

Cleveland State University  
Fall Semester, 2006  
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs  
Department of Urban Studies

*Course Syllabus*  
*UST 302 Section 501*  
*Topic: Contemporary Urban Issues*

**Instructor:** Gina Weisblat  
**Meeting Time:** Web-Based Course  
**E-mail Address:** Utilize WebCT e-mail function.  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment Only.

**Technical Support:** Caryn Eucker (216) 687-6898, or contact the College of Urban Affairs Help Desk/Labs, UR 39 & 40 (216) 687-2200 or e-mail: [help@urban.csuohio.edu](mailto:help@urban.csuohio.edu). **Help Desk** Hours Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Course Meeting:** Students' are required to meet on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. in **UB 107** located in the Urban Affairs building. UB 107 will be available to students' participating in the course Tuesday's from August 29 through December 5, 2006 if students need to meet.

**Course Instruction:** This class will be entirely taught on WebCT. This course will not utilize lectures for instruction. Questions regarding the course should be submitted to the instructor via WebCT e-mail only. Students requiring additional assistance must make an appointment with the instructor.

**Course Description:** This is an upper-level undergraduate course designed to explore American urban life through the lens of race, class, and ethnicity. Through these lenses we will consider political, societal, and economic issues as they related to urban life.

Many of the topics covered in this course may be controversial, and challenge peoples opinions relative to the material covered in the course. Therefore, do not take differences in opinion personally. Having respect for people having differences in opinion is fundamental to having open educational discourse.

This course fulfills a Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) requirement.

**Course Objective:** The course consists of readings, group discussions, written assignments, written mid-term/final, and an in-class presentation. Because this course is entirely web-based, issues relative to course readings, group discussions, written assignments, and the mid-term and final will occur on-line via WebCT. Therefore, it is imperative students taking the course are familiar with computers and the Internet.

**Course Requirements:** Students are required to meet the following criteria for this course:

- (1) **Prepare/submit all written assignments and mid-term via WebCT on time. Late assignments will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructor;**
- (2) **Read all readings assigned for the course;**
- (3) **Participate actively in group discussions.**

**Course Methodology:** This course is entirely web based will consist of students' ability to utilize scholarly literature i.e., journals, internet, etc. to research/collect relevant data/material to complete/submit the writing assignment developed for this course.

**Written Assignments:** Two written assignments are required for this course. Papers for the written assignments must follow the following guidelines established for a traditional research paper. The written assignments must:

- (1) **Use a minimum of five (5) legitimate reference resources, four (4) of which cannot be from material assigned in this course.** Legitimate reference resources include the use of: scholarly journals/articles, books, data cited from databases (i.e., U.S. Census, etc.), and reports (i.e., United States General Accountability Office, etc.). Citations from Internet sources that are merely web pages constructed by individuals airing their personal views are unacceptable sources. However, legitimate websites accessing refereed academic journals/reports (i.e., articles published in The Urban Institute, Journal of Urban Affairs, etc.) are legitimate resources. Utilization of articles found on [www.lydiaspeakeshermind.com](http://www.lydiaspeakeshermind.com) is not acceptable for this assignment. One way to determine if a website is acceptable or not is to ask yourself, "If the Internet did not exist, would I be able to find this article in the university library?" Newspaper or magazine articles may be used for this assignment provided they are in-depth articles on the issue, and not just commentaries or editorials. A maximum of two (2) newspaper or magazine articles are acceptable.
- (2) Students **must use American Psychological Association (APA) style** guidelines to cite sources in body of your text, and to reference your sources in the bibliography. If you need additional guidance regarding how to construct a research paper, please refer to the tips provided at the end of this syllabus and/or contact the CSU Writing Center.

Detailed information regarding the two written assignments required for this course are listed below.

**Assignment #1:** Students are to submit a minimum of 10 or a maximum of 15 page research paper discussing the history of an issue affecting life in urban American cities, from its inception to the present, keeping in mind if the original goals and/or objectives were reached. You may choose from the following topics for this assignment.

- (1) **No child left behind and its effects on city school districts;**
- (2) **Welfare-to-Work efforts;**
- (3) **Government health care programs for the poor;**
- (4) **Trace the development of ethno-racial Muslim communities in the United States;**
- (5) **Brown vs. Board of Education decision and its effects on city school districts;**
- (6) **The Great Migration of African Americans from the rural South to Northern urban areas;**
- (7) **The debate surrounding teaching English only in public schools;**
- (8) **The 1968 Federal Fair Housing Act (and as Amended in 1988);**
- (9) **Issues surrounding Diversity vs. Civil Rights reform;**
- (10) **Environmental justice arguments and efforts to change public policy.**

**Assignment #2:** Students are to submit a minimum 10 page or a maximum of 15 pages research paper utilizing the issue you selected from the first assignment as it relates to Cleveland, Ohio. This assignment is less of a research paper and more of a field study. Some resources you may want to use for this paper are local newspaper articles, interviews with members of the Cleveland community who are viewed as experts on the subject, and interviews with people directly affected by the issue, policy, or phenomenon you selected.

**Although this assignment may seem easy, it involves gathering primary and secondary data, which involves an investment of your time.** You will need to skillfully weave the primary and secondary data you collect into a thoughtful, coherent paper. **To successfully complete this assignment, I would suggest you begin contacting community members and researching local media sources throughout the duration of the course. It would not be in your best interest to wait until the weekend before the paper is due to contact a government official or the director of a nonprofits organization to schedule an interview.** Students are to continue to use the reference publication and publication guidelines of the American Psychological Association (APA).

**Text Book(s):**

**Primary Text Book:** *The Twenty-First Century American City: Race, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Urban Life*, by Wendy Kellogg. The textbook utilized for this course can be purchased at the Lakeland Community College or the Cleveland State University bookstore.

**Supplemental Textbook** *Race and Ethnicity in the United States: Issues and Debates*, Stephen Steinberg, editor, published by Blackwell Publishers in 2000.

The five chapters from the supplemental textbook used for this course is available via the Electronic Course Reserves (ERC) on the library page of Cleveland State University.

Students can access ERC at: [http://www.scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m\\_course.html](http://www.scholar.csuohio.edu/screens/m_course.html).

Students can search for the supplemental book by the instructors name (Weisblat) or by the course (UST 302, Section 501).

**Reading Assignments:** Students are responsible for reading all the chapters assigned for the course. Below is a listing of the reading assignments for the course.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Chapter</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction & Chapter 1 (Steinberg)
<b>2</b>	Chapter 2 (Steinberg)
<b>3</b>	Chapter 3 (Steinberg & Kellogg)
<b>4</b>	Chapter 4 (Steinberg)
<b>5</b>	Chapter 5 (Steinberg)
<b>6</b>	Chapter 1 (Kellogg)
<b>7</b>	Chapter 2 (Kellogg)
<b>8</b>	Chapter 4 (Kellogg)
<b>9</b>	Chapter 5 (Kellogg)
<b>10</b>	Chapter 6 (Kellogg)
<b>11</b>	TBD
<b>12</b>	TBD
<b>13</b>	TBD
<b>14</b>	TBD
<b>15</b>	TBD

**Group Discussions:** Students are required to participate in on-line discussions. Utilizing WebCT, **students should login every Wednesday, and submit questions/comments or thoughts relative to the reading assignments.** Students should remember to be respectful of each various opinions relative to the issues raised in the group discussions. Keep in mind the objective of the group exercises is to promote educational learning.

**In-Class Presentation:** Students are required to make a formal presentation to the class on December 2, 2006. **The presentation should be NO MORE THAN ten (10) minutes in length, with an additional five (5) minutes for questions from the audience.** Student presentations will be timed, and one (1) percentage point will be deducted for each additional minute a student takes beyond the allotted ten (10) minutes. The presentation must include an audio-visual component. The presentation should include information from BOTH assignments completed for the course.

**Mid-Term:** The **date for the mid-term is Tuesday, October 17, 2006.** The mid-term for this course will be posted on WebCT under the quiz option. Students will receive a reminder via WebCT e-mail on Monday October 16<sup>th</sup> the mid-term is posted and will be available to take on Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Students should complete the mid-term on-line. Grades for the mid-term will be posted on WebCT. **The mid-term will only be available for students to take from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> only.**

**Final:** The **date for the final is Tuesday, December 5, 2006.** The term for this course will be posted on WebCT under the quiz option. Students will receive a reminder via WebCT e-mail on Monday, December 4, 2006 the final is posted and will be available to take on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. Students should complete the final on-line. Grades for the final will be posted on WebCT. **The final will only be available for students to take from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday only.**

**Course Calendar:** Assignment, group discussion responses, and mid-term for UST 302 are due on the following dates. Refer to the calendar posted in WebCT for this course for an overview of the due dates set for this class.

#### Written Assignments Due Dates

Due Date	Written Assignments
September 26, 2006	Assignment #1
November 21, 2006	Assignment #2

#### Group Discussion Responses Due Dates

Due Date	Discussion Response
Every Wednesday	

#### Reading Schedule

Reading Schedule	Chapters
Weekly	

#### Mid-Term/Final Test Dates

Date Available On-Line	Test
October 17, 2006	Mid-Term
December 5, 2006	Final

#### In-Class Presentation

Presentation Times	Presentation
November 28, 2006	Session 1
*December 12, 2006	Session 2

\*This date will only be used if all the presentations can not be completed on the first date scheduled.

**Course Grading and Grade Scale:** A letter grade will be assigned for the written assignments, group discussions, mid-term, and in-class presentation. The following is a breakdown of percentages allocated for grading components associated with this course.

<b>Written Assignments</b>	20%
<b>Group Discussion Participation</b>	10%
<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>	20%
<b>Final Exam</b>	20%
<b>In-Class Presentation</b>	10%

The following is a breakdown of the letter grades that will be distributed in this course. Grades for the course will be posted in WebCT.

90 – 100	A
80 – 90	B
70 – 80	C
60 – 70	D
60 – Below	F

**Written Assignment Evaluation:** Evaluation of student papers is based on the following criteria:

Higher Order Concerns

- (1) **Focus** – The hypothesis or main point of your paper needs to be stated clearly at the beginning of the paper.
- (2) **Development** – The research i.e., literature, date, etc. utilized to support your hypothesis. More specifically, students’ incorporation of quotes, paraphrases, examples, inferences, reasoning, opinions, and forecasts relative to supporting their hypothesis.
- (3) **Organization** – The organization/structure of the paper. More specifically, is the paper organized so that the paragraphs proceed from one to another in a logical style using appropriate transitions? Is the paper well organized? Did the student adhere to the APA style format suggested for this course?

Lower Order Concerns

- (1) **Style** – Style can be considered in terms of sentence patterns and diction. Are the sentence patterns varied (preferred) or all the same? Variety in style makes for a far more interesting read. Is the diction appropriate (wording, choice of words) for an upper level college assignment? Is the diction appropriate for the discipline?
- (2) **Mechanics** – Refers to the punctuation, spelling, and grammar. **Students should make sure they proofread their paper prior to submission. Points will be deducted for inappropriate punctuation, improper use of grammar, and misspelled words.**

**APA Style:** Student papers must include documentation of at least five (5) scholarly (i.e., periodicals, government documents, books, Internet sources, etc.). However, the bases of your paper needs to come from scholarly literature and not solely from the Internet. All of your research statements must be documented in the reference section of your paper.

The APA style utilizes in-text citations that refer to a list of sources. The following are a few examples of the APA style:

(1) **Direct Quotations:**

- (A) As Davis (1982 noted,
- (B) As Berry and Smith (1980) indicated,
- (C) In the book, *The Case fro the Use of Discretion* (2003).

(2) **Summary or Paraphrase:** Include the author(s) last name and the date either in a single phrase or in parenthesis at the end of the sentence. For example:

- (A) Baumgartner and Kelly (2002) agree that.... (Baumgartner and Kelly, 2002).

(3) **Website Citations:** Cite material from a web site by giving the web address in parenthesis (<http://historyof clevlena.org>). If you are referring to the entire site, you do not need a bibliography entry. If you are referring to a specific document from the web site, provide a bibliography entry in the list of references. For example:

- (A) "Child Care Implementation." Retrieved January 15, 2006 from Electronic Library Database on the World Wide Web: <http://www.stateofohio.gov>.

**Citation Help:** For additional help in utilizing APA citations refer to <http://www.apa.org/journals/webref.html> or go to the CUS library home page virtual reference site and click on the drop down list to citation guides (<http://ulib.csuohio.edu/vrd/citations.shtml>).

**Where to do Research:** Two excellent ways to access scholarly periodic literature is on the CSU library home page. From the CSU home page refer to:

- (1) Find articles,
- (2) Journals and Subject Portals.

**Submission of Assignments:** This class is being taught entirely on-line, therefore it is imperative students manage their time and develop a work plan for the course to ensure you meet deadlines established for the submission of assignments, and exams. Students should:

- (1) Prepare and submit all assignments, discussion responses on time;
- (2) Send all correspondence/questions through WebCT e-mail;
- (3) Submit written assignments through WebCT as an e-mail attachment.
- (4) Log on to WebCT at least once a week to check for changes, updates and/or additional information relative to the class.

**Late Papers:** No late papers will be accepted without prior permission of the instructor. The instructor will only grant permission for the submission of late papers based on extreme circumstances. **(Last minute requests for the submission of papers will only be accepted in cases of extreme emergencies).** Excuses such as, “I got behind in my other classes, etc) will not warrant an extension for the submission of late assignments, group discussion responses, or the submission of the mid-term. Students are expected to:

**Policies:** Academic misconduct such as plagiarism will result in an “F” grade for the course. Please see the course on WebCT for changes and/or additional information.

**Use of WebCT Technology in your Workplace:** For those of you that have permission to do your class work at your place of employment, keep in mind that many employers have safeguards in place that may prevent you from being able to optimize your use of WebCT.

**A Word of Warning:** Successful completion of an Internet based class requires students to:

- (1) Develop a work plan (schedule) for the semester to meet the demands of the course. Once a work plan is developed, students should adhere to the plan.
- (2) Stay focused.
- (3) Submit papers, etc. on time to avoid penalties.
- (4) If there is an issue, notify the instructor immediately.

## **How to Create your “My WebCT” Account:**

**Step 1:** (COMPUTER LAB, LEVIN COLLEGE OR LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE) log in. If you are working from home, go to step 2.

If you are in the Levin College/Lakeland Community College computer lab, you will need to log into the computer. The login and password you use to log into the computer has no relationship to your WebCT account/password. If you do not know your login and password to sign onto a computer in the Levin College/Lakeland Community College lab, you can ask the lab attendant to use a guest account. Guest accounts are only valid for one week, so you will need to find out your lab account if you intend to continue accessing your WebCT account in the lab. Forms are available in the lab to request a login/password to access a computer in the computer lab.

**Step 2:** Open the browser (preferably using Microsoft Explorer or Netscape Navigator) to <http://webct.csuohio.edu>.

If you have never taken a class with a WebCT component, click on “create my WebCT ID”. Fill out the online form to create your account. **Please Note: The WebCT login and password you fill in will be the login and password you always have to use to get into your account.**

### **Step 3: THIS IS A ONE-TIME ONLY STEP**

After you have created your “My WebCT” account you will come to your opening screen, which has your name at the top. **Click on “add course”.** Go to **Urban Affairs** category, **06Fall UST 302 Section 504 Contemporary Urban Issues (Slone)**. Click the pencil icon all the way to the right for self registration. Return to your “My WebCT”. The link to the course will appear in the upper right hand corner your screen.

**Step 4:** You are now ready to begin your WebCT course.

WebCT is a web-base courseware package that can be accessed anytime; anywhere you have an Internet connection. Point your browser to <http://webct.csuohio.edu> to access your “My WebCT” page. Internet Explorer is the preferred browser; however, Netscape Navigator can be used as well. **It is not recommended that you use WebCT through AOL.** WebCT does not interface well with the AOL browser. When using Explorer or Netscape Navigator, check advanced options to make sure the java features are enabled. In Netscape Navigator the java feature is found under “edit”, “preferences”, “advanced.” Under the Microsoft VM” section, make sure all the boxes are checked and click “ok”.

If you have any questions or problems with WebCT, please contact Caryn Eucker at (216) 687-6898 or by e-mail at: [caryn@urban.csuohio.edu](mailto:caryn@urban.csuohio.edu).

### **Submitting Written Assignments on WebCT:**

Enter the assignment section and click on the appropriate assignment. On the top you will see the paper topic written out and the date. On the bottom half of the page you will see the section for submitting your paper. Students should utilize the following steps to submit their research papers on WebCT:

- (1) Hit the button called “upload file”. It will take you to another screen.
- (2) Hit “browse”, which will ask you to choose a file. Find your file on which ever drive (i.e., “C” drive, floppy, jump drive, CD, etc.) it is located on and open the file. The file name will then show up in the file name box.
- (3) Hit “upload”. You will return to the assignment screen. You should see your file listed in the blue box. Above it you will see the status as un-submitted. You now need to submit the file.
- (4) Hit the button “submit assignment” on the bottom of the screen. To receive notification that your document has been successfully submitted, enter your e-mail address in the box directly above the submit assignment button. This will allow WebCT to e-mail you a notification indication your paper was successfully submitted.

**YOU MUST NAME THE FILE WITH YOUR NAME AND PUT YOUR LAST NAME AND COURSE NUMBER ON THE PAGES OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT IN THE FOOTER ALONGSIDE THE PAGE NUMBER.**

**For example: (page) # Last name, UST 302**

**NOTE:** If you are unable to successfully upload your research paper utilizing the aforementioned steps, students may also e-mail their papers as an attachment to the instructor via WebCT.