

# The American City

01.050.304.01 – Spring 2009

Department of American Studies

Tuesday 7:15PM-10:05PM – Art History 200 – Douglass Campus

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## Instructor

Matthew B. Ferguson, M.C.R.P.

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(Subject Line: American City)

## Teaching Assistant

Nadine Cohen

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(Subject Line: American City)

## Office Hours

Tuesday 5:30PM – 7:00PM & By Arrangement

Office Hours Location: Ruth Adams Bldg 017B

## 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

*Books should be available at the Co-op Bookstore or at online retailers.*

*The best place to purchase “Boardwalk Empire” is probably going to be the Co-op Bookstore.*

## 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

**Tuesday January 20<sup>th</sup> – Course Introduction & Syllabus Review**

**Tuesday January 27<sup>th</sup> – The American City**  
Introduction to Urbanism  
Brief Cultural History of American Cities  
Urban Planning Dictionary  
*\*\*Field Exercise One Posted on SAKAI\*\**

**Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> – New York City**  
City of Dreadful Night/Jacob Riis Lecture  
*Movie Clip: Gangs of New York by Martin Scorsese*

*READING DUE: Excerpt from Jacob Riis’s  
“How The Other Half Lives” on SAKAI  
\*\*Field Exercise One DUE By 11:59PM on SAKAI\*\**

- Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> – New York City**  
 Historic Preservation Lecture  
*Movie Clip: New York Documentary by Ric Burns & National Geographic Grand Central Station Documentary*
- READING DUE: Historic Preservation Articles on SAKAI*  
*\*\*Field Exercise Two Posted on SAKAI\*\**
- Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> – New York City**  
 Harlem Renaissance Art Lecture  
 Social Protest Music: Blues to Hip-Hop
- READING DUE: Excerpt from Mary Schmidt Campbell’s “Harlem Renaissance: Art of Black America” and Harlem Renaissance Readings on SAKAI*
- Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> – New York City**  
 The Planning Years of New York City  
*Movie Clip: New York Documentary by Ric Burns*
- READING DUE: Excerpt from Jane Jacob’s “The Death and Life of Great American Cities” on SAKAI*
- Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Suburban Dream**  
 World War II & Federal Policy Lecture  
 Levittown, McMansions & Suburban Culture Lecture  
*Movie Clips: Leave it to Beaver & Levittown*
- READING DUE: Excerpt from Crabgrass Frontier By Kenneth Jackson on SAKAI*
- Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> – New York City**  
 The Decline of New York Lecture  
*Movie: Crooklyn by Spike Lee*  
*\*\*Field Exercise Two DUE by 11:59PM via SAKAI!\*\**
- Tuesday March 17<sup>th</sup> – NO CLASS! HAPPY SPRING BREAK!**
- Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup> – Chicago**  
 The World’s Fair of 1893 & Birth of City Planning  
*Movie Clip: EXPO: Magic of the White City*
- READING DUE: The Devil in the White City by E. Larson*  
**DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY QUIZ IN CLASS!**  
*\*\*Field Exercise Three Posted on SAKAI\*\**
- Tuesday March 31<sup>st</sup> – Los Angeles**  
 Disinvestment & Degeneration of Cities Lecture  
*Movie Clip: Boys N The Hood*
- READING DUE: Excerpt from City of Quartz by Mike Davis on SAKAI*

**Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> - (Optional) GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT:  
*Largest Gathering of People Dressed as Waldo*  
 8:00PM (Doors Open at 7:30PM)  
 State Theatre in Downtown New Brunswick  
*Shirt, Hat & Glasses Provided...Just Wear Blue Jeans!*  
 Bring One Children's Book For Local Schools as an "Entry Fee."**

**Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> - The Industrial City  
 The Rust Belt Cities: Rise & Decline  
 Movie: *Roger & Me* by Michael Moore**

*READING DUE: Articles on SAKAI*

**Tuesday April 14<sup>th</sup> - The Congested City/Sustainable City  
 The Decline of the Rail Car Lecture  
 Sustainability & The Urban Green Movement**

*READING DUE: Articles on SAKAI*

**Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup> - Atlantic City  
 Boardwalk Empire Lecture  
 By Guest Lecturer/Author: The Honorable Nelson Johnson**

*READING DUE: Boardwalk Empire by Nelson Johnson*

**BOARDWALK EMPIRE QUIZ IN CLASS!**

**Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> - Atlantic City/The Cities of the Future  
 Gaming and Urban Redevelopment Lecture  
 Movie: *American Dreaming: AC's Casino Gamble***

*READING DUE: Articles on SAKAI*

**\*\*Field Exercise Three DUE by 11:59PM via SAKAI!\*\***

**Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> - REVIEW SESSION – Time & Location TBA**

**Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> - FINAL EXAM 8:00PM – 11:00PM – Location TBA**

| Grading Components   |     | Grading Cut-Offs  |
|----------------------|-----|---|
| In Class Exercises   | 7%  | 90.0+ = A   |
| Field Exercise One   | 10% | 85.0+ = B+  |
| Field Exercise Two   | 15% | 80.0+ = B   |
| Field Exercise Three | 15% | 75.0+ = C+  |
| Quizzes              | 20% | 70.0+ = C   |
| Final Exam           | 35% | 60.0+ = D   |
|                      |     | 59.9 or Below = F   |
|                      |     | <i>Please Note: Due to a variety of extra credit opportunities and bonus points during the semester, grades are NOT rounded up!</i> |

## **Attendance**

You are expected to attend all classes but attendance will not be recorded. You are responsible for all material and media presented in class, as well as all assigned readings. Your success in this class will be directly related to your attendance and participation in class.

When reviewing student grades from previous semesters, students who ACTIVELY attended class regularly did significantly better than those who did not.

If you must miss class for an extended period of time, please communicate with me ASAP so that we can figure out how to handle your particular situation.

## **In Class Exercises**

At various points during our course, exercises will be conducted in class to connect students more directly to the material being presented. Only those students in attendance will receive credit for their participation and absent students will not be permitted to make-up these exercises for any reason.

## **Field Exercises**

These written exercises will require students to synthesize information being learned in class with real life examples and experiences. Field exercises will vary in length but minimum/maximum page requirements do not include any diagrams/pictures. All written assignments should be submitted **VIA SAKAI** on the dates listed in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized half a letter grade for each day late. Field Exercises will not be accepted more than 7 days after the original due date. **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. Proper spelling and grammar are a reflection of your commitment to the assignment and are therefore factored into your grade for the assignment.

## **Quizzes**

Quizzes will be conducted to test your comprehension of the two large works of literature assigned in class. The format will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Students who miss a quiz will be required to provide a “Dean’s Excuse” to prove the legitimacy of their absence and will be given an alternate quiz to complete. All Students must be able to produce a Rutgers ID when taking quizzes or exams.

## **Final Exam**

The Final Exam will be a comprehensive review of the lectures, media and readings from our course. In addition to the “facts and figures”, students will be asked to synthesize the information from the course as a whole. The format will consist of True/False, Matching, Multiple Choice, Picture Identification, Short Answer and Essay. Students who miss the final exam will be required to provide a “Dean’s Excuse” to prove the legitimacy of their absence and will be given an alternate final to complete. All Students must be able to produce a Rutgers ID when taking quizzes or exams.

## **Extra Credit**

There will be several opportunities for students to earn extra credit during the semester including attending specified events on campus and an extra credit Field Assignment. These opportunities are **100% optional** and are only intended to provide students with a way to boost their grade. More information on extra credit will be distributed in class.

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

## **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!**

*Personal Note:*

*I've worked very hard to create assignments, tests and quizzes that are both interactive and challenging for you as a student. In addition to being insulting to me, when you cheat...you are cheating yourself out of a learning experience. Be forewarned that I will not hesitate to report you for any violation of academic integrity.*

## **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>)