

The American City

01.050.304.H6 - Summer 2007

Department of American Studies

Monday/Wednesday 6:00PM – 9:30PM – Scott Hall 101

Instructor Information

Matthew Ferguson

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Office Hours: Monday/Wednesday 5:00PM – 6:00PM & By Arrangement

Office Hours Location: Scott 101 (unless otherwise noted...)

Required Texts

The Devil in the White City by Erik Larson (ISBN: 0375725601) \$15.00

Boardwalk Empire by Nelson Johnson (ISBN: 0937548499) \$20.00

Additional Readings on SAKAI site or provided by Instructor

Course Overview

The American City takes an interdisciplinary approach to the history, culture, problems and future of urban areas by investigating specific icons of American urbanism.

Course Outline

Monday July 9th –

Course Introduction

Introduction to Cities & Urbanism Lecture

Design Activity

Wednesday July 11th –

New York City

City of Dreadful Night/Jacob Riis Lecture

Jane Jacobs vs. Robert Moses Lecture

Movie: Ken Burns New York Documentary

READING DUE: Excerpt from The Death and Life of Great American Cities & City of Dreadful Night Poem

Monday July 16th –

New York City

Architecture & Historic Preservation Lecture

Historic Preservation Commission Activity

Movie: Inside Grand Central Station

Wednesday July 18th –

New York City

New York Decades Lecture

Movie: Edison's Early New York Films

New York Music Through the Decades

Music: Everything from Blues to Hip-Hop

FIELD EXERCISE ONE: DUE IN CLASS

Monday July 23rd –

Chicago

Worlds Fair of 1893 & the Birth of Planning Lecture
Riverside & Radburn: The Suburban Dream Lecture

READING DUE: The Devil & The White City

****DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY QUIZ****

Wednesday July 25th –

The Suburbs

World War II & Federal Policy Lecture
Levittown, McMansions & Suburban Culture Lecture
Movie: Levittown

READING DUE: Excerpt from Crabgrass Frontier

Monday July 30th –

Los Angeles

Disinvestment & Degeneration of Cities Lecture
The Aftermath: Riots & Social Protest Lecture
Movie: Tupac Resurrection and Menace II Society

READING DUE: Excerpt from City of Quartz on SAKAI

Wednesday August 1st –

Detroit

The Economy of Industrial Cities Lecture
Movies: Roger & Me and 8 Mile

Saturday August 4th -

CLASS TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY

Monday August 6th –

Atlantic City

Gaming and Urban Redevelopment Lecture
Movie: American Dreaming: AC's Casino Gamble

READING DUE: Boardwalk Empire

****BOARDWALK EMPIRE QUIZ****

Wednesday August 8th –

The Sustainable City

History of Urban Transportation Lecture
Sustainability and the Cities of the Future Lecture
Movie: TBD

Monday August 13th –

The Global City

A Global Perspective on Urbanism
Final Exam Review
FIELD EXERCISE TWO: DUE IN CLASS

Wednesday August 15th -

FINAL EXAM

Grading

Participation	10%
Field Exercises	25%
Quizzes	30%
Final Exam	35%

Attendance

This course relies heavily on both participation and in class discussion. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. Since our class only meets for six weeks, you will be allowed **no more than one** unexcused absences. Additional unexcused absences will result in a 10% grade reduction and in extreme cases, failure in the course. If you must miss class for a legitimate reason or have a medical/family emergency, please communicate with us ASAP so that we can figure out how to handle your particular situation.

Class Conduct

All students are expected to be on time to class. If for some reason, you need to arrive late or leave early, please do so with minimum disruption. Please place all cell phones on silent and refrain from text messaging. Since a major portion of this course involves discussion, it is inevitable that differing opinions will be presented. The University as a whole supports the free and open exchange of ideas and this course will be no different. All students are expected to be respectful of any and all opinions shared in class.

Emergencies

In case of weather emergency, please check the University status page to see if the University is still operating. (<http://campusstatus.rutgers.edu>) If for some reason we decide to cancel class, we will e-mail you all (from SAKAI) by 2:00PM on the day of class.

Field Exercises

All written assignments should be submitted IN CLASS on the dates listed in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized half a letter grade for each day late. **All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins using 12 pt. Times New Roman font.** Please include a standard single-spaced heading on the first page of each assignment and your last name in the header of each page.

Field Exercise One will require you to visit Deiner Park in New Brunswick and analyze it as an urban space. Since this assignment is due on **July 18th**, you should plan on visiting the park ASAP.

Written Assignment Two: The Deiner family has expressed frustration with the current condition of the park going as far as to call the public space an “embarrassment.” You have been asked to serve on a Committee formed by the Department of Transportation and Rutgers University to evaluate the park. In a 2 – 3 page paper, analyze the space in the following ways:

- 1. REACTION: Describe in detail your initial reaction to the park. Do you like it? How would you use it? How does it compare to other parks that you have used/visited in your life?*
- 2. ANALYSIS: How do you think the initial planners for the park intended it to be used? Describe how the location contributes or detracts from the park? Describe in detail how the design and layout contributes or detracts from the park? Do you feel that it works well as a public space?*

3. *RECOMMENDATIONS: How could this space be used more effectively? What specifically about the parks design would you change? (i.e layout, materials used, structures, facilities, activities, etc) Include a sketch or picture as an example of an improvement you would recommend.*

Field Exercise Two will require you to visit the Lower East Side Tenement Museum in New York City and take the **“Getting By” Tour**. We will be leading a group to take the tour on Saturday, August 4th. It is recommended that you join us for the class trip, but it is not required. If you can not join us, attach your ticket stub to your assignment which is due on **August 13th**.

Written Assignment Two: In a 2 – 3 page paper, answer the following questions:

1. *REACTION: What is your initial reaction to the exterior of the tenement? What was your reaction to the inside of the tenement museum? Describe in detail what aspects of your visit surprised you most. How does it compare to where you live?*
2. *ANALYSIS: If this tenement is thought to be a “middle-class” living area, what can you infer about the poor and rich living of the time? If this shows you the condition of just one building, what can you infer about living in the Lower East Side at that time? How does this compare to middle-class living of today?*
3. *COMPARISON: On your tour, you were able to see the living arrangements of two families: The Gumpertz family (1870s - 1880s) and the Baldizzi family (1920s – 1930s). How are the two living quarters alike and unlike? What improvements based on updated building codes occurred over the course of those 50 years? Did technology have an effect on the quality of life over the course of those 50 years? In your opinion, did the quality of life improve over the 50 years?*

Museum Visit Information

Tours Run:

Tue-Fri: 1, 1:40, 2:20, 3, 3:40, 4:15 & 4:45.

Thursday Nights: 6 & 7pm

Sat & Sun: Every half-hour from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

Student Admission to Museum: \$13.00

NJ Transit Round Trip Ticket to Penn Station: \$17.75

Round Trip Subway ticket to the Lower East Side: \$ 4.00

Total Cost: \$34.75

** If you go with us on the class field trip, we will probably stop for an affordable lunch, so bring a few extra dollars cash for that.

Some notes if you decide to go on your own:

- **Very Important:** Make sure that you take the “Getting By” tour. Several different tours are offered at the Museum but this is the only one that will make sense with our assignment.
- Reservations are recommended for tours. These can be made at <http://www.tenement.org/>. Tours can fill up so plan ahead! Arrive early so you don’t miss your tour!
- NJ Transit: Take the Northeast Corridor line to New York Penn Station. Schedule can be found at <http://www.njtransit.com/>.
- NYC Subway: From Penn Station, take the A, C or E Local trains DOWNTOWN to West 4th St. (Washington Square) and transfer to the F train DOWNTOWN to

Delancey St. Subways usually run every 5 – 10 minutes – so a schedule isn't really needed.

- Tours leave from the Museum Shop, which is located at 108 Orchard Street (very close to the corner of Orchard and Delancey Street). When you are on Delancey, you want to walk away from the Williamsburg Bridge and Orchard will be on your left.

Academic Integrity

Academic freedom is a fundamental right in any institution of higher learning. Honesty and integrity are necessary preconditions of this freedom. Academic integrity requires that all academic work be wholly the product of an identified individual or individuals. Joint efforts are legitimate only when the assistance of others is explicitly acknowledged. Ethical conduct is the obligation of every member of the University community, and breaches of academic integrity constitute serious offenses.

Maintenance of the standards of academic honesty and the successful administration of this policy depend on the mutual cooperation of faculty and students. Dissemination of the Academic Integrity Policy to all faculty, staff, and students will ensure that all members of the community are informed about academic integrity.

Faculty cooperation is essential for successful application of the procedures defined by the Academic Integrity Policy. Faculty members can help promote academic integrity by making clear on their syllabi their expectations concerning homework assignments, collaborative student efforts, research papers, examinations, and the like. Efforts should be made to detect and to prevent cheating and plagiarism in all academic assignments. If faculty members have evidence of academic dishonesty, they are expected to report such evidence promptly.

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Students are also expected to report incidents of academic dishonesty to the instructor or dean of the instructional unit.

This policy seeks to demonstrate the University's concern with academic dishonesty and to guarantee a fair procedure for resolving complaints of academic dishonesty.

WHEN IN DOUBT – ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR!

Violations of Academic Integrity

The various ways in which academic honesty can be violated are discussed below. The comments and examples within each section provide explanations and illustrative material, but do not necessarily exhaust the scope of these violations.

A. Cheating

Cheating is the use of inappropriate and unacknowledged materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The use of books, notes, calculators and conversation with others is restricted or forbidden in certain academic exercises. Their use in these cases constitutes cheating. Similarly, students must not request others (including commercial term paper companies) to conduct research or prepare any work for them, nor may they

submit identical work or portions thereof for credit or honors more than once without prior approval of the instructor.

B. Fabrication

Fabrication is the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. "Invented" information may not be used in any laboratory experiment or other academic exercise without authorization from the instructor. It is improper, for example, to analyze one sample in an experiment and covertly "invent" data based on that single experiment for several more required analyses. The student must also acknowledge reliance upon the actual source from which cited information was obtained. A writer should not, for example, reproduce a quotation from a book review and indicate that the quotation was obtained from the book itself.

C. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty

Students who knowingly or negligently allow their work to be used by other students or who otherwise aid others in academic dishonesty are violating academic integrity. Such students are as guilty of intellectual dishonesty as the student who receives the material even though they may not themselves benefit academically from that dishonesty.

D. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgment is required when material from another source stored in print, electronic or other medium is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "to paraphrase Plato's comment..." and conclude with a footnote identifying the exact reference. A footnote acknowledging only a directly quoted statement does not suffice to notify the reader of any preceding or succeeding paraphrased material. Information which is common knowledge such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc, need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged.

In addition to materials specifically cited in the text, only materials that contribute to one's general understanding of the subject may be acknowledged in the bibliography. Plagiarism can, in some cases, be a subtle issue. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism should be discussed with the faculty member.

E. Denying others access to information or material

It is a violation of academic integrity to deny others access to scholarly resources, or to deliberately impede the progress of another student or scholar. Examples of offenses of this type include: giving other students false or misleading information; making library material unavailable to others by stealing or defacing books or journals, or by deliberately misplacing or destroying reserve materials; or altering computer files that belong to another.

The Full Policy on Academic Integrity and additional information can be found on at the Office of Student Judicial Affairs Website (<http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu>)