

URBAN STUDIES 210: CITIES

Spring, 2017

Instructor: Dr. Constance A. Mixon (Connie)
Office: 246 Old Main
Phone: 630-617-3569
E-mail: mixonc@elmhurst.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays: 2:30-4:00
Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays: By appointment

Class Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
1:00PM - 02:05PM

Class Location: Old Main 102

COURSE OVERVIEW

The world's population is quickly becoming more and more urbanized, as people migrate to cities in search of opportunity and a better life. In 1800, only 3% of the world's population lived in a city. Today, 50% of the world's population lives in a city and there is no end of urbanization in sight. By 2050, it is predicted that 75% of the world's population will be urbanized. In the United States and in Europe, over 80% of us already live in an urban area!

Throughout history, humans have advanced by doing things together. Cities enable us to watch and learn from other humans. Cities encourage collaboration and provide a venue for the constant flow of new information and ideas. Cities are the centers of our economic, political, social and cultural life. The prosperity of nations is intimately linked to the prosperity of their cities. Thus far, no country has ever achieved sustained economic growth or rapid social development without urbanizing. Countries with the highest per capita income tend to be more urbanized, while low-income countries are the least urbanized.

The primary goal of this course is to equip students with the skills necessary to think critically about urban issues in their broader context. We will begin by addressing where, why and how cities formed; how they have grown; where city dwellers have come from; how they have lived; and how they have governed themselves. Socioeconomic issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, poverty, wealth, and power will be highlighted. This course will pay special attention to the

politics of cities in the United States. Using Chicago as laboratory, we will consider the current state of cities and make predictions about their futures.

This course will be run in a seminar style, composed of a mixture of presentations by the course instructor, and a considerable amount of discussion involving every student in the class. No one will be allowed to sit silently for an entire semester. I may call on anyone at any time to comment on the readings. Quizzes covering the assigned material may occur at any point during the semester. It is essential for students to be prepared to participate at all times.

GENERAL EDUCATION:

This course fulfills the Elmhurst College Integrated Curriculum **Historical Analysis (HA) Area of Knowledge (AoK)**. Courses in this category examine societies, cultures, events, ideas, and individuals in their historical context. As such, they provide a broad base of knowledge and critical skills - analysis, interpretation, synthesis - which play an integrative role in liberal learning. The learning objectives for this Area of Knowledge are detailed below:

1. Acquire a broad knowledge of the past, extending over a substantial period of time, and understood on its own terms;
2. Use such knowledge to understand the past and its relevance to the present;
3. Exercise appropriate interdisciplinary methods and tools for the interpretation of appropriate sources; and
4. Assess primary sources by means of critical analysis, and place them in historical context.

REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS:

1. Coates, Ta-Nehisi. 2015. *Between the World and Me*. Penguin/Random House.
2. Glaeser, Edward. 2011. *Triumph of the City*. Penguin Press.
3. Simpson, Dick, Constance A. Mixon and Melissa Mouritsen. 2016. *Twenty-First Century Chicago – REVISED 2nd Edition*. Cognella Publishing.

This book is available for purchase in both print and digital formats through the publisher: <https://titles.cognella.com/behavioral-and-social-sciences/political-science/twenty-first-century-chicago-9781516511600.html>

It is critical for students to purchase the REVISED 2nd Edition. Previous editions differ significantly in content.

Additional required readings will be posted on the course blackboard (Bb) site throughout the term.

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION: Classes may include a variety of instructional methods including: lectures; class discussions; group activities; internet research; films; field trips; and guest speakers

BLACKBOARD (Bb): This course will utilize an Elmhurst College Blackboard (Bb) site. Supplemental course readings, assignments, and copies of PowerPoint slides presented in class will be posted on this site. Please check the course blackboard site several times each week for course announcements and updates. If you have questions regarding how to access the Blackboard (Bb) site, please see me.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Midterm Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%
Chicago Neighborhood Report	20%
Chicago Neighborhood Presentation	10%
Participation, Quizzes, Assignments	10%
Extra Credit	3%

A standard grading scale will be employed:

Percentage	Grade	Percentage	Grade
93-100%	A	77-79%	C+
90-92%	A-	73-76%	C
87-89%	B+	70-72%	C-
83-86%	B	60-69%	D
80-82%	B-	0-59%	F

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: All written assignments will be evaluated on content, form, and comprehension of the course material. All written assignments must be word-processed (typed), double spaced, with one-inch margins and in a 12-point font. **REFERENCES MUST BE PROPERLY CITED.** At all costs avoid the appearance of plagiarism. Place quotation marks around quoted material and provide citations for any idea, major concept, or data/information from a source. Intentional plagiarism on any assignment could result in failing the course, and it may jeopardize your academic standing at the college.

CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT: Students will investigate a neighborhood within the City of Chicago, requiring a personal visit to that neighborhood. Each report will include a brief history of the neighborhood, description of the neighborhood at the present time, major problems, strengths and weaknesses. Additionally, reports will provide an analysis and explanation of the changes that have occurred in the neighborhood while making predictions about the future of the neighborhood. It is expected that these neighborhood

reports will average 6-8 pages in length and will include an appendix with photos, maps, and other relevant material. Students will also give an oral presentation related to their report findings. A detailed description of this assignment will be posted on Blackboard.

SHORT WRITTEN/ORAL ASSIGNMENTS: Throughout the semester students may be required to complete short written and/or oral assignments addressing and reflecting on course topics, readings, and guest speakers. Specific details regarding these assignments will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard.

EXAMINATIONS: There will be two examinations, a midterm and a final exam. Examinations may be a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. All exams will be taken in class and will be closed book, without notes. The best way to prepare for examinations is to come to each class ready to learn and to engage with the course material. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS.**

QUIZZES: Quizzes covering assigned readings and course discussions may occur at any point during the semester – with or without prior notice. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP QUIZZES.**

Please note: Examinations and quizzes are not collaborative. You are not allowed to talk with any of your peers or look at anyone’s exam or quiz during testing. You are responsible for understanding and obeying these and all other college policies on academic honesty. Failure to obey these guidelines may result in a failing grade in the class and college disciplinary action.

All electronic devices (laptops, electronic notebooks, iPads, cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, etc...) must be turned off during exams and quizzes. Failure to do so will result in you being asked to leave the classroom. Should this occur, you will be required to turn in your exam/quiz at that time – regardless of your progress (or lack thereof) on the exam/quiz.

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION: Students are expected to attend each class session. In addition to attending class, students are required to have completed the assigned readings prior to class and to effectively contribute to class discussions. If you miss a class, you are responsible for the material covered and for any changes in assignments or procedures announced in class. As attendance and participation are calculated into your final grade, students are allowed one unexcused absence per semester without penalty. However, more than one absence will impact your attendance/participation grade.

EXTRA CREDIT: Throughout the semester, Elmhurst College will host several events with speakers and topics which are relevant to our course content. As these events typically occur outside of required course meeting times, extra credit will be given to students who attend these events. Students may earn a maximum of 100 extra credit points during the semester. Details regarding eligible events and the procedure for obtaining extra credit will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE POLICIES:

Students in this course are expected to be knowledgeable of and comply with all policies outlined in the *Elmhurst College E-Book*:

http://issuu.com/elmhurstcollege/docs/elmhurst_e-book_2013-2014?e=1328944/4525897

Code of Academic Integrity

Elmhurst College is a community of scholars. Such a community places the highest value on academic honesty and integrity. Therefore, Elmhurst College’s Code of Academic Integrity is designed to ensure:

1. A fair academic environment where students are evaluated on the scholarly merits of their work.
2. An academic environment where personal integrity is fostered.
3. An understanding of standard academic practices when formulating ideas, conducting research, and documenting sources.

It is the responsibility of each student to know and understand this academic integrity policy. There are general campus-wide definitions of academic honesty as well as department guidelines. Students are responsible for educating themselves on this matter since sanctions for academic dishonesty may be severe. Thus, Elmhurst College students should act honestly in all academic work. Please refer to the *Elmhurst College E-Book* for additional information.

http://media.elmhurst.edu/documents/EBook_2011_2012_Academic_Integrity.pdf

Disability Statement

Elmhurst College will make accommodations for students with disabilities based on the presentation of appropriate documentation. If you believe that you have a disability that may impact your work in this course, contact Dr. Corinne Smith, Disabilities Services Coordinator, at corinne.smith@elmhurst.edu, 630-617-6448.

Learning Center: Academic Support

The Learning Center offers services to support the academic performance of all Elmhurst College students. Sessions are structured to promote principles of effective, self-regulated learning and academic management. Areas of tutoring include math, writing, reading, study skills, and special test preparation (i.e., ACT, SAT, GRE, TAP). For more information, contact Mrs. Emmi McAdams, Math Specialist, at emmim@elmhurst.edu, 630-617-5376, or Mrs. Susan Roach, Learning Center Director, at susan.roach@elmhurst.edu, 630-617-3155.

Both Disability Services and the Learning Center are located in the Frick Center in Room 229.

Statement Regarding the Use of Plagiarism Detection Services

Faculty members may at any time submit a student’s work for review by a plagiarism detection service.

Non-Discrimination/Non-Harassment Policy

The College believes that all employees and students should be able to work and learn in an educational environment free from discrimination and harassment. Harassment includes unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, written or graphic, that is based on protected group status such as race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran’s status, or other protected status. Please refer to the *Elmhurst College E-Book* for additional information.

Student Code of Conduct

The College attempts to establish a climate which encourages the assumption of responsibility by students for their individual and collective actions with a minimum of rules and regulations. It shall be the responsibility of each student to comply with appropriate standards of conduct and decorum befitting a member of an educational community. Please refer to the *Elmhurst College E-Book* for additional information.

COURSE TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

*Students are expected to read the assigned material **PRIOR** to it being discussed in class. Additional required readings/assignments will be posted on course Blackboard (Bb) site throughout the semester. **This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester.***

Week I: 1/30

Course Introduction & Overview: What are cities? What is urban?

Glaeser: Introduction & Ch. 1

Articles on Blackboard

Film: *Urbanized*

Week II: 2/6

Cities and Democracy

Articles on Blackboard

Guest Speaker: Dr. Randal Maurice Jelks

Week III: 2/13

The History and Origins of Cities

Articles on Blackboard

Week IV: 2/20

Development of North American Cities

Articles on Blackboard

Field Trip: Chicago History Museum

Week V: 2/27

The Rise and Fall (and Rise?) of Industrial Cities

Glaeser: Ch. 2

Simpson: Part I, III (Introduction)

Articles on Blackboard

Week VI: 3/6

Making Sense of Space: Urban Planning

Glaeser: Ch. 6

Simpson: Part VI (Planning Chicago)

Articles on Blackboard

Guest Speaker: Than Werner, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Week VII: 3/13

3/13: Finish uncovered material and review for Midterm Examination

3/15: Midterm Examination

3/17: Class Will Not Meet

Week VIII: 3/20

Spring Break – Class Will Not Meet

Week IX: 3/27

Cities and Suburbs: Sprawl

Glaeser: Ch.7

Articles on Blackboard

Film: *The End of Suburbia*

Week X: 4/3

Cities and Suburbs: Metropolitanism

Glaeser: Ch. 8

Simpson: Part VI

Articles on Blackboard

Guest Speaker: Joseph Szabo, Executive Director, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Week XI: 4/10

Urban Problems: Race and Poverty

Glaeser: Ch. 3, 4

Simpson: Part II, III (Lydersen Article)

Articles on Blackboard

Coates: Start reading

4/14: Class Will Not Meet – Easter Break

Week XII: 4/17

Urban Problems: Race and Poverty

Coates: Finish Reading

Articles on Blackboard

Film: *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth*

Week XIII: 4/24

The Future of Cities and Globalization

Glaeser: Ch. 5, Ch. 9, Conclusion

Simpson: Part V, Part VII

Articles on Blackboard

Week XIV: 5/1

5/1: Finish uncovered material and review for Final Examination

5/3: Final Examination

5/5: Chicago Neighborhood Presentations

Week XV: 5/8

Chicago Neighborhood Presentations

Week XVI: 5/15

5/15: Reading Day – Class Will Not Meet

5/17: Final Chicago Neighborhood Reports Due to Dr. Mixon by 1:00PM