

Dr. Ronald Bayor  
Fall 2009  
HTS 3011

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## **The City in American History**

This course analyses U.S. urban development from the colonial period to the present. We will study various topics, concentrating on policy decisions that shaped and developed the modern city. Special attention is given to housing issues, the problems of the urban poor, the impact of the automobile, and Atlanta.

Requirements are two essay exams (midterm and final—each worth 25% of grade) that will include questions on the required reading, and a term paper (40%). Class participation and attendance are required as well (10% of grade). You are allowed three absences without a doctor's note or verified family emergency. Beyond three, your grade will be affected. You are also asked to do a class presentation based on your term paper research. This will be scheduled during the last two weeks of the course.

Please note too that Georgia Tech has an honor code regarding cheating on exams and/or plagiarism in term papers. This code will be enforced.

Term papers: This paper must be at least 10 pages, double spaced. Source notes and bibliography should be included on separate pages. The term paper must have at least 6 sources (books, articles, newspapers, government documents, etc.) but are limited to one internet source. Papers not turned in on time will drop one grade.

**All students should meet with me at least once for approval of their topic and to discuss the paper.**

### **Required Reading**

Tyler Anbinder, *Five Points*

Greg Hise, *Magnetic Los Angeles: Planning the Twentieth-Century Metropolis*

Jill Jones, *Conquering Gotham: A Gilded Age Epic: The Construction of Penn Station and Its Tunnels*

Robert Bullard, Glenn Johnson, and Angel Torres, *Sprawl City: Race, Politics, and Planning in Atlanta*

Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*

### **Lectures and Assignments**

#### **Week of:**

August 18: Urban Policies and Problems: Defining the Issues

August 25: The Role of Immigration and Race in Urban Development  
**READ Anbinder, FIVE POINTS**

Sept.1: The Housing Problem (the emergence and “solution” of the Slum problem)  
**READ Anbinder, FIVE POINTS**

Sept. 8: The Housing Problem (public housing, mixed income, gentrification)  
**READ BULLARD, CHAPTER 4 AND 5**

Sept. 15: Rebuilding and Planning Cities  
**READ HISE, MAGNETIC LOS ANGELES**

Sept. 22: Planning Cities

Sept.29: Planning Cities-continued

Oct. 6: **NO Class Tues.** On Thurs **MIDTERM EXAM—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8**

Oct.13: The Urban Crisis (poverty, crime, schools, public health); **READ BULLARD, CHAPTER 6**

Oct.20: The Urban Crisis, —continued  
The New Urban Technology (the transportation revolution and 20<sup>th</sup> century gridlock, sanitation and water, electricity)  
**READ JONES, CONQUERING GOTHAM; READ BULLARD, CHAPTERS 2 AND 3**

Oct. 27: The Development of Suburbia

Nov. 3: The Development of Suburbia (Garden Cities, government housing, Levittown)

Nov. 10: Suburbia—continued,  
**READ BULLARD, CHAPTERS: INTRODUCTION, 1, 7, 8, 9**

Nov. 17: Suburban Neighborhoods and the Environment  
**READ ROME, THE BULLDOZER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE**

Nov.24: City government: Political Machines and Bosses  
**Term Papers due NOVEMBER 24, Class PRESENTATIONS BEGIN**

Dec.1: Sunbelt Growth; the City in American Culture  
**CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

**Midterm Exam is scheduled for OCTOBER 8**

**Term Papers are due on NOVEMBER 24**

**Final Exam is scheduled for December 10**