Wayne State University
Department of Urban Studies & Planning

US 2000: Introduction to Urban Studies

Instructor    Patrick Cooper-McCann (cooper@wayne.edu)
Course Info   Fall 2018, Section 5, CRN: 15540, 4 credits
Class Sessions 10:30 am to 12:10 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, 206 State Hall
Format         Lecture

Office Hours
Feel free to approach me before and after class with your questions and ideas. For a longer conversation, please email me first to let me know when you’d like to talk and how: either over the phone or in my office, 3185 Faculty Administration Building (at the end of the hallway, inside the Department of Urban Studies and Planning). My “official” office hours are Mondays between 1 and 2 pm, but I can meet most days and times.

Course description
This course introduces the interdisciplinary field of urban studies. In the first part of the course, students learn about the process of urbanization. In the second part of the course, students learn how to compare and contrast different kinds of urban places and different ways of experiencing those places. In the final part of the course, students learn about different policy challenges facing urban places and different ways of addressing those challenges. The course is designed to help students make sense of metropolitan Detroit in particular and to analyze the challenges and opportunities facing the region.

Learning objectives
Student who successfully complete this course will be able to:

• Explain urbanization as a historical and contemporary process
• Analyze cities and city life from many disciplinary perspectives
• Identify major challenges facing urban America and discuss possible solutions
• Comprehend the urban landscape of Detroit, as a city and a region, and explain particular challenges and opportunities that Detroit faces as a legacy city

Required readings
This course has one required textbook: Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, *The City Reader*, 6th edition (New York: Routledge, 2015). You may buy or rent the textbook at the campus bookstore or online. All other readings will be posted on Canvas.
Course requirements
Grading for this class will be based on participation and three exams.

1. Participation = 10%
   Full participation requires completing all assigned readings prior to class; arriving to class on time; taking notes on readings, lectures, and class discussions; and engaging in class discussion by posing thoughtful questions and comments. Meeting with the professor in office hours is optional, but students may also receive credit for participation by doing so. Students may have two unexcused absences from class without penalty.

2. Exams = 30% each
   The exams will be held in class on October 1, October 31, and December 10. Each exam will test one third of the course, including material covered in readings, lectures, and discussions. The exams will not be cumulative, but students will need to understand the material at the beginning of the course in order to test well on material later in the course.


   A course grade of "Incomplete" will be granted only in exceptional circumstances and must be arranged, in writing, before the last class session.

Student Disability Services statement
If you have a documented disability that requires accommodations, you will need to register with Student Disability Services for coordination of your academic accommodations. The Student Disability Services (SDS) office is located at 1600 David Adamany Undergraduate Library in the Student Academic Success Services department. The SDS telephone number is 313-577-1851 or 313-202-4216 for videophone use. Once you have met with your disability specialist, I will be glad to meet with you privately during my office hours to discuss your accommodations. Student Disability Services’ mission is to assist the university in creating an accessible community where students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their educational experience at Wayne State University. You can learn more about the disability office at www.studentdisability.wayne.edu.

To register with Student Disability Services, complete the online registration form at: https://wayne-accommodate.symplicity.com/public_accommodation/

Statement on academic misbehavior
Academic misbehavior means any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the institution or subvert the education process. All forms of academic misbehavior are prohibited at Wayne State University, as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct (http://doso.wayne.edu/codeofconduct.pdf). Students who commit or assist in committing dishonest acts are subject to downgrading (to a failing grade for the test, paper, or other course-related activity in question, or for the entire course) and/or additional sanctions as described in the Student Code of Conduct.
Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use, or intentionally providing or attempting to provide, unauthorized materials, information or assistance in any academic exercise. Examples include: (a) copying from another student’s test paper; (b) allowing another student to copy from a test paper; (c) using unauthorized material such as a "cheat sheet" during an exam. (d) unauthorized access to a test from a previous semester also constitutes cheating.

Fabrication: Intentional and unauthorized falsification of any information or citation. Examples include: (a) citation of information not taken from the source indicated; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not used in a research paper.

Plagiarism: To take and use another’s words or ideas as one’s own. Examples include: (a) failure to use appropriate referencing when using the words or ideas of other persons. (b) altering the language, paraphrasing, omitting, rearranging, or forming new combinations of words in an attempt to make the thoughts of another appear as your own.

Other forms of academic misbehavior include, but are not limited to: (a) unauthorized use of resources, or any attempt to limit another student’s access to educational resources, or any attempt to alter equipment so as to lead to an incorrect answer for subsequent users; (b) enlisting the assistance of a substitute in the taking of examinations; (c) violating course rules as defined in the course syllabus or other written information provided to the student; (d) selling, buying or stealing all or part of an un-administered test or answers to the test; (e) changing or altering a grade on a test or other academic grade records.

Course drop/withdrawal information
In weeks one and two of the full term, students can drop this class and receive 100% tuition and course fee cancellation. Beginning with the third week of the term students who wish to drop the class must initiate a withdrawal request. You will receive a transcript notation of WP (passing), WF (failing), or WN (no graded work) at the time of withdrawal. No withdrawals can be initiated after the end of the 10th week; students enrolled in the 10th week and beyond will receive a grade. More information on this can be found at: https://reg.wayne.edu/students/information#dropping.

Schedule of Readings

1. August 29 – Course Overview


I. Part One – Urbanization and Urban History

2. September 5 – Urbanization and Pre-Industrial Cities


3. September 10 – Early Industrial Cities


4. September 12 – Later Industrial Cities


5. September 17 – The Urban Crisis and Suburbanization


6. September 19 – Legacy Cities and Their Suburbs


7. September 24 – Detroit in Global Perspective

8. September 26 – Exam Review


9. October 1 – Exam I

II. Part Two – Urbanism and Social Life

10. October 3 – Basics of Urban Design


11. October 8 – Public Space and Placemaking


12. October 10 – Social Inclusion and Exclusion


13. October 15 – Public Transit and Equity (Guest Speaker: Joel Batterman)


14. October 17 – Race, Ethnicity, and the City


15. October 22 – Gender and the City (Guest speaker: Bri Gauger)


16. October 24 – Urban Livability


17. October 29 – Exam Review

18. October 31 – Exam II

III. Part Three – Urban Policy and Planning

19. November 5 – The Dynamics and Effects of Urban Decline


20. November 7 – Fiscal Policy and Regionalism


21. November 12 – The Politics of Urban Development


22. November 14 – Urban Sustainability (Guest Speaker: Assoc. Prof. Carolyn Loh)


23. November 19 – Environmental Justice


25. November 28 – Repurposing Vacant Land

1. Detroit Future City, “Executive Summary,” *Achieving an Integrated Open Space Network in Detroit* (Detroit, MI: Detroit Future City, 2016), pages 5-12 only.


26. December 3 – Urban Innovation (Guest Speaker: Carla Kayanan)


27. December 5 – Exam III Review