

Cleveland State University
Fall Semester, 2001
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

UST 606, Evolution of Human Settlements

Meeting Time: Thursday, 6-9:50 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Michael Wells
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Urban Building 216
Office Hours, 5-6 p.m. Thursdays

Course Description: An examination of the history of human settlements and the major intellectual traditions focusing on urbanism, especially the city. These traditions span a variety of disciplines from history to sociology. Specifically, this course will use a seminar/tutorial approach to study cities and urban life in the following civilizations:

- *Tigris-Euphrates River Valley
- *Ancient Greek Civilization
- *Ancient Roman Civilization
- *Medieval European Civilization
- *Far Eastern Civilizations
- *Post 1800 European Civilization
- *U.S. Civilization

Within these civilizations, you will investigate five aspects of urban life: planning, technology, science, religion, and social welfare. Your research into the civilizations and these topics will be enhanced by your use of WebCT courseware. We will use this courseware as a research platform, allowing you access to web-based information on all the civilizations. Because the sites you visit are on WebCT, you know that they contain solid scholarly information. You can troll the Internet, but scholars and librarians vouch for the sites on WebCT.

Course Objectives: Students will practice the basics of academic work, research and writing by writing essays and discussing this work with each other.

Course Requirements: Students will write seven 800-word essays -- one for each of the civilizations. We will then discuss these in class. Your essays can cover a combination of the five aspects of urban life mentioned above or just focus on one aspect. See the section on Writing the Essay for details.

Grades: Each essay is worth 10% of the final grade. Class attendance is 10% of the final grade. Class participation is 20% of the final grade. Essays turned in late will suffer a penalty of one letter grade for each class day they are late.

Writing the Essays: Your essays must have a thesis/opening statement, a narrative/discussion, and a conclusion. You should make sure that you have transitions from one section of the essay to the next, as well as transitions from one sentence to the next. Your conclusion should relate to your thesis/opening statement, giving your essay a natural closure. Spelling and sentence/paragraph mechanics are important. Follow the **Public Administration Review** guidelines for footnotes/endnotes and bibliography. This is attached to the syllabus. I will be looking for well-documented, logically constructed, mechanically sound essays. Feel free to consult with me about your essays or visit the Writing Center in the Main Classroom Building, MC 321, 687.3950. If I am not satisfied with your essay, I may return it to you with suggestions for improvement before giving it a grade.

Semester Schedule:

Thursday, August 30, Class Introduction and Introduction to WebCT.

Thursday, September 6, Tigris-Euphrates Essay Due.

Thursday, September 13, Check-In Time, Discussion of Progress on Next Assignment.

Thursday, September 20, Greek Essay Due.

Thursday, September 27, Check-In Time.

Thursday, October 4, Roman Essay Due.

Thursday, October 11, Check-In Time.

Thursday, October 18, Medieval Essay Due.

Thursday, October 25, Check-In Time.

Thursday, November 1, Far Eastern Essay Due.

Thursday, November 8, Check-In Time.

Thursday, November 15, Post-1800 European Essay.

Thursday, November 22, Thanksgiving No Class.

Thursday, November 29, Check-In Time.

Thursday, December 6, American Essay.

Hints for Course Success: Show up and participate. 30% of your grade is dependent on this. Check-in days will allow us to discuss our progress and share ideas about research. On days when the essays are due, we will read them to each other and discuss their ideas. These will be gentle discussions of support and sharing. Have fun and enjoy!