



URBDP 565: American Urban History

SPRING 2021

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays | 10:00 - 11:20 am | Online via Zoom

Instructor : Manish Chalana, Ph.D., Associate Professor

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>

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>), 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/). 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

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

Chudacoff et al, Chudacoff_Ch1.pdf

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

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 2, 3

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

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 4

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

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 5, 6

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

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

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 7

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

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 8

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

Chudacoff et al, Chapter 9,10

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

Memorial Day

Review online materials on Joe Biden's urban policy for in class discussion. Wrap up Final Paper due to June 7 by 1pm.