THE US AND GLOBAL URBAN EXPERIENCE

Fall 2014 Semester
Instructor: Alex Ingrams       Email: alex.ingrams@rutgers.edu

Required Texts
This course will require students to purchase two books:

Cities and Urban Life (6th or 5th Edition) by John Macionis and Vincent Parrillo

The Death and Life of Great American Cities (1961) by Jane Jacobs
Publisher: Random House                ISBN-10: 067974195X

Course Description
This course will survey public administration problems that face city managers in different parts of the world. It will cover core theories in the history of Urban Studies, and explore contemporary urban challenges from migration and civic identity to public services and economic development. Students will be introduced to concepts such as cultural theory, dependency theory, and world-systems using a multi-disciplinary approach. Readings, discussion, and group work aim to develop knowledge of Urban Studies and to foster critical reasoning skills and political awareness. We will explore the field through the lens of real-world cases and contemporary public policy issues. The first half of the course will look at urban issues centered on US city experience. The second half will broaden the focus to international issues and to specific country cases in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Course and Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course you will be able to:
1. Explain the broad development of city administration in history
2. Apply the theories of Urban Studies to contemporary public policy and administrative challenges of the city
3. Communicate with a diverse audience in a concise and persuasive way about global cultural, social, and political matters in cities.
4. Apply and promote a public service perspective on city life
5. Participate in and lead decision-making on urban issues in public service organizations

Course Requirements
Students are expected to read the required texts and to complete all assignments in a timely manner. Absences and late submissions will be reflected in graded work at the instructor’s discretion. If students

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anticipate any difficulties meeting deadlines then they should notify as early as possible. Class participation and group learning are an integral part of the course and students are expected to respect and support the development of their classmates.

Assignments:

**Discussion Board** – 30 points total
Weekly discussion point responding to the topic and assigned readings.

**Essays** – 50 points total (25 each)
Two memo-style written assignments (3-5 pages, single-spaced, font 12, and 1 inch margins) will address a contemporary urban problem and a solution written from the perspective of a city manager. The requirements for the memos will be discussed in more detail during the course.
- First paper due October 18
- Second paper due December 3

**Group Project** – 20 points total
Write a report (3-5 pages, single-spaced, font 12, and 1 inch margins) on a city from any country of your choice. You should address at least four topics from the class material and address how the city performs in these areas. The requirements for the group project will be discussed in more detail during the course. Due on December 17.

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**Course Outline**

**Fall 2014 Semester Dates: 9/2/14 - 12/22/14**

**Week 1: What is a City? (Sept. 2 – Sept. 5)**
*Topic(s): Introduction to urban theory and the urban setting*

**Week 2: The History of Cities (Sept. 8 – Sept. 12)**
*Topic(s): Origins of cities*

**Week 3: Urban Sprawl and Public Administration (Sept. 15 – Sept. 19)**
*Topic(s): Characteristics of Urban Communities*

**Week 4: Public and Social Services in the City (Sept. 22 – Sept. 26)**
*Topic(s): Focus on key contemporary problems facing the urban setting*

**Week 5: Administration of Sustainability and Urban Design (Sept. 29 – Oct. 4)**
*Topic(s): How Public Administration is creating greener cities*

**Week 6: Democracy and Community (Oct. 7 – Oct. 11)**
*Topic(s): Institutions of governance and decision making in cities*

**Week 7: Diversity, Culture, and the City (Oct. 14 – Oct. 18)**
*Topic(s): Principle concepts and founding structure*
Week 8: The Performance of Cities (Oct. 21 – Oct. 24)
Topic(s): How to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of cities

Week 9: The Global Urban Economy (Oct. 27 – Oct. 31)
Topic(s): The definition of globalization and origins

Week 10: Migration and the City (Nov. 3 – Nov. 7)
Topic(s): A global perspective of urban imbalances

Week 11: Urban Experience and Regime Change in the Middle East (Nov. 9 – Nov. 13)
Topic(s): How cities adapt to regional conflict in the Middle East

Week 12: Urban Experience and Identity Politics in the European Union (Nov. 16 – Nov. 20)
Topic(s): How demographic changes are impacting city administration in Europe

Week 13: Urban Experience and Capitalism in Asia (Nov. 23 – Nov. 27)
Topic(s): How statist economies transitioned in Asia

Week 14: Urban Experience and Economic Growth in Africa (Nov. 30 – Dec. 3)
Topic(s): How economic growth is changing the urban setting in Sub-Saharan Africa

Week 15: Urban Experience and Regional Autonomy in Latin America (Dec. 6 – Dec. 10)
Topic(s): City management and decentralization in Latin American countries

Week 16: Final week for group projects (Dec. 13 – Dec. 17)
This week will be left for you to complete remaining work on group report

Course Policies

Policy on plagiarism
Do not be casual about plagiarism even if you believe it is something that you would never intentionally do. Make sure that you are familiar with what it is and how to avoid it. If you use another author’s words or ideas make sure to properly quote or reference the author in your text. Every year there are college students who fail their classes or are even expelled from the University for plagiarism offences. Make sure that you are familiar with Rutgers’ policy: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/policy-on-academic-integrity.

Online Communications Guidelines
Please be sure to help the class uphold good standards in netiquette in order to foster a healthy learning environment. A quality online discussion point keeps to the topic of the discussion, uses well-measured and thoughtful language, and backs up statements with evidence or logic. Aim to be as constructive as possible in your written arguments. Online communication misses many aspects of in-person communication so it is important to and try to be as clear as possible and to support your classmates with helpful ideas and feedback.

*END*