DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND GEOGRAPHY
GEOGRAPHY 103: URBAN GEOGRAPHY

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Office Hours: Tues and Thurs: 2:15 – 3:45 PM or by appointment

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 may also assign various REQUIRED extra readings on important topics which are not adequately covered in the main text. These readings are available in two places:

a) Longer required readings will be found on ERES. You can access them on the web via the library or my website. The access password will be provided on the first day of class.
b) Shorter topical readings, mostly from Newspapers can be found in BLACKBOARD
   Important course information such as the syllabus, study guides, notes etc will also be posted on Blackboard. It is important that you access Blackboard regularly to read course announcements and extra readings.

Failure to access these readings will not be considered as an excuse for poor performance in exams or assignments.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO ACCESS ERES, BLACKBOARD AND YOUR HOFSTRA EMAIL Training and help are provided by the Computer Center.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This class requires a large amount of reading and has a set writing requirement. 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 in Caulkins Hall.

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.

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. On occasion my lectures may be supplemented with videos, slides or guest lectures. Questions on any material covered in these presentations can be asked in the exams.

Although this is an introductory course, it is still important for students who do not have any prior background in geography to realize that it may require more work to achieve a high grade in this course than in courses where the student has a prior familiarity with the subject matter (such as the major department).

a) Exams and tests:
There are two exams as part of this course. The first exam is during regular class time on Tuesday 3/30. The final exam, as per the examination schedule, will be held on 5/20. The exams count 35% each towards your final grade. 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. There will be a review session before each of the exams.

IT IS YOUR DUTY TO MAKE SURE THAT THE EXAM DATES DO NOT CONFLICT WITH EVENTS IN ANY OTHER COURSES, SPORTING OBLIGATIONS, OR PERSONAL ENGAGEMENTS AND IF IT DOES, THEN TO INFORM THE INSTRUCTOR NO LATER THAN THE END OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THIS CLASS, SO WE CAN DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE THIS SITUATION. Anyone who does not comply with the above will not be granted a makeup exam.
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 Hayden (“What would a non-sexist city look like?”). Is her argument convincing and are her suggestions practical and useful? **DUE: 2/26.**

b) Review 2 - Review of Fishman, “Beyond Suburbia.” Do you agree that the rise of the “technoburb” means the end of suburbia? **DUE: 4/15**

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.

iii) Extra Credit Assignment:
You will have the opportunity of writing a two page review of the film, “Roger and Me” that will be shown in class during the week of 16-18 March. This review should emphasize how these videos explain the issues that we are covering in this class. The review will count a maximum of 5 extra percent towards your final grade. The review is due on 3/23.

This is the ONLY extra credit offered in this class.

**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>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonus Class Mark (when applicable), up to an additional:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit (when applicable), up to an additional:</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades for this course will be assigned as per university guidelines. An A will be from 95 -100 and anything below 60 will be an F. 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) **Late assignments will be penalized as follows:** 20% of the total points for the assignment will be deducted for each day the paper is handed in late (beginning immediately after class on due day). 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.

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) 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 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.

7) The syllabus and other class documents can be obtained from my website http://people.hofstra.edu/faculty/Grant_Saff/ and are also available in Blackboard.

8) 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 John Brown, Geog 106 sec 1". This will ensure that the message gets opened, rather than being deleted as spam.

9) 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.
10) 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.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic(s)</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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</table>
| 1    | Course Introduction  
Urbanization, Origins of Cities | LeGates in CR,  
Davis in CR, Childe in CR,  
Wirth in CR  
TH Ch 1, 2. |
| 2    | Urbanization (continued)  
Third World City | Childe, Mumford  
TH Ch 3 |
| 3,4  | The North American City:  
Rank Size Rule  
Hierarchy of Cities  
Gravity Models | TH Ch 4, 5  
Sassen in CR |
| 5    | City Development:  
Economic Base Theory  
Growth Poles | TH Ch 7 |
| 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 |
| 9    | Housing and Suburbanization | TH Ch 12 |
| 10, 11 | Ethnicity, Segregation and the Underclass | TH 13,  
Du Bois, Wilson in CR  
Mike Davis In CR |
| 12, 13 | Changing Urban Dynamics  
Urban Planning in the US | TH Ch 15-18  
TH Ch 19  
Hall and Davidoff in CR |
| 14   | The US Urban Future | Castells in CR |