

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
SPRING 1984

HISTORY 402

MR. SCHULTZ

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY 1870 TO THE PRESENT

Texts:

Zane Miller, THE URBANIZATION OF MODERN AMERICA
Sam Bass Warner, Jr., STREETCAR SUBURBS: THE PROCESS OF
GROWTH IN BOSTON, 1870-1900
Elliot Liebow, TALLY'S CORNER
William Riordan, PLUNKITT OF TAMMANY HALL
Edwin O'Connor, THE LAST HURRAH
Peter O. Muller, CONTEMPORARY SUBURBAN AMERICA

Course Meetings and Requirements:

We require all undergraduate students to attend two (75-minute) lectures and one (50-minute) discussion section per week.

There will be a mid-term and a final examination, both in essay format. The mid-term will be given on March 13th and will cover lectures and readings for Sections I-III of the course.

Writing Assignment:

All undergraduate students enrolled in the course will write one short (4-7 pages) essay-review based upon a sufficient variety of materials to allow analysis of differing viewpoints on the subject; for example one monograph and three journal articles, or two monographs, or five or six journal articles. Reading for the essay-review will be in addition to that required for the course in general. We will hand out in class a format for the essay-review as well as suggested readings arranged by topic. Undergraduate students interested in doing an original research paper rather than the essay-review may do so, after consultation with either the instructor or the Teaching Assistant. All graduate students will write an original research paper.

Readings:

The specific order of reading assignments will be given in discussion sections. The first book to be discussed will be Warner's Streetcar Suburbs; we urge class members to begin reading that book soon.

Grading Policies:

Grades will be based upon performance on the examinations, the writing assignment, and attendance at and participation in the discussion sections. Improvement over the semester will find its reward; in cases where a student's final grade hovers between two possibilities, the higher grade will be given if the student has shown steady improvement over the semester.

To allow as much flexibility as possible, we will not give now any hard-and-fast mathematical formula for grading. But, so that you can have some idea of the process, we will allocate grades based roughly upon these percentages: mid-term 25%; final 30%; essay-review 30%; discussion section 15%. Again, this is only a rough estimate and may change during the semester depending upon our evaluation of overall student performance in the course.

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(Please note: the instructor has organized lectures under various topical headings rather than in a strict chronological order. To aid your chronological knowledge, the instructor has provided two "timelines" that indicate major items of interest to us in this course.)

LECTURE TOPICS

| <u>Lecture</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|---|-------------|
| I. URBAN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW | |
| 1. The Problems of Urbanization | Jan. 24 |
| 2. The City in American Thought and Fiction | 26 |
| 3. Financing the Cities: Or, Who Gets What, When, Where, How, Why--and Should They? | 31 |
| 4. Cities in the Fabric of State and National Government | Feb. 2 |
| II. THE PHYSICAL RISE OF THE MODERN CITY | |
| 1. Steel Rails and the National Diffusion of Cities | 7 |
| 2. Cities in the New South | 9 |
| 3. The Decline of the "Walking City" | 14 |
| 4. The Industrial Growth of American Cities | 16 |
| III. THE SOCIAL GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN CITIES | |
| 1. The Rush to Suburbia | 21 |
| 2. The "New" Immigration to the Urban Villages | 23 |
| 3. Housing the Urban Masses | 28 |
| 4. Black Migration and Urbanization | March 1 |
| 5. The Rise of the Black Ghetto | 6 |
| 6. The Walls Still Stand | 8 |

* * * MID-TERM EXAMINATION * * * 13

* * * NO CLASS MEETING * * * 15

Readings: To be completed by end of Secs. I-III

Miller, pp. 25-96, 123-137, 218-229

Warner (entire book)

Liebow (entire book)

Muller, pp. 19-59

IV. POLITICS AND REFORM IN THE CITIES

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|--|-------|----|
| 1. City Bosses and the Politics of Survival | March | 27 |
| 2. Oiling the Urban Machine | | 29 |
| 3. The Urban Origins of Progressive Reform | April | 3 |
| 4. Cities in the Great Depression: Or, What Happened to the Political Machine? | | 5 |
| 5. The Politics of Demography: Urb, Suburb, Exurb | | 10 |

V. CITY PLANNING: WHAT, WHY, AND FOR WHOM?

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|-----------------------------------|--|----|
| 1. The City as Sewer | | 12 |
| 2. Engineering the Metropolis | | 17 |
| 3. City Planning as Social Reform | | 19 |

VI. THE CITY AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Running Cities from the White House: I | | 24 |
| 2. Running Cities from the White House: II | | 26 |
| 3. The Pitiful Path to Public Housing | May | 1 |
| 4. Urban Renewal or Urban Removal? | | 3 |

VII. THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF URBAN AMERICA

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|---|--|----|
| 1. The Tanning of the Nation | | 8 |
| 2. Cities for Sale? The Future of Urban America | | 10 |

Readings: To be completed by end of Secs. IV-VII

Miller, pp. 99-122, 137-218

Riordan (entire book)

O'Connor (entire book)

Muller, pp. 1-18, 61-182

William Schultz is a historian of the modern United States, with a particular interest in the intersection of religion and politics. His book project, "Jesus Springs: How Colorado Springs Became the Capital of the Culture Wars," examines how the confluence of Christianity, capitalism, and the military transformed Colorado Springs into "Jesus Springs," a city that was home to dozens of evangelical Christian institutions and which became a key battleground in conflicts over gay rights and abortion at the end of the twentieth century. "Jesus Springs" shows how the needs of evangelicals intersecte... He earned a Ph.D. and M.A. in History from Princeton University and a B.A. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.