

Syllabus

Introduction to Urban Studies

Course Information:

Organization	Wayne State University
College	Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department	Urban Studies and Planning
Course Number	US 2000-002
Cross Listed	HIS 2000, SOC 2500, PS 2000, GPH 2000
CRN	14165
Contact Hours	4
Term	Fall 2017
Class Time	Online
Instructor	Benjamin J. Tallerico
Email address	ab9405@wayne.edu (Response within 48 hours)
Campus	Virtual

“ *From beginning to end, from Howard to Burham to the latest amendment on urban-renewal law, the entire concoction is irrelevant to the working of cities, Unstudied, unrespected, cities have served as sacrificial victims.* ”

----- *Jane Jacobs 1961*

Course Description

This class will introduce students to the field of urban studies and provide a framework in which urban phenomena can be analyzed and understood. Urban studies is an interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary field of study which draws upon the perspectives of political science, history, economics, sociology, urban planning, and geography as well as others for its content. Theories and concept from various fields are combined to provide the subject matter for this course.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students successfully completing the course will:

- converse in the antecedents of urban history, and the initial and continuing causes of dense human settlements;
- 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;
- be conversant in the antecedents of urban history, and the initial and continuing causes of dense human settlements;
- have a broad understanding of the causes shaping urbanized areas, and the evolution of those causes through transportation epochs;
- be able to identify and discuss the major processes, including technological, social, and policy changes that affect and shape cities of the world;
- accurately describe 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;
- articulate the main ideas of various urban theorists, and the underpinnings of their theories;
- understand and the work practices of professional urban planners and economic developers;
- possess a deep and rich understanding of the underlying causes of Detroit’s decline.

Course Text

J. John Palen. *The Urban World*. Tenth Edition. Oxford University Press, ISBN; 978-0-19-937196-9

Additional readings on Blackboard

- Eisinger, Peter (2000), "The Politics of Bread and Circuses: Building the City for the Visitor Class", *Urban Affairs Review*, vol. 35, no. 3, pp.316-333
- Eisinger, Peter (2014), "Is Detroit Dead?" *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 36, issue 1, pp.1-12
- Galster, George (2012) "Driving Detroit, the Quest for Respect in the Motor City". Ch 9
- Gary Sands and Laura Reese (2014), "A Tale of Four Detroits"
- Gary Sands and Mark Skidmore (2015), "Detroit and the Property Tax: Strategies to Improve Equity and Enhance Revenue", *Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*, pp. 1-51
- Newcombe, Tod (2012), "The Great Convention Center Bailout" *Governing*, vol. 26, no. 3, pp. 23
- Okrent, Daniel (2009), "The Tragedy of Detroit", *Detroit Tries to Get on the Road to Revival*. *Time*, vol. 174, no. 13, pp. 26-34
- Patton, Zach (2010), "Moving Pictures", *Governing*, vol. 23, no. 9, pp. 22-26
- Reese et al. (2017), "It's safe to come, we've got lattes: development disparities in Detroit", *Cities*, vol. 60, pp. 367-377
- Sapotichne, et al (2015), Beyond State Takeovers: Reconsidering the Role of State Government in Local Financial Distress, MSU Extension White Paper
- Laura Reese and Gary Sands (2017), Detroit's recovery: The glass is half-full at most, Salon.
http://www.salon.com/2017/02/11/detroits-recovery_partner/

Grading Scale

93-100	A	82-87	B	71-77	C	61-66	D
90-92	A-	80-81	B-	70	C-	60	D-
88-89	B+	78-79	C+	67-69	D+	< 60	F

Assignments and Evaluation Procedures

Assignments	20 percent (05 points each)
Visual Preference Survey	05 percent
Various bb discussion/response	05 percent
Government Meeting Paper	10 percent
Tests (4)	40 percent total (10 percent each)
Final	20 percent

Guidelines for SuccessPreparation

You should log into bb every day. Various information will be provided.

Assignments:

There will be four (4) assignments during the semester. The assignments will pertain to the related readings. Missed assignments will result in a zero. There are no make-up assignments. Dates of the assignments are noted under the *Course Outline and Reading Schedule*.

Government meeting paper DUE Dec 02:

Students are required to attend a public hearing of their choice on a planning related topic and prepare a written description and critique of the event. **DO NOT WAIT TO ATTEND A MEETING since many get canceled.** Meetings of planning commissions, zoning boards, and zoning boards of appeal – particularly in cities familiar to the student -- are all good candidates. City council meetings are generally not good choices unless you have verified in advance that planning issues are an important component of the agenda. Your paper should summarize what happened at the meeting, analyze/critique the event in light of the material covered in the readings and class sessions, and identify at least one substantive discovery or lesson about city planning that you

take away from this exercise. Papers should be approximately 4-6 pages in length (double spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point type); they are due by April 15 at 11:59 PM. You must get approval from the Instructor before attending any meeting. Late papers will be marked down 10% each day late. Note: *You will NOT be able to attend a meeting that is taped for later viewing.*

Visual Preference Survey DUE Dec 09:

Students must chose a municipality within a 45 minute drive of campus (no two students will have the same community). Each student is required to do a survey of the community they chose. All students must email requesting a community and wait for approval (or choose another if approval not given) before starting the assignment. The survey is due April 22 11:59 PM. Late surveys will be marked down 10% each day late.

To execute a Survey follow all the steps.

1. **IDENTIFY** an area in the city, village, or neighborhood that you chose or use the entire community for research.
2. **WALK** your chosen area. Select conditions of streets, buildings, blocks, yards, etc. that you feel are well designed
3. **PHOTOGRAPH** 10 of these places you feel are well designed, and number them from one to ten on your map, and note them from on a sheet of paper.
4. **REPEAT THE PROCESS** but now chose 10 places you feel are poorly designed, and number them from 11 to 20. Note them on your map and a sheet of paper.
5. **STATE THE REASONS** why you feel they are well designed or not well designed. Do this on a separate sheet of paper.
6. **RECORD** the places on a map. (Many times this can be done from a satellite image).
7. **SCORE YOUR PICTURES** using the following scale;

Strongly Dislike
①

②

Neutral
③

④

Strongly Prefer
⑤

Various bb discussion/response:

Periodically during the term you will asked to post and response to a question/position on bb. You will be notified through Announcement and will have at least 4 days to post.

Tests:

There will be four tests covering the assigned readings and lecture material. These tests will be multiple choice or essay.

Comprehensive Final Examination:

The final exam will be inclusive of the semesters work. There is no make-up exam during the current term if a student misses the final. If the final is missed, the *Policy on Incompletes* below will be used to determine if there is an opportunity to take the final during the following term.

Weekly Agenda's:

In addition to the syllabus, each week I will post a "Weekly Agenda" to assist you in your weekly preparation.

Specific Course Policies

Academic Honesty:

It is my expectation that the principles of truth and honesty will be practiced in all academic matters. Acts of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism or cheating, are regarded as very serious offenses. As a general rule a first offense would result in an assignment/test earning no credit with any possibility of makeup. A second offense would result in no credit for the course. Other Department and College policies with respect to grading and academic integrity will apply in this class.

Policy on Missed Tests

- All students will have at least 3 days to take a test. There are no make-up tests.

Policy on Late assignments/Incompletes:

All assignments are due on the dates specifies; extension will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. An incomplete must be resolved no later than December 31, 2018. Keep in mind that a grade of "I" will be given only when a student has a passing grade in the class (C or above), has demonstrated that an extraordinary circumstance exists, AND there is a small amount remaining for the student to complete the course.

Drop policy:

Instructor's initiated withdrawals after the withdrawal date can only be received:

- if students request it from the instructor, and
- if they have a valid explanation, and
- if they have/had a **PASSING GRADE** in the course at last date they attended the class.

Accessibility Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended, affords students an equal opportunity to participate in educational course/programs/services. If you have a permanent disability for which accommodation may be appropriate, please contact the school.

General Course Policies:

- All emailed papers, assignments, etc. should have **your name on them**. Minus 1 point if requirement not met.
- All Department & College policies with respect to grading and academic integrity will apply.
- If there is a problem with a particular assignment and/or grade please contact me via e-mail or through the Department Office.
- Written work will be graded on content, organization and presentation of your ideas, (including spelling, grammar and other standard conventions of writing).
- There is no extra credit (why would I give extra credit if you cannot do the "credit"?)
- **As a policy, there is NO MAKE-UP for missed assignments, homework, or tests unless otherwise noted.**
- All work shall be word processed. No handwritten work will be accepted.

Course Outline and Reading Schedule:

Note: All readings are required. All readings refer to your required text, *Cities and Urban Life*, unless otherwise noted. Other readings can be found on Blackboard.

Week 01:

Aug 30-Sep 05

Part One: World Cities

Readings: *The Urban World*, Chapter 1

Readings: *The Emergence of Cities*, Chapter 2

Week 02:

Sep 06-12

Readings: *Planning, New Towns, and New Urbanism*, Ch 13

Readings: *Developing Countries*, Ch 14

Week 03:

Sep 13-19

Readings: *Urban Culture and Lifestyles*, Ch 7

Test One: Complete by 11:59 PM Sep 19

Week 04:

Sep 20-26

Part Two: American Cities

Movie: *Taken for a Ride*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-I8GDklsN4>

Video: *Cities back from the brink: Portland*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsDJCGpLNiw>

Readings: *The Rise of Urban America*, Ch 3

Assignment 1: Due 11:59PM Sep 26

Week 05:

Sep 27-Oct 03

Readings: *Ecology and Political Economy Perspectives*, Ch 4

Readings: *Metro and Edge City Growth*, Ch 5

Week 06:

Oct 04-10

Essay: *The Politics of Bread and Circuses*

Readings: *Cities and Change*, Ch 11

Readings: *Housing Policies, Sprawl, and Smart Growth*, Chapter 12

Week 07:

Oct 11-17

Readings: *The Suburban Era*, Chapter 6

Readings: *Diversity*, Chapter 9

Test Two: Complete by 11:59 PM Oct 17

Week 08:

Oct 18-24

Part Three: Michigan Cities

Article: *The Great Convention Bailout*

Article: *Moving Pictures*

Assignment 2: Due 11:59 Oct 24

Week 09:

Oct 25-31

Readings: *The Social Environment of Metro Areas*, Ch 8

Readings: *Toward the Urban Future*, Chapter 17

Test Three: Complete by 11:59 PM Oct 31

Week 10:

Nov 01-07

Part Four: Detroit

Book Chapter: *Driving Detroit: Chapter 9*

Essay: *Is Detroit Dead?*

Readings: *Detroit's recovery: The glass is half-full at most*

Week 11:

Nov 08-14

Essay "A Tale of Four Detroits"

Video: *Lafayette Park*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XWSWcDCCLM>

Assignment 3: Due 11:59 Nov 14

Week 12:

Nov 14-21

Article: *It's safe to come, we've got lattes*

Article: *The Tragedy of Detroit*

Video: Detroit: The US City On Brink Of Collapse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YBIOLRke41o>

Week 13:

Nov 26-Dec 02

Readings: *Report- Beyond State Takeovers*

Readings: *Planning the Urban Environment*, Chapter 14

Government Paper: *Due 11:59 PM Dec 02*

Week 14:

Dec 03-09

Readings: *Report - Detroit & the Property Tax: Strategies to Improve Equity*

Visual Preference Survey: *Due Dec 09*

Test Four: *Complete by 11:59 PM Dec 09*

Week 15:

Dec 10-11

Assignment 4: *Due 11:59 Dec 11*

Final Week:

Dec 13-19

Final Due: *11:59 PM Dec 17*
