

## Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I would like to thank my family, particularly my parents, for the lifelong love, support, and dedication they have provided. Without them, I would never have come so far. I am forever grateful for all they have done and the many opportunities they have allowed me. I can only hope to someday return the favor, and vow to forever uphold the generosity they have displayed.

A debt of gratitude is also owed to each of my committee members for their oversight and direction. Dr. Diane Zahm, my committee chair, deserves special recognition for her sustained patience and guidance throughout the process of completing this paper. Without her efforts, this paper would not have been possible. I can never thank her enough for helping me develop ideas, realize my potential, and achieve my dreams.

I would also like to thank my friends and fellow students, who have been a source of comfort, strength, and support in times of grief. I am particularly appreciative for the time they have taken to listen to my frustrations and the counseling that followed. Though a difficult task, they each met the challenge and exceeded my expectations in a special way.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning for their efforts during my tenure at Virginia Tech. Our time together has been memorable and will forever be cherished. I am forever grateful for their many contributions and the role they have played in my intellectual development. They can take comfort and pride in knowing that I leave them with full faith in the knowledge and abilities they have instilled. I am confident that the skills they have provided will allow me to succeed and make a positive impact.

Thank you all!

# Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1. An Introduction to Gated Communities.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.What is a gated community?.....	1
1.2.Reasons for gated communities.....	3
1.3.Purpose of gated communities.....	8
1.4.Effects of gating on safety and security.....	10
<b>Chapter 2. Defensible Space and the Justification for Gated Communities.....</b>	<b>17</b>
2.1. What is defensible space? .....	17
2.2. Facets of defensible space.....	18
2.3. Links to gated communities.....	21
2.4. Critique of assumptions.....	22
<b>Chapter 3. Alternative Views of the Gate: Theoretical and Practical Considerations.....</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1. Gates and crime in crime prevention theories.....	25
3.2. Realities of gated living.....	32
3.3. Future implications.....	37
<b>Chapter 4. More Than Just a Gate: Long-Term Implications of Gated Communities.....</b>	<b>40</b>
4.1. Planning concerns surrounding gated communities.....	40
4.2. Areas for continued research.....	43
4.3. Conclusion.....	46
<b>References.....</b>	<b>49</b>

## List of Tables

Table 1.1. Crime in Five Oaks, 1990-1994.....	12
Table 1.2. Crime Rate Trends in Ft. Lauderdale Neighborhoods, 1988-1989.....	15

## List of Figures

Figure 1.1. Gated entrance to the Weston Hills neighborhood of Weston, Florida.....	2
Figure 1.2. Major concentrations of gated communities in the United States.....	7