

University of Michigan-Dearborn Syllabus Template



URS 300, Introduction to Urban and Regional Studies, 3 Credit Hours
Fall 2016

Prof. Joshua Akers

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Office Hours: Friday 12-2 or by appointment

Dearborn Discovery Core Category(s): Intersections Course

Course Meeting Times and Format(s): Friday 2-4:45 p.m., SSB 2205

Course Description:

Our world is an urban world. The majority of people on the planet live in urban areas and increasing numbers of people are moving to urban areas. Urbanization accelerated over the past century. In this course, we will focus on this recent history of urbanization and various attempts to plan, design, and make cities as well as the current issues we face on a planet that is increasingly urban. Cities do not function independently. They are part of local, regional, national and global systems of exchange and social practices. Some of the questions explored in this course include what are the relationships between cities in close proximity and great distances? How do regions function or not? Are the results of this dysfunction or cooperation evident in cities? What is the role of capital in making these places? How do we deal with the seemingly inherent unevenness of urban development? We will explore these questions throughout the course.

Program Goals:

<http://umdearborn.edu/urbanstudies/>

Dearborn Discovery Core Goals:

<https://umdearborn.edu/faculty-staff/hub-teaching-learning-resources/assessment/dearborn-discovery-core-goals>

Course Objectives:

Explain the major processes of urbanization and features of urban life associated with contemporary Detroit.

Required Materials and/or Technology:

LeGates, R and Stout, F (2011) *The City Reader*, Sixth Edition. Routledge: New York.

Supplementary Readings may also be assigned through the term.

Assignment and Grading Distribution:

In Class Participation:	15%
4 Precis	15%
4 Writing Assignments	40%
Presentation	10%
Mid-Term Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

94%- 100%	A	80%- 83%	B-	67%-69%	D+
90%- 93%	A-	77%-79%	C+	64%-66%	D
87%- 89%	B+	74%-76%	C	60%-63%	D
84%- 86%	B	70%-73%	C-		

Tentative Course Outline:

Sept. 9 Introduction

Readings: Richard LeGates, "Prologue," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 5-10.

The Evolution of Cities

Sept. 16 Urbanization - The distant and recent past

Readings:

V. Gordon Childe, "The Urban Revolution," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 30-38.

Friedrich Engels, "The Great Towns," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 53-62.

Kenneth T. Jackson, "The Drive-In Culture of Contemporary America," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 73-82.

Robert Fishman, "Beyond Suburbia: The Rise of the Technoburb," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 83-91.

Urban Culture and Society

Sept. 23 The Social Life of Cities

Readings:

Lewis Mumford, "What is a City," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 110-114.

Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 115-123.

W.E.B. Dubois, "The Negro Problem of Philadelphia," "The Question of Earning a Living," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 124-130.

Albert Camarillo, "Cities of Color: The New Racial Frontier in California's Minority-Majority Cities," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 139-148.

Sept. 30 No Class

Oct. 7 Urban Transitions

Readings:

Robert D. Putnam, "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 154-162.

Daphne Spain, "What Happened to Gender Relations on the Way from Chicago to Los Angeles?" *The City Reader*, pgs. 193-203.

Jane Jacobs, "The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 149-154.

Richard Florida, "The Creative Class," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 163-170.

Jamie Peck, "Struggling with the Creative Class," *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 29(4): 740-770. **(Canvas)**

Due: Assignment 1

Urban Politics, Governance and Economics

Oct. 14 Politics and Governance

Readings:

David Harvey, "The Right to the City," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 270-278.

Harvey Molotch, "The City as a Growth Machine: Towards a Political Economy of Place," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 293-304.

James Wilson and George Kelling, "Broken Windows," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 259-269.

A Vision for Black Lives: Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom, & Justice. The Movement for Black Lives **(Canvas)**

Oct. 21 Economics and Uneven Development

Readings:

Wilbur Thompson, "The City as Distorted Price System," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 305-213.

Myron Orfield, "Metropolitics and Fiscal Equity," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 338-356.

Neil Smith, "New Globalism, New Urbanism: Gentrification as Global Urban Strategy," *Antipode* 34(3): 427-450 **(Canvas)**

Tom Slater, "There is Nothing Natural About Gentrification," *The New Left Project*, 24 Nov. 2014 **(Canvas)**

Oct. 28 Mid-Term

Due: Assignment 2

Urban Planning Visions and Contemporary Challenges

Nov. 4 Imagined Heavens

Readings:

Ebenezer Howard, "Author's Introduction" and "The Town-Country Magnet," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 371-378.

Le Corbusier, "A Contemporary City," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 379-387.

Frank Lloyd Wright, "Broadacre City: A New Community Plan," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 388-3393.

June Manning Thomas, "Planning and Better City," in *Redevelopment and Race: Planning a Finer City*. Wayne State University Press: Detroit. **(Canvas)**

Sara Safransky (2016) *Rethinking Land Struggle in the Post-Industrial City*. *Antipode*. **(Canvas)**

Nov. 11 Variations on Hell

Readings:

Mike Davis *Beyond Blade Runner: Urban Control of The Ecology of Fear* .**(Canvas)**

Neil Smith, "Class Struggle on Avenue B," in *The New Urban Frontier*, pgs. 3-29. **(Canvas)**

Guy Baetan (2004) *Inner-city misery: Real and imagined*. *City* 235-241. **(Canvas)**

J Howard Kuntsler (1993) "Scary Places" in *Geographies of Nowhere* **(Canvas)**

Nov. 18 Field Trip

Due: Assignment 3

Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Break

Cities in a Global Society

Dec. 2 Cities in a Global Society

Readings:

Saskia Sassen, "The Impact of the New Technologies and Globalization on Cities," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 650-658.

Peter Calthorpe "Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change," in *The City Reader*, pgs 511-524.

Manuel Castells, "Space of Flows, Space of Places: Materials for a Theory of Urbanism in the Information Age," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 229-240.

Neil Brenner and Roger Keil, "From Global Cities to Globalized Urbanization," in *The City Reader*, pgs. 666-676.

Due: Assignment 4

Dec. 9 In-Class Presentations

University Attendance Policy:

A student is expected to attend every class and laboratory for which he or she has registered. Each instructor may make known to the student his or her policy with respect to absences in the course. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of this policy. The instructor makes the final decision to excuse or not to excuse an absence. An instructor is entitled to give a failing grade (E) for excessive absences or an Unofficial Drop (UE) for a student who stops attending class at some point during the semester.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The University of Michigan-Dearborn values academic honesty and integrity. Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, and comply with the University's standards of academic conduct as set forth by the Code of Academic Conduct (<http://umdearborn.edu/697817/>), as well as policies established by each college. Cheating, collusion, misconduct, fabrication, and plagiarism are considered serious offenses and violations can result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.

Disability Statement:

The University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to register with Counseling & Disability Services (DS) every semester they are enrolled. DS is located in 2157 UC (http://www.umd.umich.edu/cs_disability/). To be assured of having services when they are needed, students should register no later than the end of the add/drop deadline of each term. If you have a disability that necessitates an accommodation or adjustment to the academic requirements stated in this syllabus, you must register with DS as described above and notify your professor.

Safety:

All students are encouraged to program 911 and UM-Dearborn's University Police phone number (313) 593-5333 into personal cell phones. In case of emergency, first dial 911 and then if the situation allows call University Police.

The Emergency Alert Notification (EAN) system is the official process for notifying the campus community for emergency events. All students are strongly encouraged to register in the campus EAN, for communications during an emergency. The following link includes information on registering as well as safety and emergency procedures information: <http://umdearborn.edu/emergencyalert/>.

If you hear a fire alarm, class will be immediately suspended, and you must evacuate the building by using the nearest exit. Please proceed outdoors to the assembly area and away from the building. Do not use elevators. It is highly recommended that you do not head to your vehicle or leave campus since it is necessary to account for all persons and to ensure that first responders can access the campus.

If the class is notified of a shelter-in-place requirement for a tornado warning or severe weather warning, your instructor will suspend class and shelter the class in the lowest level of this building away from windows and doors.

If notified of an active threat (shooter) you will Run (get out), Hide (find a safe place to stay) or Fight (with anything available). Your response will be dictated by the specific circumstances of the encounter.