

US Urban History

A drive through the American city of the present reveals little of its turbulent, revolutionary past. Successive waves of urbanization have eliminated not only old buildings, but memories of the people who once inhabited them. During the last forty years, urban historians have devoted themselves to uncovering and organizing this hidden history of cities. Topics covered in this course include the colonial walking city, the urban industrial revolution, ethnic neighborhoods, disorder and violence, urban political styles, social justice, city culture, planning and reform movements, suburbanization, and historic preservation. Lively portraits of cities, neighborhoods, institutions, individuals, and social and cultural movements illustrate the complexity of America's urban past.

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.

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. Meetings with the professor to discuss first drafts and portfolios will be scheduled in November.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

30% Midterm

40% Final

30% Paper

Required Texts:

Donald Miller, *City of the Century*

Robert Caro, *The Power Broker*

Other readings available in the course packet.

Lecture Schedule

Week 1

8/30 **Introduction/American Indian Urbanism**

9/1 **17th Century Colonial Cities**

Reading: None

Week 2

9/6 **Rise of 18th Century Colonial Urban Society**

9/8 **The Industrial Revolution and Urbanism**

Reading: Donald Miller, *City of the Century*, 27-47, 89-121

Week 3

9/11 **Frontier Cities**

9/13 **19th Century Immigration**

9/15 **Disorder!**

Reading: Miller, 48-88, 135-137, 143-171, 216-220, 222-224, 458-482, 507-516

Week 4

9/18 **19th Century Urban Reform**

9/20 **The Urban Park Movement**

9/22 **Southern and Northern Industrial Cities**

Reading: Miller, 122-134, 176-216, 240-265, 301-353, 366-377, 425-432

Week 5

9/25 **19th Century Suburbanization**

9/27 **19th Century Radicalism and Planned Company Towns**

9/29 **World Expositions and the City Beautiful Movement**

Reading: Miller, 224-240, 265-294, 378-425, 488-507, 542-551

Week 6

10/2 **Popular City Culture**

10/4 **Elite City Culture**

10/6 **Urban Bosses and Progressive Reformers**

Reading: Miller, 294-300, 354-366, 387-425, 435-467, 482-487, 516-539

Robert Caro, *The Power Broker*, 59-88, 347-362

Week 7

10/11 **Midterm**

10/13 **No Class**

Week 8

10/16 **White Collar Expansion and Urban Consumption**

10/18 **Urban Migration: White and Black**

10/20 **Boom Cities of the 1920s**

Reading: Darlene Hine, "Black Migration to the Urban Midwest,"
240-265

William Leach, *Land of Desire*, 3-38

Week 9

10/23 **Cities in the Depression**

10/25 **Robert Moses and American Cities**

10/27 **Suburban Boom**

Reading: Robert Caro, *The Power Broker*: 143-240, 276-280, 299-
346, 362-401, 426-443, 463-467, 478-495, 508-561, 837-894, 895-
958 (Finish Entire Book by the Final Exam)

Joann Agersinger, *Toward a New Deal in Baltimore*, 1-20

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 190-218

Week 10

10/30 **Urban Crisis**

11/1 **Segregation and Public Housing**

11/3 **Urban Renewal**

Reading: Raymond Mohl, "Making the Second Ghetto in Metropolitan
Miami, 1940-1960," 266-298

Robert Caro, 961-983, 1005-1016

First Draft of paper due this week

Week 11

11/6 **Modern Urban Disorder**

11/8 **Bohemians, Counterculture, Gay Liberation**

11/10 **Sunbelt Cities and Megalopolis**

Reading: Mike Davis, "Fortress Los Angeles," 154-180

Lawrence Larsen, *The Urban South*, 140-160

Week 12

11/13 **Historic Preservation, Gentrification, Jane Jacobs**

11/15 **Suburban Majority, Black Mayors, Community Organizing**

11/17 **World Cities**

Reading: Neil Smith, "New City, New Frontier," 61-93

John Findlay, *Magic Lands*, 117-159

Week 13

11/20 **Resort Cities**

Reading: Robert Stern, *Pride of Place*, 169-213

Week 14

11/27 **Contemporary Planned Suburbs**

11/29 **Edge Cities**

12/1 **The City and Nature**

Reading: Joel Garreau, *Edge City*, 213-259

Week 15

12/4 **Cities at War**

12/6 **City Transit/Development Overview**

12/8 **Review and Final Draft of Paper Due**

Reading: Finish Caro