

MAXINE GOODMAN LEVIN COLLEGE OF URBAN AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES

Fall 2004  
UST 200  
Section 3  
Dively Auditorium  
T/Th 1:00-2:50

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Office Hours: T/TR 3:00-4:00 p.m.

## INTRODUCTION TO URBAN STUDIES

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves to introduce students to the field of urban studies with an emphasis on the experiences of African-Americans in the urban context. Urban studies is an interdisciplinary and multi disciplinary field of study which draws upon the perspectives of political science, history, economics, sociology, urban planning, geography, and others for its content. Theories and concepts from various fields are combined to provide the subject matter for this course. Competing viewpoints are presented to encourage students to formulate their own critical thinking about the information. Urban studies is a field in which diverse viewpoints are common. This course will provide a framework in which complex urban phenomena can be analyzed and understood.

### COURSE OBJECTIVE

Urban studies draws upon a variety of disciplines and includes a range of topics. Therefore, the primary objective of this course is to introduce students to **selected** components of the subject matter which comprise urban studies. This exposure will help students establish the foundation for future study in this area. During the term we will explore the following:

- the significance of urban studies
- fundamental concepts that underlie the study of urban issues
- the past, present, and future of urban areas
- social, political, and economic conditions in urban areas
- the significance of ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic variables in urban areas
- the unique status of the African-Americans and other racial and ethnic groups in urban areas

### COURSE METHODS

The course methods include reading, lectures, audio-visual aids, and class discussion. Students are expected to complete all readings assigned for each topic **before** the class session is held. This course will consist of lectures given by the instructor and guest lecturers that will augment (not repeat) the assigned reading. Supplemental handouts will be used when appropriate.

Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Texts**

*An Introduction to Urban Studies*, 1997, Roberta Steinbacher and Virginia O. Benson, eds.  
Referred to as *IUS* below

*Annual Editions Urban Society*, 2003, 11<sup>th</sup> edition  
Referred to as *AEUS* below

### **Assignments**

Each student is required to complete the following assignments:

1. All readings as scheduled
2. Workbook exercises due on the following days (typed, double-spaced):

September 16	October 19	November 30
October 7	November 9	
3. Midterm examination on October 21
4. Informed opinion paper due on December 9 – the last day of instruction (typed, double-spaced). Use the MLA or APA style guide for format (see CSU Library for assistance <http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/vrd/citations.shtml>). Provide appropriate citations; plagiarism is detrimental to your grade. Length: 5 to 7 pages.
5. Oral presentation on major points in the opinion paper: 5-7 minutes, Nov. 30-December 9 (Sign-up sheet will be distributed)
6. Final examination on Tuesday, December 14

**Grading**

Assignments will contribute to the calculation of the final grade as follows:

Workbook exercises (5)		25%
Opinion paper		15%
Presentation on opinion paper	10%	
Midterm examination		20%
Final examination		30%
Class attendance and participation		2-10%*
Total possible		100% (*prorated when absent 5 times or fewer)

Letter grades are assigned as follows:

A	95-100%
7-	91-94
B+	87-90
B	84-86
8-	81-83
C+	77-80
C	74-76
9-	71-73
D	61-70
F	60 or less

Assignments received late will be graded down one increment for each day overdue.

**Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes particularly since material will be covered during class sessions that is not covered in the assigned readings.

**Special Needs**

Students with special needs (physical or mental, learning disabilities) should notify the instructor early in the term (during the first week is recommended) so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged.

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Refer to the **CSU Bulletin** for procedures relative to course add/drop, withdrawal, S/U grading, and incomplete procedures.

The last drop date for this course is **September 10 (no W)**; the last day to withdraw is **November 5 (with W)**

## COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic and Assignment</u>
August 31	Course overview Review of course syllabus Class expectations
September 2	Introduction to the field of urban studies Urban studies terminology Significance of urban studies
September 7	Perceptions of cities and urban places Urban crisis; yes or no? Video: <i>Jane Jacobs: Urban Wisdom</i> (#4323)  <i>Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832):</i> <i>“If you would be known, and not know, vegetate in a village; if you would know, and not be known, live in a city.”</i>  <b>Read AEUS #1 (Fear of the City)</b>
September 9	Urban History and Geology  Video: <i>The Urban Explosion</i> (#2500)  <b>Read IUS: Chapters 1 to 2</b>
September 14	Homelessness: a complex issue Is homelessness new? Who are the homelessness? Contributors to homelessness Efforts to eradicate homelessness
September 16	Theories of urban growth and development Metropolitanization of America Centrifugal vs. centripetal forces  <b>Read IUS Chapter 5</b>

September 16	<b>Workbook exercises due: 1.1, 1.5, 2.1, 2.3</b>
September 21	Video: <i>The Cleveland Turnaround</i> (#3450)
September 23-28	Urban Planning: The good, the bad, and the ugly  <b>Read AEUS #29</b> <b>Read IUS Chapter 6</b>
September 30- October 7	City /urban infrastructure Public Works  <b>Read IUS: Chapter 7</b> <b>Read AEUS #13</b>
October 7	<b>Workbook exercises due: 5.1, 5.2, 6.1</b>  <i>Dr. W.E.B. DuBois: "The problem of the twentieth century will be the problem of the color line." (1903)</i>
October 12 & 19	City/urban infrastructure Schools/education Transportation Housing Environmental issues Urban politics  <b>Read AEUS #36</b>
October 19	<b>Workbook exercises due: 8.3, 9.1, 9.3a, 9.3b</b>
<i>October 14</i>	<i>Study Day (no class)</i>  <b>Read AEUS # 23 and 24</b> <b>Read IUS: Chapters 7 to 9</b>
<b>October 21</b>	<b>Midterm Examination</b>
October 26	The urbanization of America The urbanization of Cleveland Regional and areal differences <b>Read AEUS # 12</b> <b>Read IUS: Chapter 10</b>

- October 28                      What can be predicted about urban development?  
   Self-fulfilling prophecies and urban change  
   Community development
- Read AEUS #32**  
   **Read IUS: Chapter 11**
- November 2                      Housing segregation  
   Video: *Voices of Cabrini* (#3071)  
   **Read AEUS #38**
- November 5                      Video: *Why Can't We Live Together?*
- Billingsley: "Negro families have shown an amazing ability to survive in the face of impossible conditions." (1968)*
- November 9                      **Workbook exercises due: 10.1b, 10.3a, 11.1, 11.7**
- November 11                     Veterans Day Holiday
- November 16-18                Challenges of urbanization: The city and the world  
   Theories about poverty  
                        The impacts of poverty  
                        The persistence of poverty  
                        Poverty in the Cleveland region
- November 18                     Video: *Take it from Me: Life after Welfare* (#3631)
- Read AEUS #37**  
   **Read IUS: Chapters 13-15**
- Kozol: "Nothing is going to change unless we deal with the central defect in American society: that America still values and accepts inequality." (1990)*
- November 23                     The changing role and status of the city  
                        The future of urban areas  
                        Urban demise or urban renewal
- Read AEUS # 8, #43**  
   **Read IUS: Chapters 16-Epilogue**
- November 30                     **Workbook exercises due: 13.1, 13.3, 14.1, 14.3, 15.4, 15.5**

November 30-December 9    **Class presentations on opinion papers**

**December 9**                    **Opinion papers due**

December 9                    Final Examination Review

December 14                   **Final Examination**