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## Introduction to Urban Studies

PD 120, Fall 2003

This course will examine urban space both historically and cross-culturally. In this context, we will discuss the importance of cities to the economic, cultural, and political well-being of modern societies and examine how forces such as industrialization, decentralization, and suburbanization affect the structure and function of cities. We will discuss classic theories and recent discourse in urban studies as we look to answer questions like, “*how and why cities develop and change, and who lives in cities and why?*” We will pay close attention to the impact of race, ethnicity, and class on urban communities. By the end of the course, it is my hope that students gain a new understanding of the significant role that cities play in the vitality of the metropolis.

**Required Text:** John J. Macionis and Vincent N. Parrillo, 2004. *Cities and Urban Life*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. ISBN: 0-13-111395-X. The text is available at Folletts Campus Bookstore on the north campus, the Medical School Bookstore on the south campus, and Talking Leaves Bookstore on Main Street in Buffalo. There are additional required readings on e-reserve at: <http://libnet.buffalo.edu/reservex/PD120.PATTERSON.xml> As a bonus to you I will post class notes on blackboard after each class meeting beginning Sept. 4th. **Notes will only be posted for one week** after the class they are given. The syllabus will also be posted on Blackboard as well as “read only” versions of the class exams.

### Course Requirements

- **Attendance Policy:** I will not take regular attendance, nor will I pass out attendance sheets. Attendance will be monitored as follows: Five times during the semester I will give an in class essay question. Your answers can be no longer than one page long. These “attendance checks points” will not only inform me of who is coming to class, but they will also alert me of who is paying attention during lectures and keeping up with the readings. You can not make these up, you are either in class that day or you are not. At the end of the semester, your lowest “attendance check point” will be dropped. Thus, it will not be calculated into your final grade. These “attendance check points” are worth 30% of your final grade.
- Completion of **ALL** readings. This class will meet a total of 31 times. For most class periods, a certain set of readings is required. You need to have the readings finished for the class period they are listed under so you will better understand the lecture and be able to contribute to the class discussion when prompted.
- **There are three exams for this class.** They are not cumulative (each will cover new material). They will, however, get progressively more difficult. The first exam is multiple-choice/true-false given on **September 25<sup>th</sup>**. The second exam will be in two parts, the first part will be multiple-choice/true-false, the second part will be two take-home essay questions. The in-class portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> exam will be given on **October 28<sup>th</sup>**. On that day you will also receive the take-home essay questions. These essay questions will be due on **November 4<sup>th</sup>**. The third and last exam will be an in-class essay examination. This last exam will be given on **December 4<sup>th</sup>**.

**Important Note:** There will be no make-up exams given in this class except for extreme circumstances. These include death in family/severe illness---both of which must be accompanied by proper verification. Forgetting, oversleeping, breaking up with a girlfriend or boyfriend, and/or divorcing your parents are not listed under severe circumstances. If you miss an exam you will receive a “0” for that exam. A late take-home exam will be lowered one letter grade for each class period it is late. If you know ahead of time that you will have to miss an exam, let me know well in advance (approximately 1 week) and you will be given an exam at an earlier date than listed. As a general rule, I do not give the grade of “I” or extra credit.

## Grading and Evaluation

All requirements for this class are scored on a 100 point scale and weighted according to proportion of grade: three examinations (70%), attendance check points (30%).

**The conversion of points to grades is as follows:**

<u>Points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
95-100	A
90-94.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
84-86.99	B
80-83.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
74-76.99	C
70-73.99	C-
67-69.99	D+
60-66.99	D
<60	F

**In regard to Academic Integrity...** I uphold the policies of the university with respect to academic integrity. They read, in part, *“The University has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect for others’ academic endeavors. By placing their name on academic work, students certify the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgments.”* **In other words, don’t cheat and don’t plagiarize.** The university’s statement on academic integrity is available online at <http://www.ub-judiciary.buffalo.edu/art3a.shtml>. Please contact me if you have any questions about the meaning and exercise of academic integrity policies.

**About disabilities...** If you have a disability (physical, learning, or psychological) that may make it difficult for you to carry out the course work as outlined and/or requires accommodations, such as recruiting note-takers, readers, or extended time on assignments, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 25 Capen Hall, (716) 645-2608. ODS will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodation. *Let me know of any special arrangements within the first two weeks of class.*

## Course Outline

### **August 26..... Introduction and Overview of the Course**

Give handouts in class

### **August 28.....Examining Urban Issues-Some Myths about Cities**

Who are the Urbanites in this class?

**Go over handouts**

### **September 2 .....Understanding the City and Its Various Definitions**

Chapter 1 in Text

Wirth, “Urbanism as a Way of Life”

### **September 4..... Classic Perspectives on Cities**

Chapter 5 and 6 in Text

### **September 9..... Urban Political Economy: Contemporary Perspectives on Cities**

Chapter 9 in Text

Molotch, “City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place”

**September 11.....From Preindustrial to Postindustrial U.S. Cities**

Chapter 3 in Text

Kingsdale, "The 'Poor Man's Club': Social Functions of the Urban Working-Class Saloon"

**September 16.....Development of the Physical Terrain of American Cities**

Checkoway, "Large Builders, Federal Housing Programs, and Postwar Suburbanization"

**September 18.....Video "Taken For a Ride" How the Automobile Industry Changed the American Landscape**

Handout in class

**September 23..... Development of the Physical Terrain of American Cities-The Growing Metropolis**

Chapter 4 in Text

Palen, "Outer Cities and the Malling of the Land."

Duany, "What is Sprawl, and Why?"

**September 25.....Examination One**

**September 30.....The Peopling of Cities-Who Lives There?**

Chapter 10 in Text

Abrahamson, "Boston's Beacon Hill and Other Elite Enclaves."

Hartigan, "Green Ghettos and the White Underclass"

**October 2.....Historical and Contemporary Immigration**

Read Chapter 11, pages 311-326 in Text

Sanders, "Asian Immigrants Reliance on Social Ties in a Multiethnic Labor Market"

**October 7.....Immigration and Group Conflict**

Pyong Gap Min, "Problems of Korean Immigrant Entrepreneurs."

**October 9.....African Americans Migrate to Northern Cities/Changing Demographics in Northern Cities**

Grossman, "Tell Me About the Place"

**October 14.....Residential Segregation**

Farley, Danziger, and Holzer, "The Persistence of Residential Segregation."

Rankin and Quane, "Neighborhood Poverty and the Social Isolation of Inner-City African American Families"

**Guest Speaker**

**October 16.....The Unequal Distribution of Desirable Things (Housing and Education)**

Read Chapter 12, pages 339-358 in Text

Belluck, "Razing the Slums to Rescue the Residents."

Kozol, "Life on the Mississippi: East, St. Louis, Illinois."

**October 21.....African Americans, Employment and Economic Restructuring**

Moss and Tilly, "Why Opportunity Isn't Knocking: Racial Inequality and the Demand for Labor."

Kirschenman and Neckerman, "We'd Love to Hire Them But...The Meaning of Race for Employers"

**View:** "World of Ideas, A Conversation with Dr. William Julius Wilson" in class

**October 23.....The Unequal Distribution of Undesirable Things (Toxins, Pollutants, Waste & Crime)**

Read Chapter 12, pages 358-367 in Text

Eig, "Eyes on the Street: Community Policing in Chicago."

Mohai and Bryant, "Demographic Studies Reveal a Pattern of Environmental Injustice."

**October 28..... Examination Two**

**October 30.....Urban Economic Development-Focus on Downtowns**

Robertson, "Downtown Redevelopment Strategies in the United States: An End-of-the-Century Assessment."

**November 4.....Urban Economic Development-Sports and The Arts**

***Essay Exam Due at Beginning of Class***

Swindell and Rosentraub, "Who Benefits from the Presence of Professional Sports Teams? The Implications for Public Funding of Stadiums and Arenas."

Whitt, "The Role of the Performing Arts in Urban Competition and Growth"

**View:** Jerry Colangelo discussing the building of the Arizona Diamondbacks Stadium

**November 6.....Urban Economic Development-What About the Rest of the City?**

Gottlieb, "Neighborhood Development in the Metropolitan Economy: A Policy Review"

Lampe, "The Role of Gentrification in Central City Revitalization."

**View:** "The New Urban Renewal" in class

**November 11.....Boosting Cities/Why Would You Want to Come Here Anyway?**

Short, "Urban Imagineers: Boosterism and the Representation of Cities."

Holcomb, "Marketing Cities for Tourism"

**November 13.....Urban Design---On the Other Hand, THIS is What *Really* Brings People Into Cities**

Guest Architect and Urban Designer

**November 18.....Local Government and Finances *or* How Do Cities Pay for Themselves?**

**What Went Wrong In Buffalo?**

Kleniewski, "Urban Political Systems"

**Pass out handouts**

**November 20..... Federal Urban Policy**

Kaplan, "Urban Policy: An Uneven Past, An Uncertain Future."

Hayward, "Broken Cities: Liberalism's Urban Legacy."

**November 25..... The Global Context**

Chapter 13 in Text

Nijman, "Globalization to a Latin Beat: The Miami Growth Machine."

**View:** "The Global Assembly Line"

**November 27.....No Class--Enjoy the Holiday**

**December 2 .....Future of Cities**

Chapter 14 in Text

Clarke, "American Cities at the Millennium"

**December 4.....3rd Exam--No Exams Administered After this Date!**

***Have a Wonderful and Safe Holiday Break : - )***

***\*\*\*This syllabus is subject to modifications throughout the semester***