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GRG 337/URB 352—The Modern American City
Spring 2012

Course Description

This course explores the profound social, spatial, economic, and political restructuring of American cities over the past thirty years.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to

• identify and explain how current struggles in American cities are connected to key social, spatial, economic, and political changes that have occurred over the past thirty years;

• understand and explain how key social, spatial, economic, and political changes in American cities are connected to the current economic crisis.

Assignments/Requirements

• Two 3-page papers	(30% of course grade, 15% each)
• Midterm	(30% of course grade)
• Final Exam	(40% of course grade)

Texts

• There are no required books. All readings are available on Blackboard

Facebook page

• There is a Facebook page for this course, "Heyman's Modern American City Class," which will serve as a forum for posting course-related material, such as news items, asking questions, making comments, and general discussion of the course issues. "Like" the page to join.

Policies

• Late papers will lose 1/3 of a grade for every day late (including weekends).
• I do not accept papers via email.
• No laptops, cell phones, or text messaging in class.

Grading and Workload

University guidelines state that "for each hour a class meets, an average of two additional hours of preparation is expected of the student." This class meets three hours a week, which means that you should expect about six hours of out-of-class work per week. Please remember that grades are defined by university policy in the following manner: "A (excellent), B (above average), C (average), D (pass), and F (failure)."

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's words or ideas and passing them off as your own. It constitutes a serious breach of academic honesty and can result in a failing grade or expulsion from school. Please be aware of university policies on academic integrity (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)

Students with Disabilities or Special Needs

One of the goals of this course is to create an environment which encourages and allows all students to participate in and benefit from class activities. Students with disabilities and/or special needs will be reasonably accommodated in this regard. If you have a disability or special need, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/).

The Undergraduate Writing Center

The Undergraduate Writing Center provides individual, professional advice on all aspects of writing to UT undergraduates on a drop-in basis or by appointment. I encourage you to take advantage of this resource.

- Location: Flawn Academic Center 211, phone 471-6222.
- The UWC also runs the Writer's Advice Line at 475-VERB, or email writing@uwc.utexas.edu.
- Hours and more info at http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/uwc/

A Few Comments

I cannot stress this enough: Communicate with me! Please ask for help when you need it. If you are having problems, let me know *early*, and I will do what I can to help. I have weekly office hours, which are times when I am specifically available for students. By all means, come and talk to me about any concerns or problems you have with any aspect of this course—or just stop by to talk about ideas and issues raised in class. Feedback (positive and negative) about the course is always welcome, and I'm happy to consider ideas you may have for improving the course along the way. I am also available at other times; just ask!

Course Schedule

	Date	Topic	Reading/Asst Due Dates
Week 1	W 1/18 F 1/20	Course Introduction Why do we have cities?	 Childe
Week 2	M 1/23 W 1/25 F 1/27	Industrialization & Urbanization Industrialization & Urbanization Industrialization & Urbanization	Levy Chs 1 & 2, J & S Ch 2
Week 3	M 1/30 W 2/1 F 2/3	The Post-war City The welfare city City financing	 Levy p239-246, Mollenkopf, Hackworth p44-48 Levy p96-110
Week 4	M 2/6 W 2/8 F 2/10	Suburbanization Urban Renewal Segregation	J & S Ch 7, Levy 169-172
Week 5	M 2/13 W 2/15 F 2/17	1970s Economic Crisis, Globalization, & Neoliberalism Urban Restructuring	 Hackworth Ch 1, Cohen Soja
Week 6	M 2/20 W 2/22 F 2/24	Urban Entrepreneurialism Place Marketing **AAG—Rich out of town**	Harvey, Short & Kim
Week 7	M 2/27 W 2/29 F 3/2	**AAG—Rich out of town** **AAG—Rich out of town** Municipal Debt	 Hackworth p20-33 **Assignment #1 Due**
Week 8	M 3/5 W 3/7 F 3/9	Midterm Review **Midterm**	
Spring Break	3/12-3/16		
Week 9	M 3/19 W 3/21 F 3/23	Reinvestment in Urban Core Public-private partnerships Entertainment & Themed Spaces	 Hannigan Ch 7 Hannigan Ch 3 & p90-100, Román-Velázquez
Week 10	M 3/26 W 3/28 F 3/30	Urban Regimes Business Improvement Districts	Hackworth p61-69, Strom, Purcell Mallett
Week 11	M 4/2 W 4/2 F 4/6	Gated Communities Environmental Racism Environmental Racism	Low Pulido Heynen et al
Week 12	M 4/9 W 4/11 F 4/13	Incarceration Security & Policing Shock Doctrine & Privatization	Peck & Theodore Mitchell & Staeheli, Warren Gotham & Greenberg, Akers
Week 13	M 4/16 W 4/18 F 4/20	Contesting the Neoliberal City Contesting the Neoliberal City Contesting the Neoliberal City	Sites, Theodore & Martin Rameau, Gray, Baker Gordon, Workers Defense
Week 14	M 4/23 W 4/25 F 4/27	Sub-prime meltdown & 2000s Economic Crisis	Newman, Wyly et al. **Assignment #2 Due**
Week 15	M 4/30 W 5/2 F 5/4	Responses to Crisis: Occupy Coops Review	TBA Alperovitz
	Fri 5/11	**Final Exam 2-5 pm**	