

Introduction to Urban Studies

Fall 2018

Department of Urban Studies and Planning

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Wayne State University

T/Th 10:30 – 12:10
134 State Hall
Cross-listed: GPH 2000,
HIS 2000, PS 2000, US 2000
(cr. 4)

Jeff Horner, Instructor
3219 F/AB 577-0194

Jeffhorner@wayne.edu
Office hrs: T/Th 12:30-1:00
and by appt.

Overview

This course is designed to provide students with an introductory understanding of urban developmental history, contemporary urban life, current and historic social issues, race and ethnicity, economics, environmental issues, governance and politics, primarily in the Western context. In addition to classic European and American urban theorists, students will be introduced to contemporary urban theory and nascent developmental trends.

Where appropriate, the influence of public policies that shape cities will be examined in depth, while respecting the *sine qua non* role of laissez-faire economics in urban development. Structured as a survey course, topics are presented with relatively broad overviews, and assigned readings and presentations are tailored similarly.

Traditional class instruction is augmented with classroom discussion, multimedia presentations, and guest speakers. In sum, the course will provide a sound basis for the continued study of urban affairs.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing the course will be able to:

- converse in the antecedents of urban history, and the initial and continuing causes of dense human settlements;
- understand the causes shaping urbanized areas, and the evolution of those causes through transportation epochs;
- identify and discuss the major processes, including technological, social, and policy changes that affect and shape cities of the world;
- articulate policy responses (planning, public administration and regionalism) to urban growth and decline;
- synthesize the numerous dimensions of cities, and articulate the interdependency of the dimensions;
- elucidate the main ideas of various urban theorists, and the underpinnings of their theories;
- describe the work practices of professional urban planners and economic developers;
- reflect upon a deep and rich understanding of the underlying causes of Detroit's decline.

Course Materials

The following required course text is available from the University Bookstore and online:

Horner, Jeffrey T. (ed.). The Straight Detroit: America's Premier Legacy City (1st ed.), Cognella Academic Publishers, 2018. ISBN: 978-1-5165-1270-6.

****Please be assured that your instructor, editor of the course text, is not paid royalties or otherwise receives any form of remuneration for the sale of this required text to Wayne State students.****

To purchase, please follow this link: <https://store.cognella.com/81877-1B-005>. If you experience any difficulties, please email orders@cognella.com or call 800.200.3908 ext. 503.

Three (3) Examination Bluebooks, completely unmarked or written on.

Course Operations

Additional course materials may be distributed throughout the semester. Any such readings will be posted on the course Canvas system in advance of lecture. Be sure to familiarize yourself with Canvas if you are not familiar with it, and check often for course announcements. Course audio recordings and Powerpoints discussed by the instructor will be made available in EchoCenter (found on the course Canvas page) following each lecture.

Please note that multi-media presentations or presentations from guest speakers (unless offered by them) will not be made available on Canvas or through any other electronic medium.

Suggested additional reading, but not recommended for purchase:

Bluestone, Stevenson and Williams, The Urban Experience - Economics, Society and Public Policy (1st ed.), Oxford University Press, 2008.

Organization

While a standard lecture and discussion format will be used in this course, it is unrealistic to presume that your instructor should be the sole purveyor of urban issues and problems. Accordingly, a guest speaker has agreed to provide a perspective on issues in their professional field. Be advised that students are responsible for any material presented by guest speakers.

Assigned readings are listed in the syllabus. Non-text assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard, and may be distributed throughout the semester. Be advised that **all** readings are fair game for examinations, irrespective of the amount of time spent discussing them in lecture.

Because of unforeseen events and the schedules of guest speakers, this syllabus is subject to change. I will advise students of any such changes as far in advance as is possible.

Changes to University Add/Withdrawal Periods

The last day to unilaterally add a course is Wednesday, September 5th, being one week after the start of classes. Please also note that students will not be given departmental approval to register after this date.

The last day to drop the course with tuition cancellation is September 12th, and the last day to withdraw from the course is November 11th, after which students may not withdraw under any circumstances. For more information, see the full registration calendar at:

<https://reg.wayne.edu/students/calendar18-19>

Attendance Policy

Though there is no formal attendance policy, regular attendance is expected in order to maximize course learning outcomes. **Per new University regulations, I will take regular attendance in class during the first two weeks to fulfill participation reporting requirements to the Provosts' Office.** Note that this attendance report will have no direct bearing on course grades.

Assessment

Final course grade is based on three non-cumulative periodic examinations. Periodic exams will be subjective in content (essay-based). Students will be provided a nearly full set (approximately 20-30, also known as the exam question pool) of possible exam questions at least five days before exams, and will be expected to answer a subset of them (5-9 questions) on the exam. In addition, exams will feature one question that is not found in the examination question pool covering material presented in lecture. Exams are weighted for final grade computational purposes according to the following schedule:

Exam I:	30%
Exam II:	30%
Final Exam:	40%
	100%

Important Note on Exams: Students who arrive more than 5 minutes late to an examination will not be issued an exam. No exceptions. Students who schedule vacations or non WSU-related travel in conflict with exams will not be eligible for a makeup exam under any circumstances.

Make Up Examination Policy

Make-up examinations will be administered only for the following reasons and under the following strict conditions:

1. ***Emergency medical circumstances.*** Students must provide an original supporting letter or intake form (photocopies not accepted) from a physician or emergency room attendant that must include the day and time of treatment, the nature of the **emergency** visit, the day and time of discharge, and the attending physician's name, signature and contact information. **Prescription slips are not acceptable proof of emergency medical treatment.** This letter or form must be provided to your instructor (or dropped off in the Department) no later than two days after discharge from treatment. Upon satisfactory follow-up by the instructor, the student will be contacted for a makeup exam at the instructor's convenience.
2. ***Court dates.*** Students must provide (at least one week before the exam) an original subpoena (photocopies not accepted) from the court that includes the date and time of the court appearance.
3. ***WSU-Sanctioned Activities.*** Students participating in WSU-sanctioned activities must present proof of activity at least one week before the exam with contact information for follow-up.

ICE

In the event of **any** emergency on campus, always call WSU Police at 577-2222. Do not call 911.

University Student Disability Services

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Once you have met with your disability specialist, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your accommodations. Student Disability Services' mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. You can learn more about the disability office at www.studentdisability.wayne.edu.

To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at: https://wayne-accommodate.symlicity.com/public_accommodation/

Academic and Personal Integrity

Students are hereby reminded of the University policies on plagiarism and academic dishonesty, as found in University rules and regulations. Students unfamiliar with these policies and all related precepts are urged to carefully review them, as they are adopted in their entirety for this course. Students can review these policies at:

<http://www.doso.wayne.edu/student-conduct-services.html>

Courtesy in Class and in Email Communications

Students are expected to demonstrate courtesy to fellow students, and to keep private conversation to a minimum during class time. Furthermore, students choosing to communicate with fellow classmates by email may do so only in a polite and courteous manner. Last, students who must eat in class are asked to do so in as quiet a manner as possible. If this policy is not followed closely, your instructor will not permit the consumption of food in class.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

University and Federal regulations prohibit your instructor from engaging in any academically-related email correspondence that is not on a WSU email account. ***Any such emails from non-WSU accounts from persons claiming to be students will not be responded to.*** Please be sure to use your WSU email account to contact your instructor with any concerns, suggestions, or course clarifications not found in the course syllabus. Last, as pertains to communications from outside of the University, instructors are not authorized to discuss academic issues concerning a student with anyone but that student.

WSU Email Communications with Instructor

If you don't receive an email response within 24 hours, it is likely your instructor didn't respond because a WSU email account wasn't used, or the answer is found in the syllabus. Before you email, please check to see if your question or concern is addressed in the syllabus.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why don't lectures cover all of the assigned readings?

There are essentially four course material components of the class: assigned readings, instructor-led lecture, guest speakers and multi-media presentations. These components will be integrated as much as possible, but because of limited time in the classroom, students will have to learn concepts found only in assigned readings that they are responsible for on examinations and the reflection paper. EchoCenter recorded lectures will become available in EchoCenter about an hour after the end of class. Unless otherwise noted, in-class multimedia and guest speaker presentations will not be made available on Blackboard.

Why are there so many possible exam questions?

If a student doesn't begin to prepare for exams and is disengaged from class until the test questions are distributed, it will no doubt seem like an overly burdensome task to research and develop model answers for all of the questions in only five days. However, students who attend class regularly, keep pace with assigned readings, review the Powerpoint presentations, and listen to the Echo Center recordings after they post, will be at a distinct advantage over the student described above. Secondly, the number of exam questions is never more than 3-4 per instruction period, hardly an onerous number of questions for a 100-minute instruction period.

Are exam grades curved? What does it mean to grade on a curve?

Yes. It means that test score data is analyzed as a population, including deriving the mean and standard deviation in order to assign the spread of grades across the population. Conceptually, a curved exam is one where students compete against other students, not against a straight grading scale. The curve is set to a B-/C+ mean, meaning that about one-half of the population of scores earn a grade of B- or higher, and the other half C+ or lower.

What are the study sessions all about?

On the regular course meeting day before examinations, there will be a course material review session held for the subsequent exam (for the Final Exam, the study session will be held on the University Study Day preceding finals week). At the study sessions, your instructor will not answer direct exam questions, but rather will only provide clarification of terms, concepts and ideas presented in class. Under the direction of the instructor, student questions will be directed back to the class for assistance in the answers.

I bombed an exam even though I studied so long and hard for it. What is the trick to doing well on exams?

No tricks are involved in doing well on exams. Given that students have all but one possible exam questions at least five days before the exam, it's simply a matter of developing a set of model responses and memorizing them. The best way to hack this process is to work with fellow dedicated students and divide up the labor of development of model answers.

Why won't the instructor answer my email?

While your instructor receives more email than he can ever respond to, he carefully reads all email from students, and, if warranting a response, will almost always respond within 24 hours. However, if the question or concern is clearly addressed in the course syllabus or has been addressed in class, it's very likely a response won't be forthcoming.

How are final grades calculated?

Using the grade point average method. Letter grades on exams and papers are converted to numeric values (A=4.00, A-=3.67, B+=3.33, B=3.00, B-=2.67, C+=2.33, C=2.00, C-=1.67, D+=1.33, D=1.00, D-=.67, F=0), and averaged according to the exam weights described above in "Assessment."

Class Schedule	<u>Topic and Required Reading or Assignment(s)</u>
Wk 1 Aug. 30	Introduction and Course Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Online TED presentation</i> “Jaime Lerner Sings of the City” www.ted.com/talks/jaime_lerner_sings_of_the_city.html
Wk 2 Sept. 4	Ancient Settlements and Medieval Cities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 2 (Palen text readings will be posted on Canvas)
Sept. 6	Urban and Suburban America pt. 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 3, 5, 6
Wk 3 Sept. 11	Urban and Suburban America pt. 2
Sept. 13	Urban Ecology and Political Economy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 4, 11 • Online Movie: <i>Battle for Brooklyn</i>
Wk 4 Sept. 18	Urban Economics, Trade, and Labor Markets
Sept. 20	History of Organized Labor
Wk 5 Sept. 25	Movie Presentation – “Bulworth” (1998)
Sept. 27	Exam I Course Material Review
Wk 6 Oct. 2	Exam I
Oct. 4	Race and Ethnography <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Section III, Chapt 2, “Benefit of the Redoubt” • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 9, 10
Wk 7 Oct. 9, 11	Housing Policy, Markets, and Discrimination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 12
Wk 8 Oct. 16	Urban Infrastructure
Oct. 18	Urban Transportation Systems <p>Guest Speaker - Tyler Bevier, Planner, MI Bay Area Transportation Authority</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Section IV, Chapt. 5, “Detroit Public Transit, Past, Present and Future”
Wk 9	Oct. 23, 25	Urban Education and Crime
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 8 <p>Film Presentation - <i>Waiting for Superman</i> (2010)</p>
Wk 10	Oct. 30	Urban Governmental Structure and Theory
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Section 1, Chapt. 4, “The Apprenticeship: Good Government Mayor”
	Nov. 1	Exam II Course Material Review
Wk 11	Nov. 6	Exam II
	Nov. 8	History of Urban Planning
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Section IV, Chapt. 4, “Urban Renewal and Detroit” • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 13
Wk 12	Nov. 13, 15	Current Planning Practice, Eminent Domain, Regionalism
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Section IV, Chapt. 3, “Politics and Policy in Metro Detroit”
Wk 13	Nov. 20	Urban Economic Development
Wk 14	Nov. 27, 29	Detroit History and 20th Century Issues
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Section I, Chapt. 1-3, “Detroit History,” “The Potawatomi Indians of Detroit,” “Elijah Brush, Transnational American” • <i>Horner</i>, Section II, Chapt. 1-3 “The Deindustrialization of Detroit,” “Detroit: Industrial Democracy or Capitalist Oligarchy?” “The Demise of Detroit: Why the Big Three Lost”
Wk 15	Dec. 4	Detroit Futures
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horner</i>, Sect. V Chapt. 3, “Is Detroit America’s Future City?”
	Dec. 6	World Urbanization
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Palen</i>, Chapt. 14, 15, 16
Wk 16	Dec. 11	University Study Day - Final Exam Material Review

Final Examination Date and Time: Thursday December 13th, 10:15-12:15