

GEOGRAPHY 181

URBAN FIELD STUDY

Spring 2016

Fri. 9AM-5PM

In the field, or in 145 McCone Hall

Instructor: Dr. John Stehlin

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Office: McCone Hall Room 561

Office Hours: Tuesday, 12-2 PM

Course Description

This class is designed to teach you how to 'read' the urban landscape, and in the process engage your other senses in order to understand cities. "Getting" cities means venturing out into them, paying attention to what you see, and checking your intuitions against other sources of evidence.

In this course, you will learn the broad strokes of the history of the Bay Area, and how that history "took place" in ways that are still very visible, and strongly influence what we see today and what is possible. You will also learn to connect what you see to broader concepts in urban theory, such as growth waves, changing architectural styles, industrial clustering, gentrification, residential segregation, enclave formation, and infrastructure development. By the end of the class, you will know quite a bit about the Bay Area, but you will also be able to apply these ways of seeing to other urban places, both familiar and unfamiliar. Lastly, you will learn to find the information you can't see, and to develop a whole picture of our urban world.

Course Objectives

Students who complete the course will:

- Build skills for reading urban landscapes and drawing comparisons between cities and geographic areas
- Better understand the historical development of the urban San Francisco Bay Area
- Develop familiarity with historical and current data sources for urban analysis
- Create and present their own tours of specific urban spaces, supported by research

Course Requirements & Grading Criteria

Completion of all course components is necessary to receive a passing grade in the course.

Attendance & participation (50% of final grade):

This is a field course that is driven by student participation. You are expected to complete any assigned readings before each class meeting and arrive each week prepared to participate actively: asking questions, pointing out examples of the topic, being ready to answer questions on the spot.

Unless otherwise directed, we meet in the foyer of the **Downtown Berkeley BART Station** (below ground, near the foot of the big escalator) at 9 AM, sharp. We leave there at 9:10. We will primarily utilize BART, CalTrain, buses, and our feet. Please obtain a Clipper Card for BART, CalTrain, and SF Muni, preferably with auto-load, so as not to waste time buying tickets.

Bring a small notebook and pen or pencil to every class meeting. You should be jotting down important information that you see or things you may want to know more about. If you have a smartphone and/or digital camera, they are more than welcome as long as they are charged and you use them only for class purposes during walking/discussion periods.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and carry an extra layer in case the weather gets unpleasant. Unfortunately, this is an El Niño year, which means we may encounter rain. Light rain does not cancel class, but you may want to bring an umbrella. If the forecast is for moderate to heavy rain, I will send an email by 8:30 AM to tell you whether we will meet in BART or in 145 McCone. Heavy rain days will focus on library and internet research skills.

Response papers (25% of final grade): Due April 4 and April 25, 5:00 PM

Select three different field trips and write a 500-750 word response essay for each one. Essays should integrate observations made during the field trip that day, insights from the reading(s) assigned for that class meeting, and conversations with fellow classmates.

Term project (25% of final grade): Due May 6, 5:00 PM

Design a mini field trip on the model of the field trips we conduct in class. The field trip will consist of roughly 2 miles of walking, and include at least 6 distinct stops. You will present the field trip to the class on the final day. A separate handout will explain the project more fully.

Grade Scale

93-100	A	83-87	B	73-77	C
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-
88-89	B+	78-79	C+	68-69	D+

Academic Integrity

Any test, paper, report or homework submitted under your name is presumed to be your own original work that has not previously been submitted for credit in another course. All words and ideas written by other people must be properly attributed: fully identified as to source and the extent of your use of their work. Cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct will result in a failing grade on the assignment, paper, quiz, or exam in question and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Office Hours

John Stehlin: Tuesday 12-2, 561 McCone. Please sign up online here: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/yahal>.

Please include “GEOG 181” in the subject line of all email correspondence.

Course Website

Please see the course site at <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1404032> for the syllabus, announcements, and additional resources, along with supplementary materials and items of interest.

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs

Please bring these to the attention of the Disabled Students Program office (dsp.berkeley.edu/), and once I have heard from them I will do my best to accommodate you. Students with mobility challenges should know that his course consists of a great deal of traveling on sidewalks and boarding public transportation. Students who require computer transcription rather than note-taking by hand may make audio recordings of field trips, but in general recording is discouraged. Within these constraints, however, all students are welcome. I am happy to discuss any concerns.

Readings

There is no textbook for this course. A very handy book to have is Peter Booth Wiley’s *The National Trust Guide to San Francisco*. It’s available used very cheaply here:

<http://www.abebooks.com/servlet/SearchResults?an=wiley&sts=t&tn=national+trust+guide>.

Readings will be assigned almost every week over the semester, and are available on the bCourses site under “Modules.” Should interest warrant, these can be compiled into a bound reader. Separate readings marked as Suggested on the syllabus can also be found under “Modules” and indented by one space.

Course Schedule

Schedule is subject to change based on weather and transportation considerations.

January 22	City of Academe: Introductions & Berkeley Campus
	<hr/> Meet in 145 McCone Hall <hr/>
	<i>Suggested:</i> Gray Brechin, <i>Imperial San Francisco</i> (1999), pp. 280-330
January 29	Downtown USA: Downtown & West Berkeley
	<hr/> Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART <hr/>
	Richard Walker, “Four Ecologies of Residence in the San Francisco Bay Area,” <i>Ecumene</i> (1995), Vol. 2, No. 1, pp. 33-64
	<i>Suggested:</i> Thayer Watkins, “When West Berkeley Was Finntown,” http://www.applet-magic.com/finntown.htm
	<i>Further reading:</i> Charles Wollenberg, <i>Berkeley: A City in History</i> (2008)

- February 5 Harlem of the West: Oakland Downtown, the Port, & West Oakland
Meet at Telegraph & Dwight AC Transit for Southbound 1R
 Robert Self, *American Babylon* (2003), pp. 1-20
Suggested: Chris Rhomberg, *No There There* (2004), pp. 120-44
Suggested: Robert Self, *American Babylon* (2003), pp. 135-76
- February 12 Commanding Heights: Downtown San Francisco, Financial District, SOMA
Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART
 Chester Hartman and Sarah Carnochan, *City for Sale* (2002), pp. 1-14
Suggested: Peter Booth Wiley, *The National Trust Guide to San Francisco* (2000), pp. 103-21
- February 19 Old San Francisco: North Beach, Chinatown, Telegraph Hill
Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART
 Peter Booth Wiley, *The National Trust Guide to San Francisco* (2000), pp. 73-101
- February 19 Countercultural City: Haight, Castro, Mission, Fillmore
Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART
 Manuel Castells, *The City and the Grassroots* (1983), pp. 99-109, 130-45
Suggested: Erick Lyle, *On the Lower Frequencies* (2008), pp. 5-12, 77-107
- March 4 Workers Cottages and Streetcar Suburbs: North Oakland & West Oakland
Meet at Telegraph & Dwight AC Transit for Southbound 1R
 Jeff Norman, *Temescal Legacies* (2006), pp. 67-96
 Robert Self, *American Babylon* (2003), pp. 1-20
****Final project proposal due in class****
- March 11 Arsenal of Democracy: Richmond's Shipyards
Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART
 Gretchen Lemke-Santangelo, *Abiding Courage* (1996), pp. 69-106
- March 18 Industrial Garden: Fruitvale, East Oakland, San Leandro
Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART
 Robert Self, *American Babylon* (2003), pp. 1-20
Suggested: Robert Self, *American Babylon* (2003), pp. 96-131

March 25	SPRING BREAK
April 1	No class – Association of American Geographers conference in San Francisco <hr/> Work on final projects
April 4	**Two field trip responses due at 5:00 PM**
April 8	Office Space: Dublin & Pleasanton <hr/> Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART <hr/> Louise Mazingo, <i>Pastoral Capitalism</i> (2011), pp. 1-11, 182-7 <i>Skim:</i> Louise Mazingo, <i>Pastoral Capitalism</i> (2011), pp. 151-93 [many images]
April 15	Nerdistan: Palo Alto & Mountain View <hr/> Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART <hr/> Richard Walker, “The Boom and the Bombshell,” in <i>The Changing Economic Geography of Globalization</i> , ed. Giovanna Vertova (2006), pp. 121-47 Louise Mazingo, <i>Pastoral Capitalism</i> (2011), pp. 166-71, 190-1, 195-6
April 22	The New Suburbs: Pittsburgh & Antioch <hr/> Meet at Downtown Berkeley BART <hr/> Alex Schafran, “Origins of an Urban Crisis: The Restructuring of the San Francisco Bay Area and the Geography of Foreclosure,” <i>International Journal of Urban and Regional Research</i> (2013), Vol. 37, No. 2, pp. 663-88
April 25	**One field trip response due at 5:00 PM**
April 28	**Presentation materials due at 9:00 PM**
April 29	Presentations & Conclusion
May 6	**Final projects due**