

SYD 3600 - *Urban Community*

Spring 2009, Professor Carlson, Bellamy 180 / MWF 10:10 - 11:00 AM

(office hours M-T-W-Th-F 9 to 10 AM)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Students with disabilities needing academic accomodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disabilities Resource Center, and (2) bring a letter to the instructor during the first week of class, indicating the need for and type of accomodation requested.

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in the Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of the Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community. Violations of the honor code may result in rejection of a specific assignment, reduction of course grade, assignment of F grade for the course, or official FSU proceedings leading to suspension or expulsion from the university.

The class meets three times per week except as announced. Required readings for the course include the five books listed below.

- Short in-class essays on books and class discussions count for one-half of your course grade. Study questions for readings appear as links to titles below. In-class essay questions come from this list of study questions. Each essay earns a maximum of three points, but may earn zero. Students arriving late to class will not be allowed to write the essay question when it is assigned at the start of class. Students who need to leave class early must speak with the instructor in advance, or their essay question for that day will be discarded. Excused absences each earn your average score across all unexecuted essays. Unexcused absences *cost* one previously-earned point; they are recorded in the gradebook as "-1" scores which subtract from your total of points for the semester.
- Excused absences from in-class essays include observance of religious holidays, a death in the family or a student's illness requiring a doctor's care. Printed/written documentation (such as religious service programs, funeral service programs, or doctors' notes) must be presented to the instructor to excuse any absence from class. You may provide such excuses for up to five health- related absences and two other (religious holiday, etc) absences per semester. If you miss six or more days of class essays for health- related reasons, you will not fulfill the university requirement of at least 37.5 contact hours for a three-credit course, and you will be assigned a health-related "incomplete" grade for the course. You may avoid/resolve this incomplete grade by completing missing essays



during the current semester or in future semesters, and your grade will be recorded based on your complete series of scores.

- Athletic team events and other extracurricular activities away from campus are NEVER excused absences. University faculty or staff who take students out of class for such activities may contact the instructor by email to obtain copies of essay questions and proctor them to students while on such trips; the student is responsible for contacting the appropriate university official, and failure to do so results in an *unexcused* absence for that essay.

In addition to in-class discussion of the five required texts, a group project using census data to study U.S. cities will be completed outside class. The syllabus allocates class sessions just before Spring Break for preparation and review of this assignment.

- Teams of students obtain census data for samples of tracts in different U.S. cities and then prepare project reports (see the Blackboard "Assignment" feature for details) that count for one-fourth of the course grade.
- Each team (collectively, not individually) may submit one rough draft of the project by March 30th for preliminary comments and a chance to make revisions. An unscored item for this rough draft appears in the Blackboard "Assignment" feature, and may be used by only one member of each team. If more than one member of a team submits a rough draft, none of them will be evaluated. Any draft turned in after the rough draft deadline on March 30th will be presumed to be a FINAL report, and graded accordingly.
- After any revisions to a rough draft are made, all members of each team should submit identical copies of the complete final report for their city, including all parts of the report specified in the "Assignment" instructions (and their own individual Excel data sheets used in preparing the report). The Blackboard "Assignment" feature must be used to submit the assignment--it cannot be submitted as a regular email attachment, as hardcopy printout, or in any other format. Failure to submit the Blackboard Assignment is failure to submit the project.
- The completed assignment loses one percent of its value per hour submitted later than the deadline of 5:00 PM on Monday, April 13th, so 100 hours past the due deadline the assignment is worthless and will not be accepted or graded. No excused absences are allowed for this assignment unless they cover the ENTIRE period of the assignment (that is, from February 25th through April 13th)--that is, unless a student is receiving an incomplete grade in the course. Students are encouraged to submit the assignment early to avoid potential problems with the deadline.

A cumulative final examination on Monday, April 27th from 5:30 to 7:30 PM counts for the final one-fourth of the grade.

- No exceptions are permitted to this time and date of the final examination--students must **NOT** schedule early departures from campus that would interfere with this final examination date. Only documented medical excuses will be accepted for missing the final exam.
- Some questions on the final examination will be announced in advance of the exam, and will involve comparisons of students' census group project reports. These final reports

will be posted in the Blackboard Course Library, so that you may examine them and prepare your responses to these exam questions in advance of the exam.

Points appear in the Blackboard "Grade Book" feature as they are earned. Students may estimate their grades at any time during the semester by consulting this record. The grade distribution for the course will be: A = miss less than 1/8 of all possible points (rounded off to whole points); B = miss less than 1/4 of all possible points; C = miss less than 3/8 of all possible points; D = miss less than 1/2 of all possible points; F = miss half or more of all possible points. The width of these grade intervals reflects the fact that most of the grade involves written essays and spreadsheets, and the fact that "plus" grades are included in the next-higher letter grade category (no "plus" grades are given). Students need a prior introductory course in a social science.

Part One - EMERGENCE OF CITIES FROM THE PRE-URBAN WORLD

- Gideon Sjoberg. [*The Preindustrial City*](#). New York: Free Press, 1960. ISBN13: 9780029289808
- 1/07 - Neolithic pre-urban society: the seeds of urban life (*Sjoberg* chapters 1 & 2)
- 1/09 - Causes and forms of the first urban implosions (*Sjoberg* chapters 3 & 4)
- 1/12 - A visit to ancient Rome (*Sjoberg* chapter 5)
- 1/14 - Family and economy in preindustrial cities (*Sjoberg* chapters 6 & 7)
- 1/16 - Politics and religion in preindustrial cities (*Sjoberg* chapters 8 & 9)
- 1/19 - NO CLASS (*Martin Luther King Day*)
- 1/21 - Similarities and differences among preindustrial cities (*Sjoberg* chapters 10 & 11)

Part Two - URBAN TRANSFORMATION OF THE UNITED STATES

- Sam Bass Warner. [*The Urban Wilderness*](#). Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN13: 9780520202245
- 1/23 - "Preindustrial" U.S. towns in the colonial period (*Warner* chapter 1)
- 1/26 - Controlling land use in changing urban settings (*Warner* chapter 2)
- 1/28 - Industrialization and changing city structure (*Warner* chapter 3)
- 2/30 - Ethnicity and social class divisions in industrialization (*Warner* chapter 4)
- 2/02 - Social organization and urban deconcentration (*Warner* chapter 5)
- 2/04 - Urban migrants in the evolution of neighborhoods (*Warner* chapter 6)
- 2/06 - Coming to grips with problems of modern cities (*Warner* chapter 7)
- 2/09 - Problems with the scale of urban life (*Warner* chapter 8)

Part Three - CONTEMPORARY CITIES IN THE THIRD WORLD

- Alan Gilbert. 1994. [*The Latin American City*](#). New York: Monthly Review Press, 1998. ISBN13: 9780853459385
- 2/11 - Are third world cities "preindustrial" cities? (*Gilbert* chapters 1 & 2)
- 2/13 - Population growth versus urbanization (*Gilbert* chapter 3)
- 2/16 - Primate cities in third-world economies (*Gilbert* chapter 4)

- 2/18 - Housing in third-world mega-cities (*Gilbert* chapter 5)
- 2/20 - Public services in third-world mega-cities(*Gilbert* chapter 6) **LAST DAY TO DROP/WITHDRAW**
- 2/23 - Population growth and development strategies (*Gilbert* chapters 7 & 8)

Part Four - GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT USING ORIGINAL CENSUS DATA

- 2/25 - Hands-on training for computer-based research *Part 1 - Census-based information on cities*
- 2/27 - Hands-on training for computer-based research *Part 2 - Calculating measures/preparing the report*
- 3/02 - Group consultations
- 3/04 - Group consultations
- 3/06 - Group consultations
- 3/09 - NO CLASS (*Spring Break*)
- 3/11 - NO CLASS (*Spring Break*)
- 3/13 - NO CLASS (*Spring Break*)

Part Five - POLITICAL ECONOMY OF CONTEMPORARY URBAN AMERICA

- John Logan & Harvey Molotch. *Urban Fortunes*. Berkeley: University of California, 1987. ISBN13: 9780520254282
- 3/16 - Urban ecology, conflict and political economy (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 1)
- 3/18 - Residential mobility in the network of cities (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 2)
- 3/20 - The politics of growth: who are the actors? (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 3, 50-84)
- 3/23 - Expansion, differentiation and "sorting" (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 3, 85-98)
- 3/25 - The tension between growth and community (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 4)
- 3/27 - Contemporary federal urban planning and policy (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 5)
- 3/30 - Local politics and the shape of the city (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 6) **PROJECT ROUGH DRAFTS DUE**
- 4/01 - The national urban network in the 21st century (*Logan & Molotch* chapter 7)

Part Six - CREATING OUR OWN URBAN FUTURE

- Myron Orfield. *Metropolitcs*. Washington DC: Brookings Institution Press, 1997. ISBN13: 9780815766391
- 4/03 - Technologies and politics of urban sorting (*Orfield* chapter 1)
- 4/06 - Roots of poverty and its concentration in cities (*Orfield* chapter 2)
- 4/08 - How does America fund its schools? (*Orfield* chapter 3)
- 4/10 - Income distributions and the housing stock (*Orfield* chapter 4)
- 4/13 - Causes and consequences of the jobs-housing mismatch (*Orfield* chapter 5) **PROJECT FINAL DRAFTS DUE**
- 4/15 - City government policies that cause polarization (*Orfield* chapter 6, pp. 74-90)
- 4/17 - Policy solutions and political conflict (*Orfield* chapter 6, pp. 90-104)

- 4/20 - Forging a metropolitan coalition with political "critical mass" (*Orfield* chapter 7)
- 4/22 - Are crusades for regional metro governments worth the trouble? (*Orfield* chapters 8 & 9)

4/27 - FINAL EXAMINATION (5:30 to 7:30 PM in regular classroom)

This page maintained by Professor Carlson.