

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
SPRING 1979

HISTORY 402

MR. SCHULTZ  
MR. RUFF

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY 1870 TO THE  
PRESENT

Course Content and Requirements:

The course will consist of two lectures a week plus one meeting of the discussion sections. All students are required to attend discussion sections and lectures. The required readings for the course will be discussed in discussion sections; written assignments will be handled there also.

Examinations and Written Assignments:

There will not be a mid-term examination in this class. There will be a final examination on May 20, 1979. Questions for the final examination will be handed out during the first ten days of the semester as an aid to students' understanding of the direction of the course.

Evaluation of students' performance (and assignment of the final grade) will be based upon the final examination and upon short written assignments over the course of the semester. Students enrolled for 3 credits will write two short (4 to seven pages) essay-reviews, one upon assigned readings in the course, the other on additional reading for a topic to be agreed upon by the student and the teaching assistant or the instructor. Students enrolled for 4 credits will write a research paper, based for the most part upon primary source materials, that will not exceed 20 double-spaced typewritten pages or the equivalent. In addition to the written work and the final examination, all students will be evaluated upon their attendance and contributions to the discussion sections.

Required Readings:

- Sam B. Warner, Jr., STREETCAR SUBURBS: THE PROCESS OF GROWTH  
IN BOSTON, 1870-1900  
William L. Riordan, PLUNKITT OF TAMMANY HALL  
Stephan Thernstrom, POVERTY AND PROGRESS: SOCIAL MOBILITY IN A  
NINETEENTH-CENTURY CITY  
Elliot Rudwick, RACE RIOT AT EAST ST. LOUIS, JULY 2, 1917  
Zane L. Miller, THE URBANIZATION OF MODERN AMERICA  
Henry Bedford, TROUBLE DOWNTOWN  
Kenneth T. Jackson and Stanley K. Schultz, CITIES IN AMERICAN  
HISTORY

The exact order of the reading assignments will be handled in discussion sections. Students should begin their reading, however, with Miller's Urbanization of Modern America, pp. 3-97, and Warner's Streetcar Suburbs.

A TOPIC OUTLINE

Students will note that lectures are divided under various topical headings, rather than lectures following a strict chronological pattern. Knowledge of chronology obviously is important in a history course; to aid students in gaining this knowledge two "timelines" have been provided. For conceptual clarity, however, the instructor has organized the lecture topics in overlapping time segments.

## I. URBAN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW

1. Introduction: The Problems of Urbanization (slide lecture)
2. The City in American Thought and Fiction
3. Cities in the Fabric of State and Federal Government
4. Financing Urban Government: Or, Who Gets What, Where, When, Why, How--And, Should They?

## II. THE PHYSICAL RISE OF THE MODERN CITY, 1860's-1970's

1. Steel Rails and the National Diffusion of Cities
2. Cities in the Newest--and Last--West
3. Cities in the New South
4. The Industrial Growth of American Cities
5. The Rise of and Rush to Suburbia (slide lecture)

## III. THE SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CITIES, 1860's-1930's

1. The Decline of the "Walking City" and the Rise of Residential Segregation
2. Housing the Urban Masses (slide lecture)
3. The "New Immigration" to the Urban Villages (slide lecture)
4. Black Migration and Urbanization
5. The Rise of the Black Ghetto (slide lecture)
6. Industrialization and Labor Organization in the Cities

## IV. PLANNING IN URBAN AMERICA, 1850's-1970's

1. The City as Sewer: Engineering the Metropolis (slide lecture)
2. Pioneers of the Crabgrass Frontier (slide lecture)
3. The Garden City and the City Beautiful (slide lecture)
4. Planning for a Nation of Cities (slide lecture)

## V. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES, 1870's-1970's

1. The City Boss and the Urban Machine
2. The Urban Origins of Progressivism
3. The Political Environment and Governmental Reform
4. Cities in the Great Depression and After: Or, What Happened to the Bosses?

## VI. THE CITY AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS, 1920's-1970's

1. The Politics of Demography: Urb, Suburb, and Exurb
2. Running Cities from the White House: The Federal Government and Urban Affairs
3. Bulldozers and Builders: Renewal and Removal in the Cities
4. Cities for Sale? The Future of Urban America