

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
SPRING 2004**

HISTORY 402  
1-2:15 Tues., Thurs.  
1111 Humanities Bldg.

MR. SCHULTZ  
MR. RAWSON

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY, 1870 TO THE PRESENT

**Office Hours:**

My office is 4106 Humanities. Office hours this semester are: Tuesday, 11-12. We can make an appointment if these hours prove impossible for you. The office telephone number is: 263-1814. Most of the time you can depend on reaching me quicker by email at: [skschult@wisc.edu](mailto:skschult@wisc.edu).

**Required Texts:**

1. Howard P. Chudacoff (ed.), *Major Problems in American Urban and Suburban History*
2. Sam Bass Warner, Jr., *Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston, 1870-1900*
3. William Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, (ed.) Terrence J. McDonald
4. John Kasson, *Amusing the Million: Coney Island at the Turn of the Century*
5. Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*
6. Packet of Materials to be purchased (second half of course)

**Course Meetings and Requirements:**

We require all students to attend two lectures (75 minutes) and one (50 minutes) discussion section each week. ***We regard the discussion sections as equal in importance with the lectures and therefore will take attendance at those discussion section meetings.*** All examinations will be in essay format. There will be a mid-term (scheduled in class on March 8<sup>th</sup>), and a final examination (scheduled by the College at 2:45-4:45 Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>)

Writing Assignment(s):

All undergraduate students will write the equivalent of one short (5-8 double-spaced, typewritten pages) paper and one longer (12-15 double-spaced, typewritten pages) paper, although your Teaching Assistant, Michael Rawson, has the instructor's support in refining the requirements of the writing assignment. Mr. Rawson will discuss in sections the nature and due dates of the papers.

Online at our course website - <http://history.wisc.edu/schultz/402/> - is an extensive bibliography sub-divided into a variety of topics. You are not confined to that list. You may choose other materials after consultation with either Mr. Rawson or the Instructor.

**Any and all graduate students enrolled in the course must write an original research paper as must any undergraduate honors students. You folks must consult with the instructor about the topic(s) of your papers.**

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 examinations, the writing assignment(s), and attendance at and participation in the required discussion sections. We do not begin the course locked into a rigid formula of percentages for each of the course components, although you may take the following distribution as a **rough guide**: Discussion section grade (20%); writing assignment(s) (40%); Mid-term examination (15%); Final examination (25%). 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**

(This is a "good faith" listing; topics may change)

LECTURE TOPICS

DATE

**I. URBAN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW**

Introduction: The Problems of Urbanization	Jan. 18
The City in American Thought and Fiction	20
The City in American Law	25

**II. THE PHYSICAL RISE OF THE MODERN CITY**

Steel Rails and the National Web of Cities	27
After "Tara": Cities in the New South	Feb. 1
The Decline of the "Walking City"	3
The Rise of Industrial Urban America	8

**III. THE SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CITIES**

Work and Workers in Urban America	10
The "New" Immigration to Urban Villages	15
Black Migration and Urbanization	17
The Rise of the Ghetto	22
Housing the Urban Masses	24
The Rush to Suburbia	Mar. 1
Review Session for Mid-Term Examination	3

**\*\*\* MID-TERM EXAMINATION \*\*\* Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>**

(in-class examination)

**IV. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES**

City Bosses and the Politics of Survival	Mar. 10
Oiling the Urban Machine	15
<u>(NO CLASS MEETING)</u>	17

**\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK March 19-27 \*\*\*\*\***

The Urban Origins of Progressive Reform	Mar. 29
Cities in the Great Depression	31
Last Hurrah or New Hello for the Urban Machines?	Apr. 5

**V. A NATION OF CITIES**

Planning the Modern Metropolis	7
Planned and Unplanned Urban Growth	12
Running Cities from the White House: I	14
Running Cities from the White House: II	19
The Pitiful Path to Public Housing	21
Urban Renewal or "Removal"?	26
The Tanning of the Nation: Sunbelt America	28
Cities for Sale? The Present and Future of Urban America	May 3
Review Session for Final Examination	5

History 402- American Urban History, 1870 to the Present  
Instructor: Stanley K. Schultz

Spring 2004

Writing Assignment(s):

All undergraduate students will write the equivalent of one short (5-8 double-spaced, typewritten pages) paper and one longer (12-15 double-spaced, typewritten pages) paper, although your Teaching Assistants have the instructor's support in refining the requirements of the writing assignment. The TAs will discuss in sections the nature and due dates of the papers.

We have made available to you **online** an extensive bibliography sub-divided into a variety of topics. You are not confined to that list. You may choose other materials after consultation with either the Teaching Assistants or the Instructor.

**Any and all graduate students enrolled in the course must write an original research paper, as must any undergraduate students enrolled in the course for "honors credits." You folks must consult with the instructor about the topic(s) of your papers.**

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS**

### **I. URBAN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW**

1. Introduction: The Problems of Urbanization January 20
2. The City in American Thought and Fiction January 22
3. The City in American Law January 27

### **II. THE PHYSICAL RISE OF THE MODERN CITY**

1. Steel Rails and the National Web of Cities January 29
2. After "Tara": Cities in the New South February 3
3. The Decline of the "Walking City" February 5
4. The Rise of Industrial Urban America February 10

### **III. THE SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CITIES**

1. Work and Workers in Urban America February 12
2. The "New" Immigration to Urban Villages February 17
3. Black Migration and Urbanization February 19
4. The Rise of the Ghetto February 24
5. Housing the Urban Masses February 26
6. A Rush to Suburbia March 2

Review Session for Mid-Term Examination March 4

**\*\*\*\*\* MID-TERM EXAMINATION \*\*\*\*\* March 9**

No Class Meeting March 11

**\*\*\*\*\* SPRING BREAK \*\*\*\*\* March 13-21**

### **IV. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES**

1. City Bosses and the Politics of Survival March 23
2. Oiling the Urban Machine March 25
3. The Urban Origins of Progressive Reform March 30
4. Cities in the Great Depression April 1
5. "Last Hurrah" or New Hello for the Urban Machines? April 6

### **V. A NATION OF CITIES**

1. Planning the Modern Metropolis April 8
2. Planned and Unplanned Urban Growth April 13
3. Running Cities from the White House: Part 1 April 15
4. Running Cities from the White House: Part 2 April 20
5. The Pitiful Path to Public Housing April 22
6. Urban Renewal or "Removal"? April 27
7. The Tanning of the Nation: Sunbelt America April 29

8. Cities for Sale? The Present and Future of Urban America May 4  
Review Session for Final Examination May 6

**Required Texts:**

1. Howard P. Chudacoff (ed.), *Major Problems in American Urban History*
2. Sam Bass Warner, Jr., *Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston, 1870-1900*
3. William Riordan, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*, (ed.) Terrence J. McDonald
4. John Kasson, *Amusing the Million: Coney Island at the Turn of the Century*
5. Eric Schlosser, *Fast Food Nation*
6. Packet of Materials to be purchased (second half of course)

The Teaching Assistants will give you the order of readings in discussion section.