

Fall 2015

## URBN 1000

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*University of New Orleans*

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**URBN 1000-001**  
**Introduction to Cities**  
**Planning and Urban Studies**  
**The University of New Orleans**

**Course Information:**

Time: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00-10:50am  
Room: Milneburg Hall 318

**Instructor:**

Charles Miller, Teaching Assistant, PhD student  
Office: Milneburg Hall 305  
Office Hours: M,W,F 9:00-9:50am, or by appointment  
Email: [camille6@uno.edu](mailto:camille6@uno.edu)

**Course Description and Objectives:**

What shapes the cities we live in? How can we read a city's history and social organization from its built form? This course will introduce you to the study of urban life. We will discuss the social, historical, political, aesthetic, economic, and environmental forces that have shaped urban environments as well as examine how different spatial forms and functions reflect these forces. We will then apply this knowledge to interpret our local environments.

This course will address these central questions:

- Why did people begin to live in cities?
- How have cities changed through the centuries?
- How are cities structured socially as well as spatially?
- What are different perspectives we can use to study and analyze the city?
- How do cities differ across the U.S. and around the world?
- How do residents, public officials, and other stakeholders work to change cities?

After completing this class, each student will be able to:

- Explain the origins of cities and why urban settlement patterns developed.
- Describe the forces that shape the built environment.
- Discuss urban diversity and how it influences city life.
- Understand various efforts to improve urban areas, locally, nationally, and globally.

**Required Readings:**

Palen, John J. 2015. *The Urban World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Assignments:**

The course is divided into four parts. After each part, there will be an exam on that section. There is one assignment, a final paper, and a final exam which will be cumulative. This class is a lecture and discussion course. All readings are required, must be read before class, and will be covered on exams. Absent students are responsible for all material and course changes announced in class. Class attendance and active class participation are both mandatory and essential to learning the material. Attendance and participation are part of your final grade. Changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and via email.

**Late policy:** Late work will not be accepted under any circumstance. However, makeup exams or paper extensions will be allowed *only with pre-approval of the instructor or with an acceptable, documented reason*. You must notify me ahead of time (24 hours in advance, no exceptions) or I will not accept the work. I do not accept any work via email, and any such submission will result in an automatic grade of 0. Late submissions include work submitted even 10 minutes after it is due—it is still considered late, and it will result in a grade of 0. Acceptable reasons for makeup exams or paper extensions include severe illness, family emergencies or other unavoidable events including dangerous weather conditions and car accidents.

**Grading:**

3 Exams (100 points, 15% each):	45%
Urban Street Assignment (100 points, 10%)	10%
Class Participation (100 points, 10%)	10%
Final Paper (100 points, 15%)	15%
Final Exam (100 points, 20%)	20%
Total:	<hr/> 100%

**UNO Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

All faculty members, teaching assistants, and students are responsible for maintaining an atmosphere of academic honesty and integrity. Students should be aware that personally completing assigned work is essential to learning. Students who are aware that others in the course are cheating or otherwise committing academic dishonesty have a responsibility to bring the matter to the attention of the course instructor, the department chair, or the Associate Dean. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, academic misconduct, falsification/fabrication, and accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. If you have any questions, speak with me or refer to the UNO Judicial Code.

**Discussion Environment:**

This course covers many sensitive topics such as racism, poverty, and inequalities in education and housing. Everyone will have different opinions on these topics. You may disagree with your peers' perspectives. However, please be respectful to other perspectives. Listen carefully, whether you agree or disagree, and formulate your response in ways that allow everyone to understand your perspective. Disrespect will not be tolerated in the classroom.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

UNO is committed to providing for the needs of enrolled or admitted students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). University policy calls for reasonable accommodations be made for students with disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis. The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for academic accommodations for students with disabilities and students should contact ODS to make their individual needs known.

**Electronics:**

The use of electronics will not be permitted in this class. This includes laptops, iPads, cell phones or any other electronic device. They distract you, me, and your peers. If I catch you on your phone, or any other electronic device, I will kindly ask you to leave class. No exceptions.

## Course Outline:

### **PART I: WHAT IS A CITY?: DEFINITIONS, ORIGINS, & GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

#### **Week of August 17-21**

Wednesday: Syllabus and course overview

Chapter 1: The Urban World

Read: "A Region Redefined", *The New Orleans Advocate*

#### **Week of August 24-28**

Chapter 2: The Emergence of Cities

#### **Week of August 31-September 4**

Chapters 14 and 16: Developing Countries and Latin American Urbanization

Read: "China's Great Uprooting: Moving 250 Million into Cities"

**Friday: Part I Exam**

### **PART II: U.S. CITIES: HISTORICAL & MODERN PERSPECTIVES**

#### **Week of September 7- 11**

**Monday: Labor Day Holiday**

Chapter 3: The Rise of Urban America

Read: "Changing Demographics Bring Challenge, Opportunity", *The New Orleans Advocate*

#### **Week of September 14-18**

Chapter 5: Metro and Edge City Growth

Read: "Lake Forest Plaza Mall, New Orleans East"

Read: "Suburbs", *The New Orleans Advocate*

#### **Week of September 21-25**

Chapter 6: The Suburban Era

**Film**

#### **Week of September 28-October 2**

Chapter 7: Urban Culture and Lifestyles

**Friday: Part II Exam**

### **PART III: UNDERSTANDING THE CITY: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

#### **Week of October 5-9**

Urban Sociology: Classic and Modern Statements

#### **Week of October 12-16**

**Monday and Wednesday: Urban Street Assignment Presentations**

**Friday: Fall Break**

**Week of October 19-23**

Chapter 4: Ecology and Political Economy Perspectives

**Week of October 26-30**

Chapter 8: Social Environment of Metro Areas: Strangers, Crowding, Homelessness, and Crime

Read: "Class Matters" *The New York Times* (Moodle)

**Friday: Part III Exam**

**PART IV: URBAN ISSUES: DIVERSITY, HOUSING, SCHOOLS, & PLANNING****Week of November 2-6**

Chapters 9 and 10: Diversity: Women, Ethnicity, African Americans, Latinos, and Asians

**Week of November 9-13**

Chapter 11: Cities and Change

Read: "Outside Cleveland, Snapshots of Poverty's Surge in the Suburbs" in *The New York Times*  
**Film**

**Week of November 16-20**

Chapter 12: Housing Policies, Sprawl, and Smart Growth

Read: "Iberville Demolition Marks End of an Era", *The New Orleans Advocate* (2013) (Moodle)

**Week of November 23-27**

**Wednesday: Final Paper Due**

**Friday: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Week of November 30-December 4**

Chapter 17: Toward the Urban Future

**Friday: Last day of class**

**Final Exam: Friday, December 11, 10:00am-Noon**