

Cleveland State University
Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies
UST 200 – Introduction to Urban Studies
On-Line Course
Fall 2007

Meeting Time:	There will be an introductory on-line chat session with the Instructor on Monday, August 27, 2007 from 6:00-7:30pm and Tuesday August 28, 2007 from 10:00-11:30am. Students are not required to participate; the chat log will be made available.
Instructor:	Doreen Swetkis
Office:	Room 232, College of Urban Affairs
Phone:	216-687-2136
Teaching Assistant:	Caryn Eucker
Technical Support:	Urban Affairs Help Desk/Labs, UR 39 & 40 216-687.2200 or email: help@urban.csuohio.edu
E-mail:	Use Blackboard/CE6 e-mail function to contact me.
Office hours:	By appointment.
Textbook Required:	Steinbacher, Roberta and Virginia O. Benson, 2006. <i>Introduction to Urban Studies, Third Edition</i> , Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt Publishing, Co.
Blackboard Student Tutorial:	http://urban.csuohio.edu/courses/help.shtml

Course Objectives

This course is an introduction to the study of cities using an interdisciplinary approach that includes economic development, environmental studies, planning, sociology and public administration. The course emphasizes the roots of the contemporary African-American community's urban experience in our multicultural society. It also integrates the field of urban studies with students' everyday experiences. The course is designed to meet the following learning objectives:

Knowledge

- Understand the complex issues and challenges facing urban areas.
- Begin to develop approaches to resolving these challenges.

Skills

- Help you think creatively using multi-disciplinary approaches and exercises.
- Critical thinking through specific critical thinking assignments.
- Time management through multiple assignments.
- Technology management and exploration.

Values

- Appreciation of diversity.
- Sense of responsibility for current problems.
- Appreciation for the city.

General Education Requirements

This course fulfills the African American Experience: Race and Racism, Human Diversity, and Social Science GenEd requirements.

Course Method

The course will be conducted fully on-line in CSU's Blackboard/CE6 platform.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Grades are based on writing assignments (essays, discussions, critical thinking exercises), a mid-term exam and a final exam. Students are expected to:

- Read all textbook chapters and other assigned readings *before* beginning the respective on-line sessions;
- Participate actively in discussions and ask clarifying questions;
- Prepare and submit all written assignments. A late assignment will be deducted one point per day it is late;
- Send all discussion postings and written assignments through Blackboard;
- Log on to the course site daily to check for changes and /or additional information.

Essays or chats, discussions, and critical thinking exercises are due by the date specified in the syllabus Course Schedule. Grades are weighted as follows:

Faculty Essays/Chats	21%
Critical Thinking Essays	20%
Discussions	24%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%

Policies

- Students with special needs or those who require special accommodations when taking exams, completing projects or meeting any of the class requirements should identify themselves immediately to the instructor so that appropriate arrangements may be made.
- Refer to the CSU Bulletin for add/drop, withdrawal procedures, S/U, incomplete grading.
- For class cancellations due to weather, call CSU information (687-2000) before class, or access the Cleveland State University home page at www.csuohio.edu.
- Academic misconduct: plagiarism or cheating will result in an "F" for the course.

Weekly Activities

Each week every student must complete the assigned text book readings (one for each chapter covered that week) and one written assignment (a faculty essay, a critical thinking essay, or a discussion).

Due Dates

All assignments are due by the date specified in the Content Module of the syllabus.

Faculty Essays/Chats

There will be assigned readings by Levin College faculty. The readings cover current research in their respective areas of expertise. All students are required to read the articles and then either a) complete a writing assignment based on the article **or** b) chat with the faculty author for one hour at a designated time (see Course Schedule for dates and times). No, students can not do both the essay and a chat for extra credit.

For the chat, students will lose points if they do not actively participate in the chat, show that they have read the article beforehand, and participate for the full hour. The web chats also are limited to the first 15 students who sign up. See Course Schedule for exact dates and times.

For the writing assignments, all homework assignments are due by 5pm on Friday of the week they are assigned. Late assignments will be deducted one point per day late. The writing assignment is graded using the rubric provided for each assignment. See Appendix for instructions on submitting homework assignments & participating in web chats.

Critical Thinking Assignments

Students will be required to write two (2) critical thinking essays. You will be presented with a problem and you must answer two questions about it. **Late submissions of essays will result in a grade reduction of one point per day.** A grading rubric is provided on the course site that outlines how these assignments will be graded.

FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO NAME THE HOMEWORK FILES WITH YOUR NAME (E.G. JOHN_SMITH.DOC OR SMITH_ESSAY_1.DOC) AND PUT YOUR NAME ON ALL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS OR THEY WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

On-line Discussions

Students will participate in on-line discussions based upon the text book readings. The instructor will pose a question and indicate the requirements of a sufficient answer. Students will be asked to answer that question and respond to other students' contributions as well. When asked to respond to another student, you must do so using the reply function. Discussions must be delivered by the due date listed on the syllabus. ***The discussion boards will be locked one minute past each due date and late entries will not be accepted.***

Exams (mid-term + final)

Questions for the mid-term and final exams are drawn from the text book and appear in the chapter study quizzes in the Assessments section. I have provided these NON-GRADED study quizzes for each chapter to help you prepare for the exams. ***These quizzes are for study purposes only and are not factored into your grade.*** For each chapter quiz, there will be ten questions randomly selected from a larger bank of questions. The more times you take the quiz, the more questions you will see. ***Remember it is these questions that will appear on your midterm and final exams.*** Therefore, it is recommended that you take the quizzes as part of your exam study strategy. You may take the quizzes as often as you like; however, quizzes will be closed when the large exam opens. The final exam is not cumulative; it covers only the second

half of the class. The mid-term and final can only be taken ONE time and are taken on-line in the Assessments section.

Technology Management

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE TECHNOLOGY. YOU NEED TO FACTOR THAT INTO YOUR PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION. For example, keep copies of your homework in case they don't download correctly. As another example, call the professor immediately if the computer crashes in the middle of an exam. As a third example, if your personal computer crashes, you will have to find another way to participate such as using school computers.

For those of you who have permission to do your work at your workplace and planned to do so, please be advised that many workplaces have computer safeguards in place that may prevent you from doing so. In particular, workplace pop-blockers may block the quizzes and exams.

Extra Feature: Class Blog

The course website also includes a class blog, which is located in the discussion section of the site. The blog is available to you to share stories, ask questions, complain about technologies, or just to learn about blogging. Participation is not required. It will not be graded. It is there as a learning tool if you need or want it.

Course Schedule: Readings, Assignments & Due Dates

Week 1

Class orientation and discussion of course content in ***non-mandatory on-line chat with your Instructor.***

Week 2

Readings: Chapters 1 & 2: The City Evolves (History) and The City Relies on its Foundations (Geology), Rosentraub's article, *Sports Facilities and Urban Redevelopment: Private and Public Benefits and a Prescription for a Healthier Future*
Assignments Due 9/7 by 5pm: Critical Thinking Assignment #1

Week 3

Reading: Chapter 11, The City Works (Economic Development)
Assignment Due 9/14 by 5pm: Rosentraub HW assignment in lieu of chat
Optional Web Chat: *Dean Mark Rosentraub, TUESDAY, September 11, 10:00-11:00am*

Week 4

Readings: Chapter 6, The City Worships (Sacred Landmarks)
Assignment Due 9/21 by 5pm: Chapter 6 Discussion

Week 5

Reading: Chapters 3 & 4: The City Builds (Architecture and Design) and The City Organizes Its Space (Geography)
Assignment Due 9/28 by 5pm: Chapters 3 & 4 Discussion

Week 6

Readings: Chapters 5 & 7, The City Looks Ahead (Urban Planning) and The City Manages Itself (Public Works) and Kellogg's article, *Watershed-based Landscape Management: The Ohio Balanced Growth Program*

Assignment Due 10/5 by 5pm: Chapter 5 & 7 Discussion

Week 7

Midterm Exam. The midterm exam will be available from Friday (10/12) 5pm until Tuesday, (10/16) at 5pm. You may take the exam on-line once anytime during this period.

Week 8

Reading: Chapter 8, The City Protects Itself (Environmental Studies)

Assignments Due by 10/19 by 5pm: Kellogg HW assignment in lieu of chat

Optional Web Chat: Associate Dean Wendy Kellogg on MONDAY, October 15, 6-7pm.

Week 9

Readings: Chapter 9, The City Governs Itself (Political Science)

Assignments Due 10/26 by 5pm: Chapter 9 Discussion

Week 10

Readings: Chapter 10, The City Serves the Public (Public Administration) and Sowa's article, *Administrative Discretion and Active Representation: An Expansion of the Theory of Representative Bureaucracy*

Assignments Due 11/2 by 5pm: Chapter 10 Discussion

Week 11

Reading: Chapter 12, The City Regulates Itself (Law)

Assignments Due 11/9 by 5pm: Sowa HW assignment in lieu of chat

Optional Web Chat: Professor Jessica Sowa on TUESDAY, November 6, 10-11am.

Week 12

Readings: Chapters 16 & 17, The City Unites with the World (International Geography) & The City Faces Its Future (Technology and the Future of the City)

Assignments Due 11/16 by 5pm: Chapters 16 & 17 Discussion

Week 13

Reading: Chapter 13, The City Understands Itself (Psychology)

Assignments Due 11/23 by 5pm: Chapter 13 Discussion

Week 14

Reading: Chapter 14, The City Confronts Social Issues (Sociology)

Assignments Due 11/30 by 5pm: Chapter 14 Discussion

Week 15

Reading: Chapter 15, The City Encounters Diversity (Anthropology)

Assignments Due 12/7 by 5pm: Critical Thinking Essay #2

December 7 through 11

Final Exam— The final exam will be available from Friday (12/7) 5pm until Tuesday, (12/11) at 5pm. You may take the exam on-line once anytime during this period.