

# GEOG 228: Urban Geography

Fall 2023

Dr. Jon Lepofsky

1:25pm-2:15pm on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

220 Carolina Hall



Geographers are interested in the spatial aspects of phenomena, the interactions between people and places, and the ways scale facilitates our capacity to comprehend dynamic relationships, connections, and movements across the Earth. In short, **geographers seek to understand the why of where**. Urban geographers study a wide range of topics in that way, all supposedly having something in common because of that descriptor: “urban.”

Indeed, “urban” is an adjective. From that point of departure, this venture into urban geography will help you understand how certain places come to be described as “urban” and why that matters. This course will provide you with ways to make sense of the various geographical dimensions of urban life. As the majority of the world is now urban, by the end of this course you should understand how urban life is a fundamental aspect the world in which you live.

As the world continues to urbanize, geographers have become less interested in distinguishing what makes a place urban or not. Instead, many urban geographers are interested in understanding what urban places *do*, especially in mediating the interactions between people, social systems, and their built & natural environments.

Some broad questions we will address in this course include:

- For whom are urban places designed and built?
- What are the various ways people experience urban life and live in urban places?
- What kinds of life become possible in urban places?
- How do urban places limit certain spatial relationships, connections, and movements, both within those places and between them?
- How do urban places foster certain spatial relationships, connections, and movements, both within those places and between them?

There are no prerequisites for this course.