

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FALL 1992

HISTORY 402
MR. SCHULTZ

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY 1870 TO THE PRESENT

Texts:

Raymond A. Mohl, THE NEW CITY: URBAN AMERICA IN THE INDUSTRIAL AGE. 1860-1920
Carl Abbott, URBAN AMERICA IN THE MODERN AGE: 1920 TO THE PRESENT
Sam Bass Warner, Jr., STREETCAR SUBURBS: THE PROCESS OF GROWTH IN BOSTON. 1870-1900
William Riordan, PLUNKITT OF TAMMANY HALL
Edwin O'Connor, THE LAST HURRAH
Edward C. Banfield, THE UNHEAVENLY CITY REVISITED

COURSE MEETINGS AND REQUIREMENTS:

We require all students to attend two lectures (75 minute) and one (50 minute) discussion section each week. We will take attendance at the discussion section meetings. All examinations will be in essay format. There will be a mid-term (scheduled for October 22nd), and a final examination, scheduled (by the College) for December 22nd.

Writing Assignment:

All undergraduate students enrolled in the course will write one short (4-6 pages) essay in response to one of ten topic sentences to be handed out in class. Readings for the essay may include portions of the assigned readings for the course, but also will include additional reading on the topic. We will aid and guide you in selection of bibliography with a selected set of suggested readings. You are not confined to that list. You may choose other materials after consultation with either the Teaching Assistant or the Instructor. Any and all graduate students enrolled in the course must write an original research paper as must any undergraduate honors students, and must consult with the instructor about choice of subject.

Readings:

We will give the specific order of reading assignments in discussion sections.

Grading Policies:

We will evaluate your work in the course based upon the essay examinations, the writing assignment, and attendance at and participation in the required discussion sections. Improvement in performance over the semester will always result in a higher grade; in cases where a final grade hovers between two possibilities, the student whose work has shown improvement will receive the higher of the two possibilities.

COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS

LECTURE TOPICS	DATE
I. URBAN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW	
Introduction: The Problems of Urbanization	Sept. 3
The City in American Thought and Fiction	8
Cities, Law, and Government	10
II. THE PHYSICAL RISE OF THE MODERN CITY	
Steel Rails and the National Web of Cities	15
After "Tara": Cities in the New South	17
The Decline of the "Walking City"	22
The Rise of Industrial Urban America	24
III. THE SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CITIES	
Work and Workers in Urban America	29
The "New" Immigration to Urban Villages	Oct. 1
Black Migration and Urbanization	6
The Rise of the Ghetto	8
Housing the Urban Masses	13
The City as Sewer	15
A Rush to Suburbia	20
* * * MID-TERM EXAMINATION * * *	
Oct. 22	
IV. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES	
City Bosses and the Politics of Survival	Oct. 27
Oiling the Urban Machine	29
The Urban Origins of Progressive Reform	Nov. 3
Social Reform in Urban America	5
Cities in the Great Depression	10
Last Hurrah or New Hello for the Urban Machines?	12
V. A NATION OF CITIES	
Planning the Metropolis	17
City Planning as Social Engineering	19
Running Cities from the White House: I	24
****THANKSGIVING BREAK, NOV. 26-29****	
Running Cities from the White House: II	Dec. 1
The Pitiful Path to Public Housing	3
Urban Renewal or "Removal"?	8
The Tanning of the Nation	10
Cities for Sale? The Future of Urban America	15
* * * FINAL EXAMINATION, DEC. 22 * * *	