COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to the key features of urban geography, including the distribution, structure and hierarchy of towns and cities, the economic basis for cities, the growth of world cities, urban policy and urban problems, and urban and regional planning. While, the scope of the course is global, emphasis is on the development of the US urban landscape. Particular attention is paid to the urban development of US cities, highlighting issues such as suburbanization, segregation, gentrification and the changing role of cities within the new global economic environment.

READINGS

The following readings are required, and are available for purchase at the Hofstra University Bookstore:


I have also assigned various REQUIRED extra readings on important topics which are not adequately covered in the main texts. These readings are available in BLACKBOARD. Important course information such as the syllabus, study guides, notes etc will also be posted on Blackboard. It is essential that you access Blackboard regularly to read course announcements and extra readings. New readings will be added to Blackboard as the course progresses. Failure to access these readings will not be considered as a valid excuse for poor performance in exams or assignments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This class requires a large amount of reading and writing. Students entering this class should thus be aware that they are expected to do all the set readings and that the exams will include a written component. Poor written work will be penalized; any students who feel that their writing is not up to an acceptable standard should seek immediate help from the writing laboratory.
Students are expected to attend classes and to be on time. **THERE IS UP TO A 5% BONUS GRADE** for students who participate in class by contributing to discussions and raising questions (attending class is not on its own sufficient to receive more than a token bonus point). The importance of this bonus grade should not be underestimated, as 5 bonus points is sufficient to raise a student's grade by one whole category (such as a B- to a B). On the other hand, **more than three absences, chronic lateness, sleeping, making no attempt to answer direct questions, showing disrespect to the instructor or fellow students and/or creating any disturbances in class will result in the forfeiture of the entire bonus grade and could, under certain conditions, warrant further penalties or disciplinary procedures.** STUDENTS ENTERING THE CLASS AFTER I HAVE TAKEN ATTENDANCE WILL NOT BE MARKED PRESENT FOR THAT CLASS.

Test material will be based on both the assigned readings and material covered during lectures (which may or may not be covered in the readings). In order to gain a firm grasp of the issues discussed in class, it is imperative that students **complete the required readings before class.**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CELL PHONES ARE TURNED OFF BEFORE ENTERING CLASS.** Any disruptions in this regard will result in forfeiture of the bonus grade and possible ejection from class.

**ALSO, NO EATING DURING CLASS.** If you are hungry, feel free to enjoy your meal outside of the classroom.

a) **Exams and tests:**
There are two exams as part of this course. The first exam is provisionally scheduled to take place during regular class time on **10/17.** The final exam according to the Hofstra examination schedule will take place on **12/14.** While the exact format of each of the exams will be announced closer to the time, it is normally the case that the exams combine multiple-choice and longer essay type questions. **A study guide for each exam will be made available on Blackboard at least one week prior to each of the exams and if possible there will be a review session held during the class prior to each of the exams.** I will make every attempt to try and stick to the above dates.

b) **Written Assignments:**
There will be **two pieces of written work.** These will take the form of two short (5 typed pages) reviews of the following articles in the **City Reader:**

a) **Review 1 - Review of Fishman, “Beyond Suburbia.”** Do you agree that the rise of the “techno-burb” means the end of suburbia? **DUE: 10/3.**

b) **Review 2 - Review of Hayden (“What would a non-sexist city look like?”).** Is her argument convincing and are her suggestions practical and useful? **DUE: 11/14.**

Each review should first summarize the author’s main arguments (1-2 pages) and then critically review the article, noting if you agree or disagree with the author’s conclusions. Make sure that you provide me with your OWN opinions, not simply a summary of the
article.

The reviews count 15% each.

**BREAKDOWN OF THE FINAL GRADE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVALUATION</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers (15% each)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonus Class Mark (when applicable), up to an additional:</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
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An A is considered a reward for exceptional work, and as such will not be awarded lightly.

**OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND COURSE POLICIES:**

1) Students are required to respect other students and the instructor. Any behavior that may disturb the class or the instructor will be warned only once. A second offense would subject the student to appropriate disciplinary action.

2) **Plagiarism or any other cheating in a paper is a serious offence and will result in:**
   a) The paper receiving a zero grade, b) The student being reported for a breach of academic honesty to the provost and c) if a very serious breach has occurred will receive an F grade for the course.

3) Exam dates will not be changed and **make-up exams** will not be given except due to a medical emergency on the part of the student. The procedure for getting a makeup examination is as follows: a) the student **must** contact me (by phone or email) **prior** to the examination notifying me that s/he will be absent and stating when s/he will return to class. If it is impossible to contact me prior to the exam, you are required to notify me as soon as possible, **but before** the next meeting of the class. b) On the day that the student first returns, s/he must come and see me in my office **prior** to class. At this time the student **must hand me a note** from an MD attesting that s/he was **too ill** to attend classes on the exam day (A note from a medical officer saying that the student was seen or complained of certain illness will not be accepted as a reason for missing an examination). c) If this note is found to be acceptable I will allow a make-up examination to take place **at that time** (not at a later date). In other words you should be prepared to take the examination during the time period of the first class meeting after you return to school. Without proper documentation, a student will receive a zero point for a 'no-show' exam. d) No student who has not met with me prior to the first class after an examination will be given a make-up examination. e) Students who miss the final exam, even with a valid doctor’s note, still need to contact me before the exam and they will only be given a make-up exam within two weeks of the beginning of the following semester.

4) Anyone caught cheating in an exam (or for a paper) will be reported to the provost in line with the university procedures for a breach of academic honesty (it is important
that all students familiarize themselves with Hofstra guidelines on this matter). It is likely that any student who is caught cheating in examination will receive an automatic F grade for the class.

5) You are responsible for everything covered in class (and the readings), including any lectures you may have missed and any handouts. In the event that you may miss a class, you must copy any handouts and lecture notes from your classmates. **No incompletes** will be granted for this course.

6) I will only give a **UW grade** to students that have stopped attending class **no later than one meeting after the second mid-term examination**. Please familiarize yourself with Hofstra policies regarding grades and also with the **official date for withdrawing** from class.

7) It is your duty to check your email for messages from me. These email messages could relate to your specific performance or pertain to important class announcements. I will be using the **email address that Hofstra provides** to each student (and then gives to the instructor). It is your responsibility to know this address and to familiarize yourself with the Hofstra email system (you can for example, automatically forward this email to another address). You should check your email prior to every class for announcements. **I am not responsible for teaching you how to use the Hofstra computer system, please contact student computing if you need help.**

8) The syllabus, Blackboard and other student resources can be accessed from my website [http://people.hofstra.edu/faculty/Grant_Saff/](http://people.hofstra.edu/faculty/Grant_Saff/) and are also available in Blackboard.

9) The **best way to communicate with me outside of class times and my office hours is via email**. I will endeavor to answer all email questions within 24 hours (excepting weekends). You may leave voice mail messages for me, but this will be less efficient than emailing me. **Please identify yourself in the heading of your email by name and by class. The heading should thus read: "A question from Pike Bishop, Geog 145 sec 1". This will ensure that the message gets opened, rather than being deleted as spam. **Please use your Hofstra email to contact me as some domains are blocked by my spam blocker (such as Yahoo).**

10) You will be held accountable for any email that you send me. Make sure that you **check for viruses before you send anything electronic submissions to me.**

11) If for any reason you are having problems following lectures, cannot cope with the readings, or have any other problems with the course, it is your duty to bring these to my attention. I will be more than willing to help you out if you come to me with any course related problems. Any problems not brought to my attention will not be considered at an excuse for poor performance in the examinations or paper.

**YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS CLASS SIGNIFYS THAT YOU HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS AND ARE WILLING TO COMPLY WITH ITS CONTENTS.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic (s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
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| 1    | Course Introduction  
Urbanization, Origins of Cities | LeGates in CR,  
Kingsly Davis in CR, Childe in CR,  
Wirth in CR  
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| 2    | Urbanization (continued)  
Third World City | Childe, Mumford  
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| 3,4  | The North American City:  
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| 5    | City Development:  
Economic Base Theory  
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| 6    | Central Place Theory | TH Ch 8 |
| 7    | Transportation and Urban Form | TH Ch 9, Fishman in CR |
| 8    | Land Use Dynamics | TH Ch 11, Engels, Burgess in CR |
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Urban Planning in the US | TH Ch 15-18  
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| 14   | The US Urban Future | Castells in CR |