

**Cleveland State University
Levin College of Urban Affairs
Department of Urban Studies**

**Course Syllabus
Introduction to Urban studies
UST 200**

Class Dates: 1/16, 1/18, 1/23, 1/25, **1/30**, 2/1, **2/6**, 2/8, 2/13, 2/15, **2/20**, 2/22, **2/27 (mid-term)**, 3/1, 3/6, 3/8, **3/13 (break)**, **3/15 (break)**, 3/20 (apprentice day), 3/22 (apprentice day), 3/27 (apprentice day), 3/29 (apprentice day), **4/3 (no class)**, 4/5, 4/10, 4/12, **4/17**, 4/19, 4/24, 4/26, **5/1 (Final)**

**Instructor: Gina Weisblat
E-mail address- Boo500@aol.com
Office Hours: Call to set up an appointment**

GRADING

A = 90-100
B = 80-89
C = 70-79
D = 60-69
F = 0-59

Late work will receive a lower grade for each day it is late.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Refer to the CSU Undergraduate Bulletin for policies and procedures for add/drop and withdrawal, grading (including incomplete), and other questions.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

It is important that students with handicaps requiring special accommodations identify themselves to the instructor immediately so that we can seek appropriate arrangements.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Persons anticipating needing special accommodations to take exams or complete assignments must identify themselves to the instructor by the end of the second week of classes. These include accommodations for physical handicaps, learning disabilities, and English as a second language.

Course Description

Introduction to the study of cities using an interdisciplinary approach that includes history, sociology, planning, economics, and political science; emphasis on the roots of contemporary African-American community problems; integration of the field of urban studies with the student's everyday experience. Topics that will be included follow: Social Science, African-American Experience, and Human Diversity.

Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the structure and character of the modern city. Urban studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws from many disciplines: psychology, political science, sociology, economics, anthropology, ecology, geography, etc. At the conclusion of the course, it is expected that students will:

- Gain an increased understanding of the origins, growth, and decline of cities;
- Have a greater appreciation of how cities influence their everyday lives;
- Understand how the various lenses (viewpoints) of studying urban studies are interconnected;
- Have an increased awareness of the opportunities and problems facing today's cities

Learning Approach:

As an educator I have a particular viewpoint with respect to learning that I will make clear from the outset so that the educational process will be most rewarding for all involved.

1. Individual human dignity and equality: Each of us is a unique and valuable human being with her/his own capacities and experiences to contribute to class. Due to our common humanity, all of us are entitled to equal respect from one another.
2. Self-responsibility: We are each responsible for our own learning and it is up to us as individuals to make the class relevant to our growth.
3. Critical thinking: One hallmark of an educated person is the ability to question the assumptions, evidence, and arguments inherent to the opinions and beliefs of others, or oneself. This requires open-minded skepticism and analytical thinking.
4. Participatory learning: People learn best when they take responsibility for their own learning and directly participate in the learning process on three levels: cognitive, affective, and experiential. This occurs through dialogue and by applying theory to practice.
5. Freedom of thought, speech, and mutual respect: The best atmosphere for learning is one in which individuals feel free to speak their opinions and respect the rights of others to express their own views.

6. Instructor responsibilities: My responsibilities as an instructor are to set the direction of the course, to provide resource material and lay a foundation for understanding, to facilitate a positive learning climate, to hold students accountable for their learning, and to provide support and encouragement for student learning and growth.
7. Student responsibilities: My expectations concerning your responsibilities as a student are: to prepare and actively participate in the class, to promptly complete course assignments, to use the opportunity to build your understanding, skills, and to contribute to the learning experience of others in the class.

(excerpted from "Ethics in the Public Sector" Syllabus, Dr. Alexander, Fall, 1999)

Class Rules:

1. Class attendance is imperative to your learning. I will not take attendance but I expect you will attend class (unless you are contagiously ill!!).
2. Class participation is also important to your learning. Asking questions and starting discussions during class is strongly encouraged. I will call on you during class to answer questions - so be forewarned.
3. Reading required chapters in the book, any articles I put on reserve and Web sites should be as discussed in class. In order to participate in discussions (see 2. above) you should do your reading!
4. There will be no make-up exams unless there is some dire and well-documented circumstance. If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam please see me well before that time.

Assignments

Mid-term – Multiple Choice, Open ended questions and fill in the blank.

Final – Multiple Choice, Open ended questions and fill in the blank.

Class Projects (4) – There will be three in class projects, students will be asked to turn in their work at the end of the class.

Apprentice Days – 4 Day class competition (Terms to be given later in the semester).

Grading

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following percentages:

Mid-term	20 Points
Final	20 Points
Class Projects (4)	40 Points Each
Apprentice Days	20 Points

Students should refer to the CSU bulletin for procedures for drop-add, withdrawal, S/U grading and incomplete.

Assignments

1/16

1/18

1/23

1/25

1/30

2/1

2/6

2/8

2/13

2/15

2/20

2/22

2/27 (mid-term)

3/1

3/6

3/8

3/13 (break), 3/15 (break)

3/20(apprentice day), 3/22(apprentice day), 3/27(apprentice day),

3/29 (apprentice day) **4/3 (no class),**

4/5

4/10

4/12

4/17

4/19

4/24

4/26

5/1 (Final)