

The American City
CRP 1100
Letter Grade Only

Professor Booth
Fall 2017
3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

I. Description

Urban areas are now the home of a large and increasing percentage of the world's population. This course focuses on the urban phenomenon in the American context. Approximately 80% of this nation's population now lives in cities and their surrounding metropolitan areas. American cities and metropolitan areas vary widely. For example, New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles are very different from each other. AND New York City, Chicago, and Los Angeles are very different from Ithaca, but all four entities are cities. Urbanized areas act as the focal points of huge amounts of economic, social/cultural, and political activity, and their future will play an immense role in shaping the future of the United States as a whole. In addition, while American cities contribute to environmental problems (at local, regional, national and international levels), these population centers may well constitute an essential base from which we can begin to bring human activities into a reasonable balance with the cycles/processes/needs of the natural world.

The many inter-connected topics relating to the life of cities (i.e., the field of study known as "urban and regional studies") form a complex mosaic. Gaining an understanding of these topics requires looking at cities and their surrounding regions from multiple perspectives: e.g., perspectives (to name just a few) of historians, sociologists, politicians, political scientists, water supply and traffic engineers, criminologists and other legal experts, police, economists, city merchants, tourists, and the citizen on the street (including all economic/social classes from the very poor to the very rich). This course delves into numerous topics regarding the development, life, and management of America's urbanized areas: e.g., their evolution, social dynamics (including but not limited to issues of race and class), politics and governance, infrastructure needs/challenges, planning, and environmental sustainability.

This is an introductory survey course for undergraduates. It is the first required course for the Urban and Regional Studies (URS) major offered by the Department of City and Regional Planning. In addition, the College of Arts and Sciences identifies this course as one that satisfies the Social and Behavioral Analysis (SBA) distribution requirement. Moreover, CRP 1100 is a highly worthwhile elective for undergraduates from other parts of the University. Students may take this course only for a letter grade. Graduate students may not enroll in this course.

This course involves 3 classes each week, assigned readings, four 5-page papers, two in-class map quizzes, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. In addition, students will keep reading notes in a Journal that will be graded at the end of the semester. There is a Blackboard for this course, and all course assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

II. Goals

Hopefully each student will derive the following from this course:

1) a broad introduction to the social/economic/political/physical issues that face American cities and metropolitan areas;

2) an understanding of the roles played by major public, private, and not-for-profit actors/institutions, and by the general public, in shaping the social/economic/political/physical realities of American cities and metropolitan regions.

3) an ability to read and comprehend a wide variety of materials pertinent to urban and regional studies; and

4) improved ability to write logically and clearly.

III. Required Texts – to be obtained by each student

1) B. Bissinger, **A Prayer For The City** ((Vintage Books, Random House, 1997), (hereafter referred to as **BISSINGER**).

2) K. Ascher, **The Works – Anatomy Of A City** (Penguin Books, 2007) (hereafter referred to as **ASCHER**).

3) New York State (NYS) Department of State (Division of Local Government Services), **Local Government Handbook (Selected Pages)** (NYS, 2009) – a hardcopy handout mentioned in the list of required readings.

4) A hardcopy handout that will provide the basis of the two Map Quizzes.

5) Any additional materials Professor Booth hands out in class or places on the course Blackboard.

IV. Required Reserve Readings – available on Course Reserve

The Reserve Desk in the Fine Arts Library (in Sibley Hall) has several copies of each of the following six books on Reserve for this course, and many of the course’s required readings will be in these books:

- 1) LeGates and Stout (editors), **The City Reader** (6th edition, Routledge, 2015), (hereafter referred to as **TCR**);
- 2) Strom and Mollenkopf (editors), **The Urban Politics Reader** (1st edition, Routledge, 2007), (hereafter referred to as **TUPR**).
- 3) Wheeley and Beatley (editors), **The Sustainable Urban Development Reader** (2d edition, Routledge, 2009) (hereafter referred to as **SUDR**).
- 4) Lin and Mele (editors), **The Urban Sociology Reader**, (2d edition, Routledge, 2013) (hereafter referred to as **USR**).
- 5) Bridge and Watson (editors), **The Blackwell City Reader** (2d edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010) (hereafter referred to as **BKWL**).
- 6) Caro, **The Power Broker – Robert Moses and the Fall of New York** (Knopf, 1974/1975) (hereafter referred to as **CARO**).

V. Required Readings and General Course Outline

Students should complete the readings in **TCR, TUPR, SUDR, USR, BKWL, CARO, BISSINGER, ASCHER**, and a handout dealing with New York State in accordance with the following schedule and general outline.

NOTES: 1) For readings in **TCR, TUPR, SUDR, USR**, and **BKWL** typically the page numbers assigned for a particular article include both introductory comments by the books' editors and the articles themselves. 2) The subject matter of particular readings in **CARO, BISSINGER**, and **ASCHER** often do not deal specifically with issues pertinent to the subject matter of each identified week.

WEEK #1 -- Week of August 21 – Introduction AND Evolution of Cities I:

TCR editors, "Prologue ...," pp. 5 (first introductory paragraph) and 7 (from "Methods ...") - 8 (to "... as well as the substance."); **TCR** editors, "Introduction ...," pp. 11-18; **TCR** Glaeser, "Our Urban Species," pp. 707-715; and **TUPR** Wyly et. al., "A Top 10 List of Things To Know About American Cities," 9-18.

AND TCR Mumford, "What is a City?," pp. 110-114; and **TCR** Childe, "The Urban Revolution," pp. 30-38.

AND CARO – pp. map inside front cover, map inside back cover, 1-12 (through 2d page break) and 19 (from 1st page brink) - 21;

NOTE: **TCR, TUPR, SUDR**, and **USR** all contain some very good pictures of urban life. During the course of the semester students are encouraged to look at and think about what all these pictures tell us.

WEEK #2 -- Week of August 28 – Evolution of Cities II AND Urban Cultures I:

TCR Engels, "The Great Towns," pp. 53-62; **BKWL** Cronon, "Nature's Metropolis ...," pp. 17-31; and **TCR** Warner, "... The American Industrial Metropolis, 1840-1940," pp. 63-72.

AND TCR editors, "Introduction," pp. 103-109; **USR** Zukin, "Whose Culture ...," pp. 349-357;

AND BISSINGER – pp. xi-xiv, xvii-xxxiv and 3-12.

WEEK #3 -- Week of September 4 -- Urban Cultures II:

TCR Jacobs, "The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety," pp. 149-153.

AND CARO – pp. 807-825 (through 1st full paragraph); **AND BISSINGER** – pp. 12-43; **AND ASCHER** – pp. 2 introductory pages (unnumbered, "Hundreds of millions of people ... the reading experience.") and 150-165.

WEEK #4 -- Week of September 11 – Urban Cultures III:

TCR Jackson, "The Drive-in Culture of Contemporary America," pp. 73-82; and TCR Stout, "The Automobile, the City ...," pp. 696-706.

AND CARO – pp. 323-346; AND BISSINGER – pp. 44-75; AND ASCHER – pp. 166-183.

WEEK #5 -- Week of September 18 – Urban Cultures IV:

TCR Du Bois, "The Negro Problems of Philadelphia ...," pp. 124-130, **BKWL** Wilson, "The Truly Disadvantaged ...," pp. 186-192; **USR** Wacquant and Wilson, "The Cost of Racial and Class Exclusion in the Inner City," pp. 182-191; TCR Anderson, "The Code of the Street," pp. 131-138; and **BKWL** Massey and Denton, "The Continuing Causes of Segregation," pp. 177-185.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 75-107; AND ASCHER – pp. 184-203.

WEEK #6 -- Week of September 25 – Urban Cultures V:

BKWL Chauncey, "Building Gay Neighborhood Enclaves," pp. 243-251; **USR** Portes and Manning, "The Immigrant Enclave ...," pp. 202-213; **USR** Aguillar-San Juan, "Staying Vietnamese ...," pp. 379-387; and TCR Florida, "The Creative Class," pp. 163-169.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 107-135; AND ASCHER – pp. 1-15.

WEEK #7 -- Week of October 2 – Urban Governance, Economics, and Politics I:

THE MID TERM EXAM WILL BE GIVEN AT 8:00 PM ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHTS OF THIS WEEK. EACH STUDENT WILL SELECT ONE OF THOSE TWO NIGHTS TO TAKE THE EXAM.

TCR editors, "Introduction," pp. 241-248; NYS Department of State (Division of Local Government Services) and **Local Government Handbook** (2009) – selected pages re city governments in NYS (hard copy handout, handwritten page numbers pp. 1-14); and TCR Putnam, "Bowling Alone ...," pp. 154-162 (OR STUDENTS MAY READ THE SAME ARTICLE IN **USR** Putnam, "Bowling Alone ...," pp. 68-76).

AND BISSINGER – pp. 135-167; AND ASCHER – pp. 16-31.

WEEK #8 -- Week of October 9 -- Urban Governance, Economics, and Politics II:

TCR Wilson and Kelling, "Broken Windows," pp. 259-269, TCR Bruegmann, "The Causes of Sprawl," pp. 218-228; and **USR** Dreier et. al., "Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century," pp. 148-156.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 167-197; AND ASCHER – pp. 31-43.

WEEK #9 -- Week of October 16 -- Urban Governance, Economics, and Politics III:

NYS Department of State (Division of Local Government Services), **Local Government Handbook** (2009) – selected pages re financing local government and public education in NYS (hard copy handout, handwritten page numbers pp. 15-26); TCR Thompson, “The City as a Distorted Price System,” pp. 305-313; TCR Porter, “The Competitive Advantage of the Inner City,” pp. 314-327; and TUPR editors, “Introduction ...” pp. 49-52.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 161-197. **AND ASCHER** – pp. 44-55.

WEEK #10 -- Week of October 23 -- Urban Governance, Economics, and Politics IV:

TUPR Croker, “Tammany Hall ...,” pp. 53-57; TUPR Rakove, “The Ward Organizations,” pp. 58-66; TUPR editors, “Introduction ...,” pp. 215-218; TUPR Weir, “Poverty, Social Rights, and the Politics of Place in the United States,” pp. 19-27; and TUPR Mollenkopf, “The Postwar Politics of Urban Development,” pp. 155-167.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 198-231; **AND ASCHER** – pp. 90-109.

WEEK #11 -- Week of October 30 -- Urban Governance, Economics, and Politics V:

TUPR O’Connor, “... A Brief History of Federal Policy in Poor Communities,” pp. 269-282; TCR Molotch, “The City as a Growth Machine ...,” pp. 293-304; TUPR Sanerzopf and Swanstrom, “The Urban Electorate in Presidential Elections, 1920-1996,” pp. 283-293; and TUPR Jones-Correa, “Resistance from Outside ...,” pp. 85-93.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 231-263; **AND ASCHER** – pp. 109-121.

WEEK #12 -- Week of November 6 -- Urban Governance, Economics, and Politics VI AND Urban Visions, Urban Planning, and Urban Sustainability I:

TUPR Jones-Correa, “Wanting In ...,” pp. 240-248; and TUPR Gurwitt, “Black, White, and Blurred,” pp. 249-253.

AND TCR editors, “Introduction,” pp. 357-363; TCR Olmsted, “Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns,” pp. 364-370; TCR Howard, “... The Town-Country Magnet,” pp. 371-378; TCR Le Corbusier, “A Contemporary City,” pp. 379-387; and TCR Wright, “Broadacre City ...,” pp. 388-393.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 263-296; **AND ASCHER** – pp. 56-67.

WEEK #13 -- Week of November 13 -- Urban Visions, Urban Planning, and Urban Sustainability II:

TCR Lynch, "The City Image and its Elements," pp. 576-586; TCR Whyte, "The Design of Spaces," pp. 587-595; TCR Jackson and Appleyard, "Toward an Urban Design Manifesto," pp. 596-607; and TCR Congress of the New Urbanism, "Charter ...," pp. 410-413.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 296-332; AND ASCHER – pp. 68-89.

WEEK #14 -- Week of November 20 -- Urban Visions, Urban Planning, and Urban Sustainability III:

TCR Owen, "Green Manhattan ...," pp. 414-421; SUDR Calthorpe, "The Next American Metropolis," pp. 87-98; SUDR Cervero, "Transit and the Metropolis ...," pp. 115-122; and SUDR Lyle, "Waste as a Resource," pp. 165-172.

AND BISSINGER – pp. 348-379.

WEEK #15 -- Week of November 27 -- Urban Visions, Urban Planning, and Urban Sustainability IV AND Cities and the Future:

SUDR Giradet, "The Metabolism of Cities," pp. 157-164; and SUDR Riley, "What is Restoration?," pp. 149-154; SUDR Pucher et. al., "Bicycling Renaissance in North America," pp. 130-136; SUDR Vale and Vale, "Principles of Green Architecture," pp. 262-266; SUDR Eisenberg and Yost, "Sustainability and Building Codes," pp. 267-272; SUDR Green Building Council "...the LEED ...," pp. 273-278; and TCR Calthorpe, "Urbanism in the Age of Climate Change," pp. 511-524.

AND TUPR Katz, "A Progressive Agenda for Metropolitan America," pp. 330-337.

AND ASCHER – pp. 122-149 and 204-215.

NOTE: This listing of reading assignments is ambitious. It will be modified if necessary. Students should complete assigned readings by the time they are discussed in class. As a general rule, for each class students should read approximately 35 text pages beyond where the discussion ended during the previous class.

VI. Classes

Students are required to attend classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:05 – 9:55 AM. Attendance will be taken at each class. Classes will involve a combination of lectures and discussions. In addition, a number of Friday classes will be **DISCUSSION FRIDAYS**; each will focus on a few questions that will be posted on Blackboard at the beginning of that week and/or on additional questions that students identify as useful topics for these discussions. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in all class discussions.

NOTE: Many subjects addressed throughout the semester will be the subject of various discussions in the news media, and particularly in newspapers. The New York Times (hereafter referred to as NYT) is available FREE OF CHARGE to Cornell undergraduates from Monday through Friday each week at a number of places on campus. Students are encouraged to read the

NYT regularly throughout the semester (in either hard copy or on line). Professor Booth will bring numerous NYT articles to class and discuss them briefly. Occasionally students will receive a Blackboard message encouraging them to look at a particular NYT article before the next class.

VII. Paper Assignments

1) Each student will complete four 5-page (typed) papers. A sheet describing each of these assignments will be placed on Blackboard at least two weeks before that particular paper is due. Grades on all four papers will reflect their substance, clarity, organization, and quality of writing.

2) The four required papers will be due in class as follows: **paper #1** -- Monday, September 11; **paper #2** -- Monday, October 16; **paper #3** -- Friday, November 10; and **paper #4** – Friday, December 1 (the last day of classes).

3) All four papers must be handed in on time in HARD COPY form. Papers will not be accepted electronically for purposes of completing an assignment, except with individual permission given in light of special circumstances (and see the next paragraph).

In addition, for each of the four assigned papers each student will hand in an electronic copy of that paper through Blackboard's Turnitin system, and each student will attach to the hard copy paper turned in to Professor Booth a hard copy of the summary sheet from the Turnitin system.

4) A student who receives a grade of less than "A" on any of the first three assigned papers may rewrite and resubmit ONE of those papers in an effort to raise his/her grade on that paper. This option will NOT be available for paper #4 (or for any of the map quizzes or course exams). This rewritten paper must be submitted no later than Monday, December 4.

5) Any student who receives a grade of B- or below on any of the first three assigned papers must schedule a meeting with the TA who graded that paper to discuss how the student may improve his/her writing. In addition, any student who receives a grade of C+ or below on any of the first three assigned papers must schedule a separate meeting with Professor Booth to discuss that paper.

VIII. Exams

There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. The mid-term will be given at 8:00 PM on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4 AND THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5. The final exam will be given per the final exam schedule established by the University.

IX. Other Assignments

1) Map Quizzes.

There will be an in-class map quiz in class during the week of September 4, and there will be a second in-class map quiz during the week of November 13. The quizzes will be based on a hard copy handout that will be distributed during the first week of classes.

2) Student Journal.

Each student will keep, and eventually submit, a loose-leaf Journal with his/her notes regarding each assigned reading in **TCR, TUPR, SUDR, USR, and BKWL**, as indicated below:

** Each Journal will be contained in a three-ringed loose-leaf notebook that has **the student's name** and "**JOURNAL – CRP 1100, Fall 2017**" clearly printed on the notebook's front cover.

** Each item in the Journal will indicate the author(s) and title of the assigned reading, its page numbers in the relevant volume, the week in which the reading was assigned, its major thesis/theme, and (most importantly) a summary of the reading's major points.

NOTE: Most of the assigned readings are written by identified authors. If a particular reading is written by the volumes' various editors, simply indicate the authors as "editors."

** The items in the Journal will be arranged in the order in which the readings are assigned throughout the semester.

** The items in the Journal will be typed.

** Each item will be approximately 1 page in length. There is no expectation that any item will be more than 1 page in length; any item that is more than 1-page long will be stapled. Each student will use a standard font, a 12 font size, and reasonable page margins in preparing each item for his/her Journal.

** Students may write the items in their Journals in whatever style they find useful (e.g., paragraphs, individual numbered points, outline).

** Students will hand in their Journals at two different times in the semester AT PROFESSOR BOOTH'S OFFICE: i.e., on Friday, October 20 and on Monday, November 27.

** Regarding the October 20 submission of the Journals, they will be given a preliminary review at that time and returned to the students with an evaluation resulting from that review, but they will not be graded.

** Regarding the November 27 submission of the Journals, they will be reviewed at that time, and a grade will be assigned to each one. The grade on a student's Journal will be based on the degree to which the items in the Journal reflect a bona fide effort to summarize the contents of the assigned readings; this grade will **NOT** be based on the quality of writing.

** The Journal handed in on Monday, November 27 does not need to cover the readings assigned for that week (i.e., the last week of classes). In order to prepare for the final exam, each student should keep a copy of his/her Journal when it is handed in on November 27.

** Students may pick up their submitted/graded Journals at Professor Booth's office when classes begin for the Spring 2018 semester.

** None of the items in a Journal needs to deal with any of the assigned readings in **CARO, BISSINGER, ASCHER**, or any of the handouts provided during the semester.

X. Grades

1) Student grades will be based on the following approximate percentages (but see policy statement #5 in section XII below):

Papers #1 - #4 -- 50% (each 12.5%); Map Quizzes --5%; Journal -- 15%; Mid-term Exam -- 15%; Final Exam -- 15%.

2) Additional Points re Grades:

** “A” and “A-“ grades on the four required papers will be assigned only for excellent work. Accordingly, on a particular paper it is possible that no “A” or “A-“ grades will be assigned.

** “A” grades on each of the two exams will be assigned to those students who do the best work on that exam compared to the rest of the class. Accordingly, there will be one or more “A” grades on each exam.

** The 5% of the class grade that is awarded for the Map Quizzes will be determined by counting the first quiz as 30% of that 5% and the second quiz as 70% of that 5%.

** The 15% of the class grade that is awarded for the Journal at the end of the semester will be assigned as follows: an A or A- for very satisfactory completion of the Journal; a B+ or B for satisfactory completion of the Journal; a grade less than B for less than satisfactory completion of the Journal. Any assigned grade for an unsatisfactory Journal may be as low as a D-. An F will be assigned if no Journal is submitted.

XI. Office Hours

1) Professor Booth’s office is in 117 West Sibley (office phone: 607-255-4025; home phone: 607-272-6573). He will post his office hours and weekly sign-up sheets on the door of his office.

2) All students in the class are strongly encouraged to meet with Professor Booth during his office hours or at such other convenient times as may be arranged. Professor Booth will answer questions regarding the course schedule and assignment dates by e-mail, by telephone, or in person. Students should come to Professor Booth’s office to discuss questions about course CONTENT, an individual student’s GRADES, urban issues generally, or other SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES; students should not expect that he will answer these types of questions via e-mail or telephone.

3) TAs Dan Kuhlmann and Dylan Stevenson (both Ph.D. students) will hold office hours at times and places they will announce via Blackboard. All students are encouraged to discuss

their written assignments and mid-term exams with Dan and Dylan. Kevin Murphy (a master's student) will also be assisting with the course.

XII. Important Policies

1) **Each student in this course is required to comply with the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity at all times and under all circumstances.** All work submitted by a student in this course (including signing an attendance sheet) must be the student's own work. Very early in the semester each student should read the Code of Academic Integrity and make sure that he/she understands it.

2) Professor Booth will be available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Except for unusual circumstances, requests for academic accommodations should be made during the first two weeks of the semester so appropriate arrangements can be made.

3) Courtesy to everyone involved in the class is essential to the success of this course – and is both expected and required at all times.

4) Written assignments will be due at the times specified in this Course Description. Papers not turned in on time will be considered “late papers.”

5) Professor Booth reserves the right to reduce a student's grade on an assignment because it is turned in late and to reduce a student's overall course grade for poor class attendance and/or for other appropriate reasons.

6) Except in special circumstances, students may NOT use computers for any purpose during classes. Professor Booth has found in past years that use of computers in this class substantially interferes with both student attentiveness and participation in class discussions.

7) Students may NOT use telephones or other electronic communication devices during classes.

8) Professor Booth will adhere strictly to University policy regarding the issuance of any “incomplete” grade for the course.

