

DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES PROGRAMS
Urban Studies 250: Exploring the Urban Environment
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Urb Std 250-003, Spring 2007

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30-5:15pm,
or by appointment

Course:

Class Time: Wednesday.
5:30-8:10pm
Physics Building, 147

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Today's urban form is the result of a long progression of demographic, economic and political processes. This multidisciplinary course will provide a broad overview of some of these changes in American cities with a particular focus on Milwaukee. The course will be divided basically in two. In the first half of the course we will examine some of the basic "urban" theories. This will include elements of race, class, crime, geography, economics, etc. With this background in basic urban theories we will move into the second half of the course, which will look specifically at the Milwaukee experience. Milwaukee serves as a good example of a Northern rustbelt city that faced social and economic crisis with deindustrialization. Milwaukee also has an interesting and unique history, which compliments this study of the urban environment. In this last half we will explore this intersection of historical development and the earlier social theories. This will provide a more relevant and local perspective.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Over the course of the semester the students will gain an understanding of:

1. The prominent theories of urbanization.
2. The different stages of United States urban development and what this has meant for U.S. cities and their inhabitants.
3. Modern urban problems like crime and policing, riots, public housing, and sprawl.
4. Milwaukee's development as an industrial city.
5. Milwaukee's uniqueness including its socialist history and its legacy.
6. Milwaukee's segregation origins and controversy.

COURSE MATERIALS:

1. Legates and Stout (editors). 2003. *The City Reader*. London: Routledge (UWM Bookstore and on reserve at the Golda Meir Library).
2. Readings on electronic reserve in Golda Meir Library
3. Handouts
4. Series of video footage presented in class
5. Guest Lecturer(s)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will have the same format. The first section will be short answer questions with the final section being essay. **The final exam will be a take home exam that is due on the day of the final.** The take home exam will need to be typed with answers written out

- more completely than in-class examinations. **No Make-up Exams without previous consultation or a documented emergency.**
2. Readings & Participation. Readings must be completed **before** the class for which they are assigned in order for students to discuss the issues articulately. Class participation is encouraged to promote critical thinking and dialogue; Attendance at class films or guest lecturers are required.
 3. Oftentimes, the instructor considers the readings as “backdrop” or background information for the lecture. Be prepared. Even if the instructor chooses not to discuss the readings, students are still responsible for the content. These readings shall be an integral part of examinations.
 4. Attendance: I expect students to attend class regularly and because of the nature of the course you will not do well if you do not attend. You are responsible for getting notes from classes you have missed. Attendance is crucial to this class. There is a lot of material presented in the readings and the lectures will serve to organize these ideas for you. **You will not be able to do well with poor attendance**, your assignments will be marked down and it will also show in your exam grades. The assignments are passed out unannounced and served as a check on attendance.
 5. Tardiness will not be tolerated. If you have a scheduling problem, then talk to the instructor.
 6. Late work: Late work is unacceptable and will be marked down accordingly. A late paper is marked down 15 points with an additional 10 points for every week after that. Assignments will be marked down 2 points and will not be accepted after one week.
 7. Information concerning the Urban Studies Programs and UWM policies on participation by physically/mentally challenged students, accommodation for religious observances, academic conduct, compliant procedures and other standing policies can be obtained in the main office of the Urban Studies Programs Department room 768 of Bolton Hall.
 8. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed throughout the semester.
 9. Email: Email is a great way to contact me or ask questions. It is not an acceptable way to turn in your homework. Under rare occasions you may attach assignments but remember, you are responsible for the work being properly attached and readable. Any assignment I cannot read or open is late.

COURSE CALENDER/ASSIGNMENTS: (Calendar Notes: (ER) =Electronic Reserve; (V) Videos; (CR) *The City Reader*. (Discussion will take place each class period)

Week 1: Jan. 24 th	Introduction to course “Exploring the Urban Environment”
Week 2: Jan. 31 st	The Evolution of Cities (CR) Gottdiener (The New Urban Sociology) Ch 2 (19-36) (ER) <i>Race & the Power of an Illusion: Episode Three “The House We Live In”</i> (V)
Week 3: Feb. 7 th	Urban Culture & Society (CR) <i>Voices of Cabrini</i> (V) USA Today Article June 22, 2006 (ER)

Week 4: Feb. 14 th	Urban Space (CR)
Week 5: Feb. 21 st	Urban Politics, Governance, and Economics (CR)
Week 6: Feb. 28 th	Urban Planning History & Visions (CR) Newsweek MSNBC.com Article July 6, 2006 (ER)
Week 7: Mar. 7 th	Urban Planning Theory & Practice (CR)
Week 8: Mar. 14 th	Perspectives on Urban Design (CR) The Future of the City (CR)
Week 9: Mar. 21 st	Spring Recess (no class)
Week 10: Mar. 28 th	Midterm Exam (in class) Early Milwaukee Orum (City Building in America) pages 25-71 (ER) Gurda (Making of Milwaukee) pages 14-21; 23-43; 48-57; 59-65; 74-87(ER)
Week 11: Apr. 4 th	Industrial Milwaukee Orum (City Building in America) pages 73-115 (ER) Gurda (Making of Milwaukee) pages 116-124; 128-131; 160-169; 183-191(ER) Rast (Governing the Regimeless City) pages 81-112 (ER)
Week 12: Apr. 11 th	Decline of Milwaukee Orum (City Building in America) pages 117-145 (ER) Gurda (Making of Milwaukee) pages 321-336; 337-345; 346-376; 379-389 (ER) <i>Through One City's Eyes</i> (V)
Week 13: Apr. 18 th	Milwaukee Urban Planning: Gentrification Gurda (Making of Milwaukee) pages 406-413 (ER) Tribune Article June 19, 2005 (ER)
Apr. 18th	Paper Due
Week 14: Apr. 25 th	Modern Milwaukee Norquist (The Wealth of Cities) chapters 10-11 (ER) Journal Sentinel/ New York Times Articles (ER)
Week 15: May 2 nd	Problems & Rebuilding Milwaukee's Future Extra Credit opportunity (Proposals)
May 2nd & 9th	Proposal Presentations
May 9th	Last Day of Class Review Day/Course Evaluations Receive take home final exam
May 16th:	<u>Take Home Final Exam due in my mailbox by 5:30pm</u>

Student Evaluation

Your performance in this course will be assessed in the following manner: 400-420 points for semester.

Exams –250 points (63%)

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. Both exams will have the same format.

Midterm 100 points 25%

Final 150 points 38%

Urban Paper Assignment: 100 points (25%)

This paper will count 25% of your total grade. The paper will be 6-8 pages long, typewritten and double spaced with proper margins. The purpose of this paper is to give you the opportunity to explore an urban topic of your choice that is of interest to you. If quotations are used they need to be cited. A bibliography must be included and does not count toward the page total. Web sites can be used. A word of caution, if you use websites you must cite them. You should always question the validity of a website. You are generally safer with websites that are gov or edu. This is not a book report but rather a coherent discourse on the urban topic you chose. It is not a series of this author said this and this author said that. Present your views and support it with your research. You have options on your approach. You can advocate a certain position or policy or you can try to evaluate both sides of an issue. Remember basic writing strategies. You need an introduction section of your paper, where you site at the beginning of your paper what you are going to write about. This is followed by the body of the paper, which contains the arguments, facts, and explanation of your topic. Lastly, you recap the main points in your conclusion. The use of visuals is fine, but they do not count toward the page limit.

Plagiarism:

This is the using of someone's material as your own. It is an extremely serious offense that automatically gets reported to the Dean. The university has strict procedures on academic misconduct. **Do not plagiarize!!**

Paper Topic Examples:

Urban education, residency rules, gangs, urban crime, tagging, urban policing, stadium issues, public housing, neighborhoods, historical papers, arts and culture, etc. There will be a sign up sheet and no doubling up on topics will be allowed. I encourage research that will spark your interest and even your creativity.

Semester Assignments: 50-70 points (12%)

There will be a number of short assignments during the semester (5-7 at 10 points each). These will be based on current events on urban issues and will often be drawn from newspaper articles. The purpose of the assignments is to bring relative and contemporary urban issues to the course. They also serve as an attendance check because most of the assignments will be unannounced and are due the following class period. Late papers will be marked down.

Note-this is the university level so all assignments will be typed!

Extra Credit:

There will be an opportunity for each student to receive extra credit during week 15. Each student will have the option of writing a proposal on "Rebuilding Milwaukee's Future." The students can obtain between 10-15 points for the extra credit assignment given the depth of the individual's proposal. More information will follow at a later within the semester.

Grading

Midterm	100 points	Final Exam	150 points
Paper	100 points	Total	400-420 points
Assignments	50-70 points		