



University of Denver
Department of Geography & the Environment

Geographies of Metropolitan Denver

First Year Seminar (FSEM 1111-65)

Autumn Quarter 2016

Boettcher Center West 124
Fridays 10am – 1:50pm
Course materials: canvas.du.edu

Instructor:

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Boettcher Center West 112
Office Hours: M 12p – 1p; Th 2:30p-3:30p

Course Description

Denver, Colorado is a major U.S. urban center in the western Great Plains and Rocky Mountain region. Today it is a flourishing city, with a growing population, a strong and diverse economy, an enviable climate, and a balance of proximity to rugged mountain landscapes and many urban amenities. The urban region also faces many challenges, including negative impacts of rapid growth, water scarcity, social segregation, economic inequalities, and environmental degradation. This FSEM course explores a contemporary understanding of Denver as a New West city that is informed by its Old West history and evolution through the processes of urban growth and change. Particular emphasis is given to a geographic perspective of historic, economic, political, cultural, and environmental factors that have shaped Denver over time. Through in-class activities, fieldtrips, and comparative urban analysis, students will develop their academic skills in reading, writing, researching, and effective communication. This course is an opportunity for students to become more knowledgeable about the city they will call home during their college career.

FSEM Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the FSEM will be able to: (1) Engage in critical inquiry in the examination of concepts, texts, or artifacts, and (2) Effectively communicate the results of such inquiry.

To achieve these outcomes, at the end of this course students will be able to:

- Identify and differentiate the major geographic characteristics of the Denver metropolitan area, including its physical environment, population, culture, politics, and economic/social development.
- Explain and analyze urbanization processes in Denver, including effects of globalization, urban system development, and the evolving internal spatial structure of land uses in the city.
- Utilize an interdisciplinary approach in assessing geographic, economic, social, political, cultural, and environmental processes in Denver.
- Investigate, reflect upon, and assess strategies that Denver has used to create a more livable urban environment.
- Comparatively analyze one urban theme of Denver with another city.

Course Expectations

Discussion participation and attendance

Students are expected to read the assigned material prior to class meetings, provide written annotations for selected readings, and be prepared to answer questions in class and on fieldtrips based on the readings and discussion questions. A variety of discussion techniques will be used in class, and all students are expected to contribute to each discussion.

Reading Annotations

To practice effective reading habits that are essential to success in college, students will be expected to submit each week an annotated reading bibliography based on one or more of the assigned readings for that class period. The purpose of an annotated reading bibliography is to create a record of what you read and what was most important to you from that reading. For each reading, your annotated bibliography should include:

- An accurate bibliographic citation of the reading;
- **A paragraph** (or more, as necessary) that summarizes the article or book chapter in your own words;
- **Another paragraph** (or more, as necessary) that records your initial questions, reactions, uncertainties, or connections that emerges based upon your reading. This is where you engage a bit more with the text. It might include connections/comparisons to your home city.

Examples will be given. Students should upload their annotated bibliographies to Canvas, and also bring a copy to class for more effective discussion participation.

Research Paper

Comparative urbanism is the systematic study of similarity and difference among cities or urban processes. Each student is expected to write a comparative urbanism research paper that systematically compares Denver with another city of interest, based upon a specific urban geographic theme from the course.

- Thematic topics will be discussed in class.
- Class time will be allocated to basic mechanics of writing research papers, tutorials on library research resources, and how to evaluate research materials.

- A one-page **concept paper** should be submitted by the end of Week 4.
- A **preliminary outline and bibliography** is due during Week 6.
- A **preliminary draft** is due during Week 8.
- **Final paper** is due at the end of the quarter.
- Basic expectations and requirements include:
 - 6 – 8 pages in length (1,500-2,000 words) excluding bibliography;
 - use of 5-10 resources with proper documentation in a bibliography;
 - a well-organized and flowing paper, that includes a good introduction, proper use of sections, paragraphs, and topic sentences;
 - a clean document, that is well-written, has been thoroughly proofread, and is free of major errors.

Oral Presentation

One of the skill-building objectives of the course is to learn how to make effective formal presentations. A short tutorial on formal presentations will be given. All students will give a 10-minute presentation during the last class period that summarizes their research paper findings.

Course Grading

Student grades will be maintained on Canvas. Course requirements will be weighted as follows:

Discussion participation and attendance	30%	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Final course grading scale:</i></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>94 – 100% = A</td> <td>73 – 76% = C</td> </tr> <tr> <td>90 – 93% = A-</td> <td>70 – 72% = C-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>87 – 89% = B+</td> <td>67 – 69% = D+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>83 – 86% = B</td> <td>63 – 66% = D</td> </tr> <tr> <td>80 – 82% = B-</td> <td>60 – 62% = D-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>77 – 79% = C+</td> <td>below 60% = F</td> </tr> </table>	94 – 100% = A	73 – 76% = C	90 – 93% = A-	70 – 72% = C-	87 – 89% = B+	67 – 69% = D+	83 – 86% = B	63 – 66% = D	80 – 82% = B-	60 – 62% = D-	77 – 79% = C+	below 60% = F
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Reading Annotations	30%													
Research Paper														
One-page concept paper	2.5%													
Outline & Bibliography	5%													
Draft submission	5%													
Final Submission	20%													
Oral Presentation	7.5%													

Course Policies

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class period. Excused absences with documentation (major illness, family emergency) will not affect your grade. Each unexcused absence will result in loss of all participation/discussion points for that class period.

Late assignments

Any late submission will automatically receive a 10% grade reduction; for every additional day it is late, an additional 2% will be deducted.

Technology

Unless otherwise specified, technology (laptops, tablets, smartphones) should not be used during class time, including during fieldtrips. Please hold your smartphone usage until breaks or after class.

Religious Accommodations Policy

University policy grants students excused absences from class for observance of religious holy days, unless the accommodation would create an undue hardship. Faculty are asked to be responsive to requests **when students contact them IN ADVANCE** to request such an excused absence. Students are responsible for completing assignments given during their absence, but should be given an opportunity to make up work missed because of religious observance. Students are expected to

examine the course syllabus for potential conflicts with holy days and to notify the instructor **by the end of the first week of class** of any conflicts that may require an absence. Students are also expected to remind their instructor in advance of the missed class, and to make arrangements in advance to make up any missed work.

Accommodations Policy for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability/medical issue (i.e., physical, medical, mental, emotional and learning) protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and need to request accommodations, please visit the Disability Services Program website at www.du.edu/dsp. You may also call (303) 871-2372, or visit us in person on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall; 1999 E. Evans Ave., Denver, CO.

DU Honor Code and Academic Integrity

All members of the University of Denver are expected to uphold the values of *Integrity*, *Respect*, and *Responsibility*. These values embody the standards of conduct for students, staff, faculty, and administrators as members of the University community. These values are defined as:

- *Integrity*: acting in an honest and ethical manner;
- *Respect*: honoring differences in people, ideas, and opinions;
- *Responsibility*: accepting ownership for one's own conduct.

Members of the University of Denver community pledge to:

- act with INTEGRITY and pursue academic excellence;
- RESPECT differences in people, ideas, and opinions and;
- accept my RESPONSIBILITY as a local and global citizen;

All students and faculty are expected to uphold the precepts of Academic Integrity, as outlined in the DU Honor Code. **Academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course.** This includes:

- Plagiarism, including any representation of another's work or ideas as one's own in academic and educational submissions – including your own work previously submitted elsewhere.
- Cheating, including any actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions.
- Fabrication, including any falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions.

As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures (www.du.edu/honorcode).

Registration Deadlines for Winter 2017

- Advising begins October 10, 2016 (make an appointment with Professor Boschmann)
- Early Registration is October 28, 2016
- Registration windows open: October 31 – November 3, 2016 (Be sure you know your registration window time)

Reading List (readings will be made available on Canvas)

Booth, W., G. Colomb, and J. Williams, 2008. "From Problems to Sources", chapter 5 in *The Craft of Research*, 3rd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pg 68-83.

Goetz, Andrew R. and E. Eric Boschmann. Forthcoming 2016. *Metropolitan Denver*. Metropolitan Portraits Series. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Katz, Bruce and Jennifer Bradley. 2013. *The Metropolitan Revolution: How Cities and Metros are Fixing our Broken Politics and Fragile Economy*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.

Leccese, Michael. 2005. Denver's Stapleton: Green Urban Infill for the Masses? *Terrain.org: A Journal of the Built and Natural Environments*, No. 17, Fall/Winter 2005.

Leonard, Stephen J. and Thomas J. Noel. 1990. *Denver: Mining Camp to Metropolis*. Niwot, CO: University Press of Colorado.

Miller, Jason. 2005 Another Grey Field Gone: Belmar in Lakewood, Colorado. The Town Paper. http://www.tndtownpaper.com/Volume7/belmar_colorado.htm

Mitchell, Don. 2000. *Cultural Geography: A Critical Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Tracey, Caroline. 2016. White privilege and gentrification in Denver, 'America's favourite city' *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/jul/14/white-privilege-gentrification-denver-america-favourite-city>

Warren, Roxanne. 2014. *Rail and The City: Shrinking our Carbon Footprint while Reimagining Urban Space*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Zank, Ben et al. 2012. Story map of Globeville: <http://mysite.du.edu/~bzank/Globeville/>

Course Calendar (subject to change)

BRING SNACK/LUNCH unless otherwise noted.

Week 1: Course overview: An introduction to Denver and the University of Denver

Sept. 16

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Introduction (pp. 1-12)

BRING LUNCH

In Class:

- Course welcome
- Discussion with Chancellor Chopp
- Discussion: Book Introduction
- History of South Denver and DU Campus
- Skills: Reading Strategies

Week 2: Natural Environment and Resources Geography of Denver and Colorado

Sept 23

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 1 (pp. 13-30)

Booth and Colomb (pp. 68-83)

BRING LUNCH

In-class

- Discussion with the Writing Center – writing research papers
- Discuss Chapter 1
- Visit from Anna Harper, Reference Librarian (learning about AAC resources)
 - Visit AAC at end of class.
 - Take home exercise: Evaluation of resources, comparing Google and Library searches

Week 3: Settlement History and Economic Development

Sept. 30

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 2, pp. 31-43 only

Story map of Globeville: <http://mysite.du.edu/~bzank/Globeville/>

“Denver Union Station: Portal to Progress”, Havey Productions (VIDEO)

Tracey, Caroline. 2016. White privilege and gentrification in Denver, 'America's favourite city' *The Guardian*

Field Trip: Overview of downtown Denver, Confluence Park and origins of Denver, Rail origins, Globeville and the early growth of Denver

Week 4: Contemporary Economic Development, Politics and Regional Collaboration

Oct. 7

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 2, (pp. 43-53 only)

Katz & Bradley, Chapter 3 (pp.41-63)

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 5 (pp. 105-119 only)

Union Station and TOD activity, Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce, 16th Street Mall, Civic Center Park, City & County of Denver, State of Colorado Capitol Building, Denver Regional Council of Governments

One-page concept paper due

Week 5: Rail Development in Denver and Colorado

Oct. 14

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Ch. 6 (pp. 142-158)

Warren Ch. 1

Guest scholar: Anthony Perl, Simon Fraser University

Week 6: Population Growth and Internal Structure of Denver; Race and Ethnicity in Denver

Oct. 21

Readings:

Leonard & Noel, Chapter 27 (pp. 386 – 406)

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 3 (except pp. 60-65; 70-78)

In-Class:

- Tom Romero visit
- Drive along Federal Blvd.
- Lunch at Saigon Bowl
- Visit Ruby Hill, observing urban form

Outline and Bibliography due

Week 7: Image, Place-Making, and Neighborhood Change in Denver

Oct. 28

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 4 (pp. 79-104)

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 3 (pp. 70-78 only)

LoDo to Five Points transect on foot: Lodo, Ballpark neighborhood, Red Line Gallery, St. Francis, Welton St., Five Points

Week 8: Edge Cities and Suburban Landscapes

Nov 4

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 3 (pp. 60-65 only)

Leonard & Noel: Chapter 21, pp. 255-276; Chapter 22, pp. 291-296; Chapter 25, pp. 350-58

Mitchell, pp. 129-135

First Draft of Research Paper Due

Week 9: Sustainable Futures: Smart Growth, Rail Transit, New Urbanism, and Millennials

Nov 11

Readings:

Goetz & Boschmann, Chapter 6 (pp. 135-142 only)

Leccese, Stapleton reading (pp. 125-133)

Miller, Belmar reading (pp. 1-3)

Goetz & Boschmann, Conclusion (pp.165-168)

Week 10: Student Paper Presentations

Nov. 18

Each student delivers a 10-minute presentation based on their research paper.

Research Paper Due: *end of scheduled final exam period.*