SYD 3600 - Cities in Society

Spring 2015 / Professor Carlson / DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE (on-line)

e-mail to ecarlson@fsu.edu (use FSU email accounts!)

Course Description:
"Cities in Society" covers the transformation of human social life from prehistoric non-urban groups to contemporary urban societies in global perspective. While this advanced undergraduate course has no prerequisites, it requires extensive reading and research. 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 accommodation 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 accommodation 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 Blackboard system.
We have no hard-copy textbook or other paper readings. See the reading list instructions below
in this Course Syllabus to locate most assigned readings through the resources of the FSU
Library system; other readings will be available in the Blackboard Course Library as noted.

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 Blackboard,
starting with the introductory announcement. **You must finish viewing all video lectures and
taking all on-line exams for Week01 on the Syllabus by Saturday, January 17th at 5 PM.**
After this deadline you will no longer be able to take any of the on-line quizzes for Week01, and
you will LOSE all the points for these quizzes. You must complete all work for the second
syllabus-week during the next calendar week. After 5 PM on Saturday, January 24th you will no
longer be able to take any of the quizzes for the second week, and so on by weeks through the
rest of the semester. These due dates also 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.) While it is possible to work ahead in this course, YOU MAY NOT FALL BEHIND THE COURSE SCHEDULE without severe grade penalties. Working ahead when you can therefore 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 Blackboard "ASSIGNMENTS" 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 introductory video for the reading, and check to indicate that you have reviewed this video file.
- Read the assigned reading carefully. See below for instructions on finding all readings online. The topic heading in this Course Syllabus for each syllabus-week is an active link that opens a set of study questions. The 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 Blackboard that you have reviewed the introductory video and studied the article and its study questions, you will gain access to the first set of test questions about the article. 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 video lecture 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 first part of the video lecture, you will gain access to the second set of test questions about the article and the lecture. Respond to these questions as you did for the first set.
- After you complete the second test, you will gain access to the second part of the video lecture 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 second part of the video lecture, you will gain access to a third set of questions about the article and the lecture. Respond to these questions as you did for previous sets.
- After you complete the third test, you will gain access to the third and final part of the video lecture. 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 final part of the lecture, you will gain access to the fourth and final set of questions about the article and the lecture. Respond to these questions as you did for previous sets.
- Once you check off that you have completed all sets of questions for an article, you will gain access to the introductory 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 video for the first article of the next syllabus-week, allowing you to work ahead at your own pace. Even if you fail to complete all quizzes for one syllabus-week and lose those points, you will gain access automatically to the introductory video for the first article of the next syllabus-week anyway at the start of that next week.

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 Blackboard "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 Blackboard "Assignment" 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 Blackboard "Assignment" 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 Blackboard "Assignment" 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 Blackboard "Assignment" 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 Blackboard Assignment feature ONLY. No printed copies, email attachments or other formats will be allowed as substitutes. Failure to submit each Blackboard 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 not "locked out" of weekly quizzes by the weekly deadlines described above. In case of unforeseen events and conditions recognized by the university as excused absences, you should contact the Instructor immediately to prevent being "locked out" of the weekly quizzes. 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 grade of I forIncomplete. 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; 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 Blackboard "Grade Center" feature as they are earned. Students may estimate their grades by consulting this record.

- Divide your points on all quizzes by the total possible quizz 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** = 90.0% to 100%
- **B** = 80.0% to 89.9%
- **C** = 70.0% to 79.9%
- **D** = 60.0% to 69.9%
- **F** < 60.0%.

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**Course Schedule**

**READING LIST INSTRUCTIONS**: A few of the assigned readings listed below appear with asterisks after the title. For these readings, you will find a copy of the article in the Blackboard Course Library. However, most of the readings are available through a web archive called JSTOR, to which FSU has an expensive annual subscription. Your visits to the JSTOR site to read course assignments will help to demonstrate the importance of this valuable resource (already paid for with your tuition dollars) to the university.

To find each reading in JSTOR, go to the FSU web site (www.fsu.edu) and choose "libraries" from the Key Links item near the middle of the page. On the Libraries main page, choose "Find a Database" from the left-side menu and type JSTOR into the field on the right. When you click "Go" you should see an entry highlighted in yellow for JSTOR. (You may have to log into the FSU site with your FSU username and password at some point.) Clicking this highlighted entry should take you to the JSTOR "advanced search" page. Type in the name of the author (first name and then last name, no punctuation; skip middle names or initials) in the first blank field, select "author" from the pull-down box to the right of this field, click on "articles" in the "NARROW" section below, and type the date of the publication in both the "From" and "To" boxes to the right of the "articles" option. Then click on the SEARCH button to find all articles by that author from that year. The assigned reading should be one of the displayed options. (You also might try searching for the article title if you have problems using the author's name to search.) Click on "Article PDF" below the correct citation to open the article as an Adobe Acrobat PDF document. *(If you do not have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader software on your computer, you can download it from the Adobe web site without charge.)* Rather than try to read this document directly from the web, it often is much faster to download and save this document on your computer, on a removable flash drive, or in some other location. Then you can return to the document and read it conveniently at any time, and also review it later for the final exam. Due to copyright laws, you should never post copies of articles you download from JSTOR on public web sites.

**STUDY QUESTIONS**: Each syllabus week for the course shown below has a title as a highlighted link. Clicking on this highlighted topic for each week brings up a page showing 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 (Complete by 5PM on January 17)**


**Week 2: Variations in Preindustrial Cities (Complete by 5PM on January 24)**


**Week 3: Cities in Industrial Transformations (Complete by 5PM on January 31)**


**Week 4: Urbanization and Over-Urbanization (Complete by 5PM on February 7)**


**Week 5: Census City Project - Data Collection (NOTE due dates SKIP Syllabus-Week 5!)**

- This week of the course will involve intensive interaction with the Instructor and Grad Student TAs 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** *Complete by 5PM on February 14--NOTE due dates SKIP Syllabus-Week 5!*

- **ZIP Code Tabulation Area list for your city DUE by 5 PM on February 14th. See "WEEK05" Module in ASSIGNMENTS.**

Week 7: **Urbanism as a Way of Life** *(Complete by 5PM on February 21)*

- *(See Blackboard Course Library)*

Week 8: **Persistent Community and Urban Subcultures** *(Complete by 5PM on February 28)*

- *(See Blackboard Course Library)*

Week 9: **Suburban Myth and Reality** *(Complete by 5PM on March 7--NOTE last due date before Spring Break!)*

- **Individual Spreadsheets with Census Factfinder data and calculations due by 5 PM on March 7th, before Spring Break. See "WEEK05" Module in ASSIGNMENTS.**
- *(See Blackboard Course Library)*
Week 10: **Census City Project - Report Preparation** *NOTE that this Syllabus-Week covers the week FOLLOWING Spring Break!*

- 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** *(Complete by 5PM on March 28--NOTE the gap in due dates caused by Spring Break!)*

- *(See Blackboard Course Library)*

Week 12: **Segregation by Social Class** *(Complete by 5PM April 4)*

- **Rough Draft of your section of the project report due by 5PM on April 4th. See "WEEK10" Module in ASSIGNMENTS.**

Week 13: **Problems of an Urban Underclass** *(Complete by 5PM on April 11)*


Week 14: **Political Economy of Cities** *(Complete by 5PM on April 18)*


• Identical copies of complete Final Project Report due by 5PM on April 18th. See "WEEK10" Module in ASSIGNMENTS.

Week 15: Urban Politics and Policy (Complete by 5PM on April 25th)


Final Examination

• The exam must be taken on line through the final Module in the ASSIGNMENTS section of the course. 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 (April 27th), and will be closed to you at 5PM on the third day of the final exam period (April 29th). 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.