

Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies
Instructor: Winifred Weizer
Office hours: UR213 By appointment

Introduction to Urban Studies
UST200 Sec. 1 MWF 9:45 – 10:50 am
Fall Semester, 2008
Email: w.weizer@csuohio.edu
Phone: 216-523-7574

Course Description: This Course is designed to introduce the student to the field of Urban Studies. Urban Studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws from many disciplines including psychology, political science, sociology, economics, anthropology, communications, and geography. This approach is used to study and come to a better understanding of the problems facing cities today and the opportunities that exist within them.

Course Objective: This course is an introduction to the study of cities using an interdisciplinary approach that includes economic development, environmental studies, anthropology, psychology, sociology and public administration. The course emphasizes the roots of the contemporary urban experience and integrates the field of urban studies with students' everyday experiences. The course is designed to meet the following learning objectives in accordance with CSU's General Education requirements:

Breadth of Knowledge: Social Science

- Understand the complex issues and challenges facing urban areas.
- Recognize the importance and usefulness of multi-disciplinary approaches to resolving these challenges.
- Introduce basic theoretical and empirical concepts used in the respective social scientific disciplines to explain the behavior of individuals and groups in societies, economies, governments, and subcultures.
- Present how data are collected and analyzed in social scientific disciplines.

Skill Area: Critical Thinking

- Inspire critical thinking using multi-disciplinary approaches and exercises.
- Develop higher-order thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) to address complex urban problems.

Skill Area: Writing

Completion of "writing-to-learn" exercises designed to incorporate concepts learned in the text chapters into daily life experiences.

- Fulfillment of "writing-to-communicate" exercises designed to test understanding of academic journal articles and ability to convey responses in a logical manner.

General Education Statement

This course fulfills a Social Science Breadth of Knowledge General Education requirement and promotes the Skill Areas of critical thinking and writing.

Course Method: This course will combine lectures by the instructor with class discussions and speaker presentations. Students *are expected to and strongly encouraged* to participate in class discussions.

Grading Policy: Grades are based on the results of tests, three exercises, and class participation. There will be three tests given (two throughout the semester and the final). The grade will consist of the following;

Midterm #1	10%
Midterm #2	15%
Final	25%
Exercise 1	10%
Exercise 2	15%
Exercise 3	15%
Class participation	10%

Exam attendance is required. Makeup exams will **only** be given with the prior approval of the instructor. Assignments are due on the date noted in the syllabus. Late submission will result in a 5% grade penalty *per week* that the assignment is late. Final submission dates are noted in the syllabus. Work not turned in by that date **will not** be accepted.

Grading scale: 95- 100 A 94-90 A- 89-87 B+ 86-83 B 82-80 B- 79-75 C+
74-70 C 60- 69 D

Exercises: There are three exercises that will be distributed throughout the semester. These will be distributed in class as noted in the syllabus and are due on the dates noted. All exercises must be double-spaced and word-processed or typed. Please be sure to check your grammar and punctuation. Spell check your work! Points will be deducted for lack of attention to spelling and grammar. If you wish you may submit your work via email to the addresses listed at the top of the syllabus.

Course Requirements: Students are expected to attend all class periods, submit homework assignments when due, complete the midterms and final. Student success is enhanced by keeping up to date with *required* readings. Class attendance is also critical to the student being successful.

Change in schedule: *This syllabus is a guide to the semester schedule. The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus and any of its contents at any time during the course by notifying students verbally. Attendance at class ensures that the student is aware of all changes that may be made.*

Text: Steinbacher, Roberta, Benson, Virginia O. 2006. Introduction to Urban Studies
Third Edition. Dubuque, IA. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company.

Class Schedule and Readings

**August 25 to 29: Course Overview and Expectations. The City Evolves
(History)**

Read: Epilogue, Chapter 1, Chapter 13
August 29 last day to add until 8:00 pm

September 1 to September 5: The City Understands Itself (Psychology)

Read: Chapter 14
September 1: Labor Day, no Class
September 5 Last Day to Drop until 8:00 pm

September 8 to 12: The City Confronts Social issues (Sociology)

Read Chapter 15
Exercise 1 Distributed
September 12: Library Day to work on Exercise 1

September 15 to 19: The City Encounters Diversity (Anthropology)

Read Chapter 12
September 19: Assignment 1 is Due

September 22 to 26: Midterm #1, The City Regulates Itself (Law)

Midterm covers Chapters 1, 13-15
Read: Chapter 9
September 26: Midterm 1

September 29 to October 3: The City Governs Itself (Political Science).

Read: Chapter 7

October 6 to October 10: The City Maintains Itself (Public Works)

Read Chapter 5

October 13 to October 17: The City Looks Ahead (Urban Planning)

Read: Chapter 4
October 13 No Class Columbus Day
Exercise 2 distributed

October 20 to October 24: The City Organizes Its Space (Geography)

Read: Chapter 11

October 27 to October 31: Midterm 2 The City Works (Economic Development)

Read: Chapter 8

Midterm 2 covers chapters 4, 5, 7, 9

October 31: Midterm #2

October 31: Last day to drop with at 8:00 pm

November 3 to November 7 The City Protects Itself (Environmental Studies)

Read Chapter 6

November 7 Exercise 2 is Due

Exercise 3 is distributed

November 10 to November 14: The City Worships (Sacred Landmarks)

Read Chapter 3

November 17 to November 21: The City Builds (Architecture and Design)

Read Chapter 2

November 24 to November 28: The City Builds on Its Foundations (Geology)

Read Chapter 17

November 26: Exercise 2 is due

November 27 -30 Thanksgiving Recess

December 1 to December 5: The City Faces Its Future

December 3: Last day to submit Exercise 2 or 3

December 5: Review for final

Wednesday, December 10: Final exam 8:30 am to 10:30 am.

Physically challenged/Special Needs

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216)687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively. Further information regarding the office can be accessed on the web at <http://www.csuohio.edu/clc/disability/>.

Writing Assistance All submitted work is to be written according to academic standards with appropriate citations. The student should contact the instructor **before** submitting work if unsure about how to paraphrase material or how to cite correctly, The Writing Center at Cleveland State is available to assist the student with writing issues. Information on the writing center is found at

<http://www.csuohio.edu/writingcenter/index.html>. Wikipedia is NOT to be used in your writing assignments. Submissions using Wikipedia will be subject to a 5 point penalty.

Questions regarding the university calendar (holidays and finals week schedule) can be resolved by using the following link to the registrar's office.

<http://www.csuohio.edu/enrollmentservices/registrar/calendar/>