

History 214.402/Urban Studies 220.402 Fall 2006
Modern American Cities

Michael Katz
College Hall 215A
215-898-3183
mkatz@sas.upenn.edu

This seminar analyzes the history of American cities, with special emphasis on the period since World War II. It focuses on the origins and consequences of economic, demographic, and spatial transformation and on policy responses to urban change. Seminar sessions will be divided between discussion of readings and analyses of primary sources. Readings consist of topical overviews and case studies. Requirements consist of reading approximately one book per week, presenting analyses of primary sources, and writing both short commentary papers and a final exercise.

Assignments

There are 4 types of assignments: (1) reading assigned material; (2) organization and leadership of one or two workshops on primary sources; (3) 6 2-3 page commentary papers based on the reading; (4) a final exercise OR research paper. These assignments are explained below.

All assignments must be turned in on time. Late papers will not be accepted. Written assignments should be posted on the seminar's Blackboard site.

The Blackboard site provides an opportunity to continue discussions between seminar sessions. I hope you will take advantage of it by posting and replying to comments.

Remember that a seminar is only as lively as participants make it. I expect you all to do the reading faithfully and to come prepared to contribute to discussion.

Commentary papers: students should write 6 2-3 page papers commenting on the week's reading. These should not summarize the book or articles; I assume you all can do that. Rather, the papers should be a reaction to the reading: anything that strikes you as particularly interesting, important, outrageous, or worth thinking about. I will keep track of these papers, but they will not be given formal grades. I expect one paper every other week starting with either the first or second reading assignment. These papers are due at the end of the session at which the reading is discussed and should be submitted *via the digital drop box on Blackboard*. They are not acceptable later, and they are an integral part of the seminar. To receive credit for the seminar, you must turn them in on time. I may ask students with especially interesting papers to send them out to share with the whole seminar.

Primary source workshop. Roughly half of each seminar will be spent analyzing one or two types of primary sources (listed below) related to the seminar's topics. The purpose

of the workshops is to familiarize students with several of the principal primary sources available for the study of immigration, race, and cities; to assess their strengths and limits; and explore how they might be used. Session leaders should: (1) explain the features of the source and where it is to be found; (2) provide a bibliography and/or web addresses where appropriate; (3) develop and lead a group exercise based on samples of sources. For the most part, these exercises should consist of dividing the seminar into small groups and giving each group a sample of the source to analyze and report back on.

Remember that only a very small fraction of historical sources are found on the internet. Do not restrict your discussion of sources only to those available on line.

The sources are:

1. Census: manuscript, aggregate, IPUMS
2. Ethnic associations
3. Legal: courts, human relations commissions
4. Maps and real estate transactions
5. Personal documents (diaries, letters, etc.)
6. Institutions (schools, hospitals, labor unions)
7. Photographs and built environment
8. Government reports and legislative documents
9. Not-for-profit organizations/philanthropy
10. Oral history
11. Newspapers

Final Exercise. A final exercise will be distributed on the last day of the seminar. The due date will be announced during the semester. The exercise will require synthesizing ideas discussed in the readings and discussions.

Research Paper. In lieu of the final exercise, students may write a research paper of 4,000-5,000 words. This option should be chosen by history majors who need to fulfill the major's research requirement. Topics should be discussed with me by the middle of the semester.

Schedule

September 12 Introduction

I. The Reconfiguration of Urban Space

September 19 Suburbanization. Reading: Hayden

September 26 Segregation. Reading: Massey and Denton

October 3 Downtown. Reading: Isenberg

October 10. Boomburbs, Immigrant Gateways, and Micropolitan America. Readings: Lang and Dhawale, Lang and Simmons, Lang, Singer

II. Immigration and the New Urban Demography

October 17. The New Immigration. Readings: Kritz and Gruak, Kalita

October 24. Fall break. No class

October 31. Latino USA. Reading: Davis

III. Models of Deindustrialization and Globalization

November 7. Detroit. Reading: Sugrue

November 14. Los Angeles. Reading: Sides

November 21. Globalization. Reading: Sassen

IV. Toward the Future: Policy and Politics

November 28. Metropolitics. Reading: Dreier et al

December 5. Progressive Politics. Reading Gotteib, et al.

References

- Davis, Mike. Magical Urbanism: Lations Reinvent the U.S. City. London and New York: Verso, 2003.
- Dreir, Peter, John Mollenkopf, and Todd Swanstrom. Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century. Second ed. Lawrence, Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 2004.
- Gottlieb, Robert, et al. The Next Los Angeles: The Struggle for a Livable City. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005.
- Hayden, Dolores. Building Suburbia: Green Fields and Urban Growth, 1820-2000. New York: Pantheon, 2003.
- Isenberg, Alison. Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who made it. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.
- Kalita, S. Mitra. Suburban Sahibs: Three Immigrant Families and their Passage from India to America. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2003.
- Kritz, Mary M., and Douglas T. Gurak. Immigration and a Changing America. New York and Washington: Russell Sage Foundation and Population Reference Bureah, 2004.
- Lang, Robert E., and Dawn Dhavale. "Micropolitan America: A Brand New Geography." Redefining Urban and Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000. Ed. Alan Berube, Bruce Katz, and Robert E. Lang. Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 2006. 235-257.
- Lang, Robert E., and Patrick A. Simmons. "'Boomburbs': The Emergence of Large, Fast-Growing Suburban Cities." Redefining Urban and Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000. Ed. Bruce Katz and Robert E. Lang. Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 2003. 101-115.

Lang, Robert E. "Are the Boomburbs Still Booming?" Redefining Urban and Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000. Ed. Alan Berube, Bruce Katz, and Robert E. Lang.

Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 2006. 83-92.

Massey, Douglas A., and Nancy A. Denton. American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass. Cambridge and London: Harvard University Press, 1993.

Sassen, Saskia. Globalization and its Discontents. New York: New Press, 1998. 55-76, 137-172, 177-194.

Sides, Josh. L. A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2003.

Singer, Audrey. "The Rise of New Immigrant Gateways: Historical Flows, Recent Settlement Trends." Redefining Urban and Suburban America: Evidence from Census 2000. Ed. Alan Berube, Bruce Katz, and Robert E. Lang. Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 2005. 41-86.

Sugrue, Thomas. Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.