

20th Century U.S. Urban History

American cities began the century as great industrial and residential giants, proud and expansive. By the end of the century, these cities had fragmented into older inner cores and booming “edge cities” on the suburban fringe. This class is devoted to exploring the social, political and cultural changes that have reshaped the city along these dramatic lines. We will address subjects such as the rise of “white collar” society, the urban boom of the 1920s, race relations in cities and suburbs, the suburban exodus, forms of urban disorder, cultural expression cities, and the shift of urban growth to the Southwest.

This is a lecture class and students are expected to attend lectures faithfully. The midterm and final exams will demand familiarity with both lecture presentations and reading assignments. Two unexcused absences will result in a loss of 5 points from the final grade, and every two classes missed after that will result in a loss of 5 points from the final grade, and every two classes missed after that will result in further subtractions of 5 points from the final grade. Excused absences include only illness (with a doctor’s note) and documented family emergencies.

One short paper, 5-10 pages long, is required. Papers must have a clear relationship to course themes and writing portfolios (including drafts, notes, and relevant sources) will be required with the final draft.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

30% Midterm

40% Final

30% Paper

Required Texts:

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*

Michael Sorkin, *Variations on a Theme Park*

Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*

Mike Davis, *City of Quartz*

Other readings are available in the course packet from Metro Copy on Calhoun Street.

Lecture Schedule

Week 1

1/10 **Introduction**

1/12 **The Industrial Revolution**

Reading: Howard Chudacoff, *The Evolution of American Urban Society*, Selections (Reader)

Week 2

1/17 **The Industrial City**

1/19 **World Expositions and the City Beautiful Movement**

Reading: Paul Boyer, *Urban Masses and Moral Order in America*, Selections (Reader)

Week 3

1/22 **Popular/Elite City Culture**

1/24 **Urban Bosses and Progressive Reformers**

1/26 **Jane Addams**

Reading: Jane Addams, *Twenty Years at Hull House*, Selections (Reader)

Week 4

1/29 **White Collar Expansion and Urban Consumption**

1/31 **Urban Migration: White and Black**

2/2 **Race and Urban Theory**

Reading: W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Black North in 1901*, Selections (Reader)

Robert Park, *The City*, Selections (Reader)

Week 5

2/5 **Boom Cities of the 1920's/ Cities in the Depression**

2/7 **Suburban Boom**

2/9 **Robert Moses and American Cities**

Reading: Robert Caro, *The Power Broker*, Selections (Reader)

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, Selections (Reader)

Week 6

2/12 **Urban Crisis**

2/14 **The Rise and Fall of Public Housing**

2/16 **Urban Public Schools**

Reading: Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis* (Whole Book)

Week 7

2/19 **Urban Renewal**

2/21 **James Rouse and Victor Gruen**

Reading: Finish *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*

2/23 **MIDTERM**

Week 8

3/5 **Modern Urban Disorder**

3/7 **Bohemians, Counterculture, Gay Liberation**

3/9 **The Legacy of Jane Jacobs**

Reading: Jane Jacobs, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*, Selection TBA

Week 9

3/12 **Sunbelt cities and Megalopolis**

3/14 **Historic Preservation and Gentrification**

3/16 **Metropolitan Visions**

Reading: David Rusk, *Cities Without Suburbs*, Selections (Reader)
Variations on a Theme Park, 31-93

Week 10

3/19 **World Cities**

3/21 **Resort Cities**

3/23 **The Entertainment City**

Reading: *Variations on a Theme Park*, 181-232
John Findlay, *Magic Lands*, Selections (Reader)
John Hannigan, *Fantasy City*, Selections (Reader)

Week 11

3/26 **The Garden City Tradition**

3/28 **The Unplanned City**

3/30 **Joel Garreau, Edge City**

Reading: Joel Garreau, *Edge City*, Selections (Reader)

Week 12

4/2 **Black Mayors and White Mayors**

4/4 **“Broken Windows,” New Policing and City Management**

4/6 **Postmodern Urbanism**

Reading: David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, 1-9, 66-98, 125-172, 284-307

Week 13

4/9 **The Underclass Debate**

4/11 **William Julius Wilson**

Reading: William Julius Wilson, *The Declining Significance of Race*, Selections (Reader)

Week 14

4/16 **Private/Public Partnerships**

4/18 **The City and Nature**

4/20 **Interpreting the City**

Reading: Mike Davis, *City of Quartz* (Whole Book)

Week 15

4/23 **Mike Davis and the L.A. School**

4/25 **Review 1**

4/27 **Review 2**

Reading: Finish *City of Quartz*

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