

Course Syllabus

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Course Instructor



Manish Chalana, Associate Professor, Dept. of Urban Design and Planning

Course Meeting time: M/W; 10 - 11:20am

Zoom ID: 977 6504 0216

Credits: 3; **Format:** Graduate seminar

Course Website: <https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/>

Instructor contact info: chalana@uw.edu (<mailto:CHALANA@UW.EDU>)

Office hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is designed as a graduate-level seminar in American Urban History. Its purpose is to provide students with the opportunity for immersion in historical scholarship that addresses social, economic, political, technological, and cultural forces that have shaped the development of American cities. As a seminar, this course emphasizes reading, discussion and research as primary modes of learning. To promote engagement with the course and content, students will be actively involved by taking turns as presenters and discussion leaders.

Required readings

Core Textbook

[The Evolution of American Urban Society](#), **8th Edition**, Howard P. Chudacoff, Judith E. Smith, and Peter C. Baldwin.

Course Readings

Bender, Thomas. Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institutions in 19th-Century America. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.

Foster, Jonathan. Stigma Cities: The Reputation and History of Birmingham, San Francisco, and Las Vegas. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018

Freeman, Lance. A Haven and a Hell - The Ghetto in Black America. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019

Nijman, Jan, ed. The life of North American suburbs: imagined utopias and transitional spaces. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020

Sandoval-Strausz, A.K.. Barrio America Barrio America: How Latino Immigrants Saved the American City. New York: Basic Books, 2019

Spain, Daphne. Constructive Feminism: Women's Spaces and Women's Rights in the American City, Ithaca: Cornell University Press; 2016

Wade, Richard. The Urban Frontier: The Rise of Western Cities, 1790-1830: University of Illinois Press, 1996.

Williams, David B. Too high and too steep: reshaping Seattle's topography. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015

Electronic and paper copies of several books are available through the UW Lib system. You may also purchase used or new copies of the books from online retailers.

Course Organization

The class meets on Monday and Wednesday. Ordinarily the class on Mon will be centered on a discussion of the core text, led by the instructor. The Wed classes would be set aside for book discussions led by students. Teams of class members, on a rotating basis, will be responsible for making a presentation on the books and leading the discussion sessions on them.

Seminar requirements

Requirements for a **seminar-style course** are rather straightforward: do the readings, show up, pay attention, and engage in discussion that is rooted in the readings. Look for emerging patterns among and between the works we cover from week to week.

Book Presentations

You will be expected to participate in leading discussions of TWO books during the quarter as a member of the team, with shared responsibilities and prepare a BOOK REPORT containing 1) intellectual biography for the author(s); 2) critical reception of the work; and 3) critique. You will also make an in-class presentation of the book and lead the discussion. (More details in the Book Presentation Assignment)

Online Peer Discussions

Select THREE books you are reading for the class (not including the books you're presenting); ENGAGE with your peers on themes covered in the work in the assigned book discussion board. (More details in the Assigned Discussion Areas)

Final Paper

You will write a research paper applying any of the themes of American urban history that we have been discussing in class to the case of Seattle (3500 words); (More details in the Final Paper Assignment)

Grading

40% 2 book reports & presentation

40% final research paper

20% in-class participation; and online peer discussion for 3 books

Deadlines

Late Book Reports earn no credit. Online peer discussions can continue after the book presentation, but the bulk of those discussions need to occur prior to the book presentation.

There is a penalty of 10% grade reduction in case of late submission of the final paper that is within three days of the due date; from days 4-7 you will lose 25% points; and after day 7 you will not earn any credit for the final paper. Standard exceptions for major medical situations apply; such situations should be discussed with the instructor.

Other Policies

This class is of course governed by all of the university's student policies, including those on plagiarism and multiple submissions. It is your responsibility to be familiar with these. More information is available on this website:

<https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

[\(https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf\)](https://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf)

Resources for American Urban History

The UW Libraries holds an extensive collection of scholarly works on American urban history. Flagship periodicals in the field include the *Journal of Urban History*, *Journal of Planning History*, and *Planning Perspectives* among others. You will find current scholarship as well as reviews of recent publications in these journals. Scholarly meetings include the Urban History Association and the Society for American City and Regional Planning History, which meet regularly.

The major online discussion list for those in the field of Urban History is [H-urban](https://networks.h-net.org/h-urban) (<https://networks.h-net.org/h-urban>), a link to which is provided on the course webpage. I suggest that you join this list, if only for the quarter, as it is a critical source of information on the subject. In addition, there are innumerable web sites devoted to various aspects of urban history and you may wish to visit some of them.

Difficult Content/ Safe Space

The class covers a wide range of sensitive topics on race, privilege, gender, class and sexuality, among others. During class lectures you might see visual depictions of slavery, lynching, prostitution, public sex and such. While I recognize that such imagery can be disturbing I think it is important to use them when discussing these topics. However, I will use trigger warning before using any such imagery.

Also, the class is a safe space in that everyone's views however different from your own are to be respected during discussion. Be respectful of diverse opinions and allow everyone to contribute in the discussions.

Inclusivity

Among the core values of the university are inclusivity and diversity, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, age, income, ability, beliefs, nationality, and other ways that people distinguish themselves from others. If any assignments and activities are not accessible to

you, please contact me so we can make arrangements to include you by making an alternative assignment available.

Learning often involves the exchange of ideas. To include everyone in the learning process, we expect you will demonstrate respect, politeness, reasonableness, and willingness to listen to others at all times – even when passions run high. Behaviors must support learning, understanding, and scholarship.

Preventing violence is a shared responsibility in which everyone at the UW plays apart. If you experience harassment during your studies, please report it to the SafeCampus website (anonymous reports are possible, [washington.edu/safecampus/](https://www.washington.edu/safecampus/)). SafeCampus provides information on counseling and safety resources, University policies, and violence reporting requirements help us maintain a safe personal, work and learning environment.

Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. The website for the DRS provides other resources for students and faculty for making accommodations.

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy -

<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>.

Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form -

(<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Campus Resources

Student Tech Loan Program (<https://stlp.uw.edu/reserve>), can borrow laptops, camera, etc.

University graduate students resources page. <https://grad.uw.edu/tri-campus-resources-grad-students/>

Odegaard Writing and Research Center offers writing advising (<https://depts.washington.edu/owrc/signup.php>)

Husky OnNet (<https://itconnect.uw.edu/connect/uw-networks/about-husky-onnet/use-husky-onnet/#overview>). Husky OnNet provides current UW students, faculty and staff with a secure connection to the UW network from remote locations.

Chat with a librarian (<https://www.lib.washington.edu/about/contact>), helps you with finding resources and conducting research.

Schedule

Sign for your top 4 books for presentation

Week 1: Broad patterns of urban expansion in the US

Mon 29 March

Introductions. Syllabus Review. Overview of American Urban History. Sign-Up for Books.

Wed 31 March

*Abbott, Carl, "[Urban History for Planners](#)", *Journal of Planning History*, Vol. 5, No. 4, November 2006 301-313*

Week 2: Urban America in the Colonial Age

Mon 5 April

Chudacoff et al, [Chudacoff Ch1.pdf](#)

Wed 7 April

*Book Discussion: Bender, Thomas. *Toward an Urban Vision: Ideas and Institutions in 19th-Century America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982.*

Week 3: Antebellum Urban America

Mon 12 April

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 2, 3

Wed 14 April

*Book Discussion: Wade, Richard. *The Urban Frontier: The Rise of Western Cities, 1790-1830*. University of Illinois Press, 1996*

Week 4: Industrialization & Patterns of Urbanization

Mon 19 April

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 4

Wed 21 April

Book Discussion: Williams, David B. Too high and too steep: reshaping Seattle's topography. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2015

Week 5: Race & Class; Immigration, Migration and Politics

Mon 26 April

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 5, 6

Wed 28 April

Book Review: Freeman, Lance: A Haven and a Hell - The Ghetto in Black America, New York: Columbia University Press, 2019

Week 6: Gender; Metropolitanism, Great Depression, and Suburbanization

Mon 3 May

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 7

Wed 5 May

Book Discussion: Spain, Daphne. Constructive Feminism: Women's Spaces and Women's Rights in the American City, Ithaca: Cornell University Press; 2016

Week 7: Race & Class; Brewing Urban Crisis

Mon 10 May

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 7

Wed 12 May

Book Discussion: Sandoval-Strausz, A.K.. Barrio America Barrio America: How Latino Immigrants Saved the American City, New York: Basic Books, 2019

Week 8: Sexuality and Vice; Post-industrial City

Mon 17 May

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 8

Wed 19 May

Book Discussion: Foster, Jonathan, Stigma Cities: The Reputation and History of Birmingham, San Francisco, and Las Vegas, Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2018

Week 9: 21st Century Urban (and Suburban) America

Mon 24 May

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 9,10

Wed 26 May

Book Discussion: Nijman, Jan, ed. The life of North American suburbs: imagined utopias and transitional spaces, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2020

Week 10: Recap

Mon 31 May






Memorial Day

Wed 2 June


Review online materials on Joe Biden's urban policy for in class discussion. Wrap up



Final Paper due to June 7 by 1pm.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Mar 29, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057888&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057890&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10:30am to 12pm
Wed Mar 31, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057891&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Mon Apr 5, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057892&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Tue Apr 6, 2021	 Book Report 1 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269757)	due by 5pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Apr 7, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057893&include_contexts=course_1451069	10am to 11:30am
Mon Apr 12, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057894&include_contexts=course_1451069	10am to 11:30am
Tue Apr 13, 2021	 Book Report 2 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269884	due by 10am
Wed Apr 14, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057895&include_contexts=course_1451069	10am to 11:30am
Mon Apr 19, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057896&include_contexts=course_1451069	10am to 11:30am
Tue Apr 20, 2021	 Book Report 3 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269886	due by 10am
Wed Apr 21, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057897&include_contexts=course_1451069	10am to 11:30am
	 Book Discussion 3: Too High and Too Steep https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6284236	due by 10am
Mon Apr 26, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057898&include_contexts=course_1451069	10am to 11:30am
Tue Apr 27, 2021	 Book Report 4 https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269883	due by 10am

Date	Details	Due
Wed Apr 28, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057899&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
	 Book Discussion 4: A Haven and a Hell (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6284324)	due by 10am
Mon May 3, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057900&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Tue May 4, 2021	 Book Report 5 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269882)	due by 10am
Wed May 5, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057901&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
	 Book Discussion 5: Constructive Feminism (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6284321)	due by 10am
Mon May 10, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057902&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Tue May 11, 2021	 Book Discussion 6: Barrio America Barrio America: How Latino Immigrants Saved the American City (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6321039)	due by 10am
	 Book Report 6 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269881)	due by 10am
Wed May 12, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057903&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am

Date	Details	Due
Mon May 17, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057904&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Tue May 18, 2021	 Book Discussion 7: Stigma Cities: The Reputation and History of Birmingham, San Francisco, and Las Vegas (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6321042)	due by 10am
Tue May 18, 2021	 Book Report 7 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269878)	due by 10am
Wed May 19, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057905&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Mon May 24, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057906&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Tue May 25, 2021	 Book Discussion 8 : The life of North American suburbs: imagined utopias and transitional spaces (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6321044)	due by 10am
Tue May 25, 2021	 Book Report 8 (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6269880)	due by 10am
Wed May 26, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057907&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Mon May 31, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057908&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am

Date	Details	Due
Wed Jun 2, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057909&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Mon Jun 7, 2021	 URBDP 565 A Sp 21: American Urban History (https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=2057910&include_contexts=course_1451069)	10am to 11:30am
Thu Jun 10, 2021	 Final Paper (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6164658)	due by 12pm
	 Book Discussion 1: Urban Vision (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6284228)	
	 Book Discussion 2: Urban Frontier (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6284231)	
	 Class Participation (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6164657)	
	 Roll Call Attendance (https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1451069/assignments/6344331)	