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.
LECTURE TOPICS

I. URBAN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW

Introduction: The Problems of Urbanization
The City in American Thought and Fiction
Cities, Law, and Government

II. THE PHYSICAL RISE OF THE MODERN CITY

Steel Rails and the National Web of Cities
After "Tara": Cities in the New South
The Decline of the "Walking City"
The Rise of Industrial Urban America

III. THE SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CITIES

Work and Workers in Urban America
The "New" Immigration to Urban Villages
Black Migration and Urbanization
The Rise of the Ghetto
Housing the Urban Masses
The City as Sewer
A Rush to Suburbia

* * * MID-TERM EXAMINATION * *
Oct. 22

IV. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES

City Bosses and the Politics of Survival
Oiling the Urban Machine
The Urban Origins of Progressive Reform
Social Reform in Urban America
Cities in the Great Depression
Last Hurrah or New Hello for the Urban Machines?

V. A NATION OF CITIES

Planning the Metropolis
City Planning as Social Engineering
Running Cities from the White House: I

****THANKSGIVING BREAK, NOV. 26-29****

Running Cities from the White House: II
The Pitiful Path to Public Housing
Urban Renewal or "Removal"?
The Tanning of the Nation
Cities for Sale? The Future of Urban America

* * * FINAL EXAMINATION, DEC. 22 * * *