AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY 1870 TO THE PRESENT

Texts:

Howard P. Chudacoff (ed.), *Major Problems in American Urban History*
Jon C. Teaford, *The Twentieth-Century American City: Problem, Promise, and Reality*
Sam Bass Warner, Jr., *Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston, 1870-1900*
Terrence J. McDonald (Ed.), *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall*

**COURSE MEETINGS AND REQUIREMENTS:**
We require all students to attend two lectures (75 minutes) 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 March 17), and a final examination, scheduled by the College.

**Writing Assignment:**
All undergraduate students enrolled in the course will write one short (7-10 pages) essay-review based upon a sufficient variety of materials to allow analysis of differing viewpoints on the subject. Reading for the essay-review will be in addition to that required for the course in general. We will hand out in class a format for the essay-review and a selected set of suggested readings. You are not confined to that list. You may choose other materials after consultation with either the Teaching Assistants or the Instructor. Students eager to do a research paper based on primary materials rather than the essay-review may do so. *Any and all graduate students enrolled in the course must write an original research paper as must any undergraduate honors students.***

**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

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
   * * * * Open Study Day for Mid-Term Examination * * * *

   * * * MID-TERM EXAMINATION * * *
   Mar. 17

IV. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES
   City Bosses and the Politics of Survival
   Oiling the Urban Machine
   SPRING RECESS
   Mar. 29-Apr. 4
   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
   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