geography*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

Jonas, A. E. McCann and D. Thomas (2015) *Urban Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

We will read several articles from the following journals:

Annals of the Association of American Geographers

The Professional Geographer

Progress in Human Geography

Urban Geography