Course Description:
"Cities in Society" covers the transformation of human social life from prehistoric non-urban groups to contemporary urban societies in global perspective. It is particularly appropriate for students interested in going on to graduate study in sociology or urban and regional planning. The course provides students with background knowledge about our "global village" and how we arrived in it, along with analytic skills allowing them to evaluate and address fundamental new cultural, political and economic challenges posed by our increasingly urbanized and interconnected world.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course students will demonstrate through exams and written assignments that they can:

- identify, evaluate and communicate alternative theories/explanations of urban social, economic, political and geographic structure and change, from non-urban prehistory to contemporary global urban societies;
- obtain and apply original empirical evidence about urban populations and places, and use this evidence to evaluate theories and explanations of urban structure and change.

Certifications:
The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies thus offers a transformative experience.

This course has been approved as meeting the requirements for the E-Series and thus is designed to help you become an interdisciplinary and flexible thinker; a lifelong learner; and a team builder. In addition, this course has been approved for the Liberal Studies disciplinary requirement of the social sciences and thus is designed to help you become a critical appraiser of social science theories and the facts that support them.

This course has been approved as meeting FSU’s Computer Competency requirement. To meet this requirement, the student must earn a C- or better in the course. In order to receive a C- or better in the course, the student must earn at least a C- on the computer competency (Group Project) component of the course. If the student does not earn a C- or better on the computer competency (Group Project) component of the course, the student will not earn an overall grade
of C- or better in the course, no matter how well the student performs in the remaining portion of the course.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:**
Students with disabilities needing academic accomodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disabilities Resource Center, and (2) bring a letter to the instructor during the first week of class, indicating the need for and type of accomodation requested. This should be done during the first week of class. All audio tracks from lecture videos and instructions for the group project are available as printed text files for persons who document a hearing disability. The University may be able to provide access, depending on available resources, to readers who can read some materials aloud for persons who document a visual disability; course materials are not available in Braille at this time. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center, 874 Traditions Way, 108 Student Services Building, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167 (850) 644-9566 (voice) (850) 644-8504 (TDD), email sdrc@admin.fsu.edu, web site [http://disabilitycenter.fsu.edu](http://disabilitycenter.fsu.edu).

**Academic Honor Policy:**
The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm](http://dof.fsu.edu/honorpolicy.htm).) Violations of these principles, including collusion with other students to mis-use the conditional access features of the Blackboard course site, giving or taking answers to test questions, submitting the work of others as your own, or allowing your own work to be submitted as the work of others may lead to a failing grade on an assignment, to a failing grade in the entire course, or in egregious cases to formal disciplinary action by the university.

**Organization of the Course:**
This course is conducted completely on-line using the internet and the FSU CANVAS system. *(The course is NOT available in Blackboard!)* We have no hard-copy textbook or other paper readings. Course readings will be available through the CANVAS course web site within each weekly module where they are assigned.

The course schedule below is organized into syllabus-weeks. The first syllabus-week is available to you as soon as you complete the introductory steps to the course specified in CANVAS, starting with the introductory announcement. **You must finish viewing all video lectures and taking all on-line exams for the Week #1 module on the Syllabus before you can begin the Week #2 module!** Due dates appear for each syllabus-week in the schedule below. (NOTE that weeks 5 and 10 are devoted to the Group Project for the course, and so have no readings or on-line quizzes to complete.) It is possible to work ahead in this course when you can; this is a very good idea in case you run into various kinds of schedule problems during the semester.
Each syllabus-week of the course appears as a self-contained module in the CANVAS "Modules" section. For each syllabus-week (except weeks 05 and 10 devoted to the Group Project--see below) you must cover each of the three readings in the following order:

- View the Introduction Lecture video for the reading, and check to indicate that you have viewed this video file.
- Read the assigned reading carefully, using the study questions in the CANVAS introduction video lecture item as a guide. These questions guide you in reading and taking notes on each of the three assigned readings for the week. Develop sample answers to the study questions in your notes. (You can use these notes to help you answer the on-line quizzes for each week and the questions on the Final Examination at the end of the course.)
- When you indicate in CANVAS that you have viewed the introductory video, and you also have studied the article and its study questions, you will gain access to the first set of test questions about the article, "Introduction Lecture Quiz". When you are ready with your notes, start this timed test and respond to the questions. There are only a few questions in each quiz and you will only have a few minutes to respond. You must complete each quiz in one sitting; you cannot save your work and return to a quiz later. When allotted time expires, the quiz closes automatically and your score is based on work completed to that point.
- After you complete the first test and check off that you have reviewed it, you will gain access to the first part of the Second Lecture video about the article. View this video lecture, take notes, and check off that you have reviewed this part of the lecture.
- When you indicate that you have reviewed the Second Lecture video, you will gain access to the Second Lecture quiz about the article and the lecture. Respond to these questions as you did for the first set.
- After you complete the second quiz, you will gain access to the Third Lecture video about the article. View this video, take notes, and check to indicate that you have reviewed this part of the lecture.
- When you indicate that you have reviewed the Third Lecture video, you will gain access to Third Lecture quiz about the article and the lecture. Respond to these questions as you did for previous sets.
- After you complete the third quiz, you will gain access to the final Fourth Lecture video. View this video, take notes, and check to indicate that you have reviewed this part of the lecture.
- When you indicate that you have reviewed the Fourth Lecture video, you will gain access to the final Fourth Lecture quiz about the article and the lecture. Respond to these questions as you did for previous sets.
- Once you have completed all lecture videos and quizzes for an article, you will gain access to the Introductory Lecture video for the next lecture in that syllabus-week module of the course. Repeat all of the above steps for each reading in that syllabus-week module of the Syllabus.
- As soon as you complete the last on-line quiz for one syllabus-week module, you will gain access to the Introductory Lecture video for the first article of the next syllabus-week, allowing you to work ahead at your own pace. **You MUST complete all videos and quizzes for one weekly module before you can start the next module!**
In addition to questions about assigned readings and lectures, a group project using census data to study U.S. cities will be completed independently by students. Teams of students obtain census data for different U.S. cities and then prepare project reports (see the CANVAS "Assignment" Modules for Weeks 5 and 10 for details):

- Each team of three students will collaborate to develop a list of ZIP Code Tabulation Areas covering their assigned city. An item for submitting this list of ZIP Code areas for approval appears in the CANVAS Module for Week05, with points awarded to each team member when approved.
- Each student will submit a spreadsheet prepared using information for all selected ZIP Code areas downloaded from the U.S. Census web site. An item for this spreadsheet appears in the CANVAS Module for Week05, with points for preliminary data analysis by each student.
- Each student will submit a rough draft of one section of the group report, presenting a discussion of assigned topics that is documented using results from the previously-prepared spreadsheet. An item for this rough draft appears in the CANVAS Module for Week10, with points for the content of the rough draft (including tables and graphs derived from the spreadsheet).
- After any revisions to a rough draft are made, all members of each team collaborate to prepare a final report containing an introduction and all three parts of the analysis. Each of the team members must submit an identical copy of the complete final report for their city, combining all parts of the report specified in the assignment instructions. An item for each student's copy of this final report appears in the CANVAS Module for Week10, with points for content of the introduction and the relevant section of the final report.
- All parts of this assignment must be submitted through the CANVAS Modules ONLY. No printed copies, email attachments or other formats will be allowed as substitutes. Failure to submit each CANVAS Assignment forfeits all points associated with that part of the project.
- Each part of this assignment loses one point of its potential maximum value per hour submitted later than the deadline date and time shown in the assignment feature. No excused absences are allowed for this assignment unless they cover the ENTIRE period of the assignment and a student is receiving an incomplete grade in the course. Students are encouraged to submit each part of the assignment early to avoid potential problems with deadlines.
- In addition to counting for 35% of your course grade, your successful completion of this project satisfies the FSU Computer Competency requirement, and also constitutes the written-and-revised collaborative assignment that satisfies the E-Course requirement. **If you do not successfully complete this project, you will not successfully complete the course!**

Absences and Excuses
Since there is no classroom attendance for this course, there are no absences, excused or otherwise. However, certain events and conditions may interfere with your ability to complete these assignments in a timely manner. If you represent the University at official events such as athletic competitions, or if you experience documented illness of yourself or dependent children, deaths in the family or other documented crises, a call to active military duty or jury duty, or
religious work-restricted holy days, this may affect your schedule of work for the course. It is your responsibility to work slightly ahead of the schedule of syllabus-weeks in case of such disturbances, to insure that you are keeping up with weekly quizzes described in the CANVAS Modules for each week. In case of unforeseen events and conditions recognized by the university as excused absences, you should contact the Instructor immediately. If you are unable to complete the work for the semester by the end of classes and if you have documentation of excuses noted above, you may submit these excuses in order to request an Incomplete grade in the course. This request will be reviewed by the Instructor, and may be accepted, in which case you will receive a grad eof I for Incomplete. Your request may be rejected if your circumstances do not match those allowed by the university for such a grade. All excuses and requests for Incomplete grades must be resolved before the end of regular class sessions during the semester on December 8th. No excused absences can be resolved following the last day of class. Note that students must be passing the course at the time they request any incomplete grade. See university regulations for the time you will have to make up the incomplete if a grade of I is awarded for such excuses.

**Components of Course Grade:**
Fifty-five percent (55%) of the course grade is based on your responses to questions about the assigned readings. Thirty-five percent (35%) of the course grade is based on the group project assignment (including the ZIP Code list, spreadsheet, rough draft and final report). A cumulative final examination must be taken on-line during the Final Exam week. This final exam counts for ten percent (10%) of the course grade.

Points appear in the CANVAS Gradebook feature as they are earned. Students may estimate their grades by consulting this record.

- Divide your points on all quizzes by the total possible quiz points; multiply this proportion correct by 0.55.
- Divide your points on all four parts of the project combined by 100; multiply this proportion by 0.35.
- Add together your points on the final exam and extra points for completing the on-line course evaluation.
- Divide your combined final exam and extra credit points by the total possible final exam points; multiply this proportion by 0.10.
- *(NOTE that this final exam value may exceed 0.10, which can help your grade!)*

When you add together the results of the three calculations above, you will have your weighted percentage score for the course. Grades are assigned to these weighted percentages as follows:

- A = 87.5% to 100%
- B = 75.0% to 87.4%
- C = 62.5% to 74.9%
- D = 50.0% to 62.4%
- F < 50.0%.
Course Schedule

**STUDY QUESTIONS**: Each Introductory Lecture video item in the course Modules has a link to the assigned reading, and a set of study questions for each assigned reading. You should print out each page of these study questions, and use them as reference points for reading each article. If you write sample answers to these questions on the sheet or in a notebook, you will be better-prepared for the test questions on each article.

**Week 1: Cities from a Preurban World**

**Week 2: Variations in Preindustrial Cities**

**Week 3: Cities in Industrial Transformations**

**Week 4: Urbanization and Over-Urbanization**

**Week 5: Census City Project - Data Collection**
This week of the course will involve intensive interaction with the Instructor and Grad Student T'As to help you use the U.S. Census Bureau's official web site to obtain data for selected characteristics of a U.S. city to be assigned to you. You will need these data to complete the group report--see Week 10 below!
Week 6: Central Place and Primacy
- **ZIP Code Tabulation Area list for your city DUE by 5 PM on October 6th. See Week #5 Module to submit assignments!**

Week 7: Urbanism as a Way of Life
- *(See Blackboard Course Library)*

Week 8: Persistent Community and Urban Subcultures

Week 9: Suburban Myth and Reality
- **Individual Spreadsheets with Census Factfinder data and calculations due by 5 PM on October 27th. See Week #5 Module to submit assignments!**

Week 10: Census City Project - Report Preparation
This week of the course will involve intensive interactions with the Instructor, Grad Student TAs, and members of your City Project team, to work on assembling your census data into a group report to be submitted through Blackboard.

Week 11: Ethnic Segregation

*(See Blackboard Course Library)*

**Week 12: Segregation by Social Class**


**Rough Draft of your section of the project report due by 5PM on October 17th, BEFORE the Thanksgiving break. (Rough drafts will be scored over the break.)** See Week #10 Module to submit assignments!

**Week 13: Problems of an Urban Underclass**


**Week 14: Political Economy of Cities**


**Identical copies of complete Final Project Report due by 5PM on December 1st.** See Week #10 Module to submit assignments!

**Week 15: Urban Politics and Policy**


**Final Examination**

The exam must be taken on line through the Final Exam Module in CANVAS. It is a violation of the FSU Honor Code to take this exam in the presence of another person, especially any student in this course, or to communicate information about contents of the
exam to another person in any way. Anyone discovered to have violated the Honor Code in this way will receive a grade of F for the entire course.

- The exam will become available to you at 8AM on the first day of the final exam period, and will be closed to you at 5PM on the third day of the final exam period. You must take the exam at some point during these three days.

- Once you begin the exam, you will not be allowed to stop and save your work. You must complete the entire exam in the two hours allowed. At the end of the test period, as for the weekly quizzes, the test will close automatically and your score will be based on work completed to that point.

- You may use all your notes from the semester when taking quizzes and the final exam, but quizzes will not be available for review during the final exam. Weekly quizzes close after you take them, and are not available to you after that time.

This page maintained by Professor Carlson.