

HIST/SOCI 338: US Urban Social History

Fall 2009 • Jackson Hall 1B

9:30-10:45 am (Tu/Th)

Professor: Dr. Daniel Kerr

Office: ROOP G8

Office Hours: Tu-Th 11:00 -12:00 noon, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

E-mail: kerrdx@jmu.edu

Office Phone: 568-4763

Course Description

This course will examine US urban and metropolitan regions from the revolutionary era through the present. We will explore themes of identity and power as they relate to the social organization of urban space. In particular we will investigate issues pertaining to migration/immigration, labor, housing, and development while paying close attention to the social dynamics of race, gender, class, and sexuality. It is expected that this historical approach will assist you in better understanding the issues facing metropolitan regions today.

The course will introduce you to many of the different types of sources and research methodologies that urban historians utilize in their work. The participants will engage in an individual research project examining an aspect of urban history in a city of their choosing. Students will set out to identify and analyze a diverse array of primary resources pertaining to their topic. Using their research, students will produce their own urban social history that relates to the larger themes addressed throughout the class.

Objectives

Students who complete the course will have a solid understanding of the historical evolution of urban areas in the United States from the post-Civil War period through the present. They will also be exposed to and learn to differentiate between the many different ways historians have approached the city. Through their research project, students will work extensively with primary sources and learn advanced methods of historical analysis and synthesis.

Requirements

Classroom Participation: (25%)

This course will be structured around discussions. For it to be successful, participants must come to class having read the assigned material and ready to talk about it. Informed participation includes introducing questions, fleshing out the arguments presented in the readings, analyzing and evaluating the conclusions of the assigned texts, discussing the implications that the arguments have on our larger understanding of history, and summarizing the state of the conversation at hand. **Informed participation not only demands you speak, but that you actively listen to the issues that your classmates raise.**

Attendance, Participation, and Your Grade: Unexcused absences count as a -1, attendance coupled with active listening counts as a 0, and informed participation in discussion counts as +1. At the end of the semester, a total score of 0 will earn a C (75), and a score of 24 (or however many discussion days we end up having) will earn an A+ (100) on the participation portion of the grade.

Motivated Questions: (5%)

During each class, students will present a motivated question after we have discussed the text's basic argument. The question will be preceded by a brief paragraph establishing how it is related to the author's argument and why it is worth our time addressing. The question should address larger issues raised by the reading material, and it should have no simple answer. Each student will be responsible for presenting a question two times during the semester. The questions must be e-mailed to Dr. Kerr by 10:00 am on the day they will be presented.

Quizzes: (20%)

Multiple choice quizzes will be administered periodically to gauge your familiarity with the readings and lecture material. You will need to bring a #2 pencil to every class period. If you miss class on the day they are given, you will not be allowed to make up the quizzes. If you have a medically excused absence, the quiz will not count in your overall average.

Book Reviews: (15%)

You will be expected to write two-page reviews of two of the three assigned books. The reviews must identify, synthesize, and evaluate the book's contents. You can choose which books you write reviews for. **The reviews must be submitted at the beginning of class on the last day we discuss a book.** Additionally they must be submitted in hard copy and in person at the start of class. Useful suggestions for writing book reviews can be found on Blackboard.

Annotated Bibliography: (5%)

Final Paper: (30%)

Each member of the class will write a 10-12 page research paper on a topic (related to the course themes) and city of your choosing. The paper must be based on primary source materials, such as newspapers, Sanborn maps, oral histories, government reports, memoirs, pamphlets, manuscript collections, etc. You will identify these resources and **prepare an annotated bibliography listing these primary and also relevant secondary sources by September 15th.** Feel free to consult with reference librarian Patricia Hardesty for assistance. Drafts will be submitted electronically on October 29th and optionally on November 17th. The final papers will need to be posted to the course Blackboard dropbox by December 10 before noon.

Grading Policy

(A) means genuinely outstanding, mastery of the subject, near flawless exposition, and incisive interpretation. (B) means well above average achievements in mastery of the subject, exposition, and interpretation throughout the course. (C) means comprehension of the basic concepts, competent exposition, and interpretation. The grade of C indicates that the student has learned the subject at an

appropriate university level. **(D)** means unsatisfactory but still barely passing. **(F)** means failure. These grades are earned by the student and reflect student performance.

Plagiarism and the Honor Code

Academic integrity is part of the James Madison University Honor Code. This means a student must do all the work on a paper bearing his/her name. JMU defines plagiarism as “the deliberate copying, writing or presenting as one's own the information, ideas or phrasing of another person without proper acknowledgment of the true source.” In the following cases, such a misleading impression is given:

1. Failure to give credit in a footnote for ideas, statements of fact, or conclusions derived from another writer.
2. Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another writer, whether an entire sentence or only a phrase is quoted. In addition, all quotations must always be footnoted.
3. Close and extended paraphrase of another writer even if credit is given in a footnote.
4. Footnoting directly to a source that is quoted or cited by another author but that has not been examined by the writer of the paper, unless proper credit is given in a footnote.

Plagiarism need not be deliberate; it may be committed unintentionally through carelessness or ignorance. Since accidental plagiarism in a paper is indistinguishable from deliberate dishonesty, a student must be alert to avoid the sort of carelessness or ignorance that may leave him or her open to a charge of having plagiarized another's work. Students who are suspected of violating the Honor Code will receive a failing grade and be brought before the Honor Board. For further information see:

<http://www.jmu.edu/honor/>

Required Readings and Course Webpage

Available at the Bookstore

Tom Guglielmo, *White on Arrival*
 Kevin Kruse, *White Flight*
 Thomas Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis*

Supplementary Readings

All other readings are available on Blackboard: <https://blackboard.jmu.edu/>

Course Webpage

<http://people.jmu.edu/kerrdx/UHIST>

Registration and First-Week Attendance Policy

JMU Course Registration Policy

Students are responsible for registering for classes and for verifying their class schedules on e-campus. The deadline for adding a spring semester class without instructor and academic unit head signature is Tuesday, September 1, 2009. Between Wednesday, September 2, 2009 and Thursday, September 10, 2009, instructor and academic unit head signatures will be required to add a class for Fall Semester

2009. No student will be allowed to register for a spring semester class after Thursday, September 10, 2009.

College of Arts and Letters First-Week Attendance Policy

At the instructor's discretion, any student registered for a class in the College of Arts and Letters who does not attend the first two (2) scheduled meetings of the class (or does not attend the first scheduled meeting of a class that meets once a week) may be administratively dropped from the class. Students dropped for non-attendance will be notified via e-mail by the Associate Dean of the College. Students who fail to attend the first two meetings of a class for which they are registered but who do not receive an e-mail notification have not been administratively dropped by their instructor. Unless those students drop the course on their own, they will receive a grade at the end of the semester. All students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their schedules and changes made in their schedule via e-mail and through the web.

Please Note: This class will be conducted under the aegis of the AAUP 1940 statement of Academic Freedom, the essence and spirit of which is affirmed in the current JMU Faculty Handbook. The syllabus is subject to amendment or change at the discretion of the professor.

Course Map

August 25: **Introduction**

The Disorderly City

August 27: Carp, chapter 2 & epilogue (BB)

Immigration and Urban Racial Formation

September 1: Ignatiev, chapters 5 & 6 (BB)

September 3: Guglielmo, *White on Arrival*, introduction, chapters 1 & 2

September 8: Guglielmo, *White on Arrival*, chapters 3 & 4

September 10: Guglielmo, *White on Arrival*, chapters 5 & 6

September 15: Guglielmo, *White on Arrival*, chapters 7, 8 & conclusion

Gender, Class, and Sexuality in the City

September 17: Gilfoyle, chapters 2, 3, & 4 (BB)

September 22: Clement, chapters 2 & 3 (BB)

September 24: Chauncey, chapters 5 & 7 (BB)

The Geography of Race and Class in the Twentieth Century City

September 29: Garb, chapters 6 & 7 (BB)

October 1: Freund, chapters 2 & 3 (BB)

October 6: Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, introduction, chapters 1 & 2

October 8: Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, chapters 3 & 4

October 13: Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, chapters 5 & 6

October 15: **Class Does Not Meet**

October 20: Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, chapters 7 & 8

October 22: Sugrue, *Origins of the Urban Crisis*, chapter 9 & conclusion

Race, Class and Politics in the Twentieth Century Suburbs

October 27: Cohen, chapter 6 (BB)

November 29: Kruse, *White Flight*, introduction, chapter 1

November 3: Kruse, *White Flight*, chapters 2 & 3

November 5: Kruse, *White Flight*, chapters 4 & 5

November 10: Kruse, *White Flight*, chapters 6 & 7

November 12: Kruse, *White Flight*, chapters 8, 9 & epilogue

The Post-1970 Revanchist City

November 17: Kerr, chapter 6

November 19: Davis, chapter 4; Smith, chapter 10 (BB)

November 23-27: **Thanksgiving Break**

December 1: Patillo, chapters 5 & 6 (BB)

December 3: Mele, chapters 7 & 8 (BB)

Final Paper Due: Thursday, December 10 at 12:00 noon. Submit papers to Dr. Kerr on Digital Dropbox.