

Fall 2015

URBN 3002

Toni Riley
University of New Orleans

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URBN 3002-001
Introduction to Urban Studies
Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-4:45

Course Information:

Lecturer: Toni Riley

Lecture Times: Tuesday/Thursday, 3:30-4:45

Room: Milneburg 320

Office Hours: Milneburg Hall 305, Tuesday/Thursday, 2:30-3:30 or by appointment

Email: tdriley1@uno.edu

Course Description:

URBN 3002-001 is an introductory course to the key concepts in the interdisciplinary field of urban studies. Through course readings, lectures, and class discussions we will explore the idea of the city as a cultural object through which the modern dramas of politics, aesthetics, and power are staged. This exploration will be animated by a central paradox of modern urban life: cities are places of profound pleasure, public engagement, cultural practice, and accumulation of wealth; however, they are also rife with violence, poverty, and inequality.

With an eye toward this paradox, we will begin with an exploration of the history of modern cities in the West from the Industrial Revolution through the present era. This will include an exploration of how urban spaces reflect and construct difference and inequality along lines of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Next, we will consider different approaches to the theoretical understanding of cities, including theories from economics, geography, anthropology, sociology, and literature among others. We will end the semester by studying the contemporary practice of urban planning and policy.

Central Questions:

- 1) How did cities emerge and change over time? How do they vary around the world?
- 2) How do different disciplines in the social sciences and humanities understand cities differently?
- 3) How do cities shape identity and experience and produce inequalities?
- 4) What is the relationship between theories of urban studies and contemporary practices of urban planning and policy?

Course Goals:

- 1) Learn how to identify and summarize the main argument of an academic article.
- 2) Work on the mechanics and clarity of academic writing
- 3) Critically engage with social theory, government policies, news media, and social justice issues as they apply to the cities you live in.
- 4) Apply theories to popular culture

Required Readings:

The Urban Experience: Economics, Society, and Public Policy. Editors: Barry Bluestone, Mary Huff Stevenson, and Russell Williams. ISBN: 9780195313086.

All other course readings will be available on your MOODLE course website.

Open Communication: If you are struggling to keep up with the readings, cannot finish an assignment, do not feel comfortable participating, or have any other concern related to the course, please come speak to me in my office hours as soon as possible. If you speak to me early in the semester, we will find a way to salvage your grade. Moreover, if I get multiple complaints, I will be able to adjust the pace and workload to meet our collective needs. If I do not hear from you, however, I will assume that the course is meeting everyone's individual and collective needs. The longer you wait to approach me, the more difficult it becomes for me to assist you. In other words, I cannot do my job properly unless there is open communication.

Attendance: You must attend each class. If there are circumstances that prevent you from attending, you must notify me through email. Each class that you miss, beyond the first two, will incur a half point deduction from your final grade.

In-class:

- 1) You may use a laptops and tablets in class to take notes and refer to readings. However, you may not look at other websites (i.e. Facebook etc.) during class time. If one person is found to be looking at other websites, laptops and tablets will no longer be permitted.
- 2) All other devices must be turned off during class. Using a cell phone during class will incur a FULL grade deduction from your final grade.
- 3) Throughout the semester we will be dealing with controversial topics. For a successful discussion, students must be able to express their own opinions and views. For this reason, you must treat one another with respect. Absolutely, no personal attacks will be tolerated.

Late Work: Papers must be turned in at the start of class on the day that they are due. Reading summary responses must be emailed to me by Friday before midnight. **Late work will not be accepted.**

Disability Services: The University of New Orleans (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). In general, University policy calls for reasonable accommodations to be made for students with documented disabilities on an individualized and flexible basis. It is the responsibility of students, however, to seek available assistance at the University and to make their needs known.

Grading:

1. Class Participation (10 %): You are expected to prepare all readings before class and bring them to reference during our discussion. Generally, this means remembering to bring your textbook to each class. You are expected to contribute thoughtfully to each class discussion. This could take the form of asking or answering questions during my lectures or actively participating in small group discussions that we will have from time to time. Although I strive to create a democratic environment that supports everyone's participation, I understand some people may struggle to participate. If this is your situation, please come speak to me about how you might improve your class participation.

A: You are always well prepared for each class, ask original questions, and your comments connect to the readings
B: You are prepared for each class. Your questions and comments solidly contribute to discussion, but are often unrelated to readings
C: You are frequently unprepared for class and you speak minimally.
D: You are consistently unprepared for class and actively distract from class discussion. Examples of distracting from discussion: lateness, using cell phone, making distracting jokes or talking to your neighbor

2. Reading Summary Papers (10pnts/100pnts): Learning to understand complicated ideas entails writing about them on a regular basis. Therefore, each Friday you will turn in a one page, double-spaced, synopsis of an article we read for that week. You can use notes that you took during our class discussions of the material or simply cite the materials directly. You will be awarded a 10 for an outstanding synopsis that demonstrates an understanding of the material, a 5 for a synopsis that depends entirely on my comments in class, or a 0 for not turning in the synopsis. You must email me your synopsis by **midnight** each Friday. Failure to meet this deadline will result in an automatic zero. **NOTE: on the weeks that you have other course assignments du you will not be required to turn in a reading response paper. These dates are, for the most part, marked on the calendar below. However, if you would like to earn extra credit you are allowed to turn in a reading response during these weeks.**

3. Group Research Paper and Presentation (100 pnts): Students will work together in groups of four to write a paper and prepare a presentation that deals with a contemporary problem that a city (of the group’s choice) faces. **Each member** will have to write a single component of the paper. Each component must be 5 pages long, double-spaced. You may collaborate with your group on your component, but will be graded as an individual. 75 points of your grade will be based on your individual writing component. The other 25 points will come from your group presentation. **Please note that the writing component is due prior to the group presentations which are held on the last week of class.** After writing the paper, each group will present their findings to the class during the last week of classes.

Components:

- 1) Describe a **problem** that your city faces in detail
- 2) Describe the **history** of that problem
- 3) Describe the various **stake holders** in the problem
- 4) Propose a solution

4. Tests (100 pnts/ 300 pnts): There will be three tests given throughout the semester as indicated by the calendar below. Each of the tests will consist of four essay questions; you must pick two to answer. Each essay question will be worth 50 points for a total of 100 points per test. Students are required to bring two blue books on exam days, exams can **only** be taken in these blue books, they can be purchased at the university book store. **NO MAKE UP TESTS WILL BE GIVEN!**

Tentative Class Schedule: (subject to modification)

<p>WEEK 1</p> <p>Aug. 20</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Review Syllabus and course requirements</p>
<p>WEEK 2</p> <p>Aug. 25/27</p>	<p>Part I: Introduction to Cities and Suburbs</p> <p><i>The Wonder and Paradox of Urban Life</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 1</p> <p>2) “What s a city?” Lewis Mumford, pgs. 93-96.</p> <p>3) “Urbanism as a way of life.” Louis Wirth, pgs. 98-104.</p> <p>Reading summary #1 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 3</p> <p>Sep. 1/3</p>	<p>Part I: Introduction to Cities and Suburbs</p> <p><i>How Metro Areas Rank</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 2</p> <p>2) “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety” Jane Jacobs, add page numbers.</p> <p>3) “The Growth of the City: An Introduction to a Research Project.” Add author, pgs. 156-163.</p> <p>Reading summary #2 Due</p>

<p>WEEK 4</p> <p>Sep. 8/10</p>	<p>Part II: Dynamics of Metropolitan Development</p> <p><i>Urban America from the 17th Century to the Early 20th Century</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 3</p> <p>2) “The Almost Perfect Town.” John Brinckerhoff Jackson, pgs. 164-</p> <p>3) Moses, Leon, and Harold F. Williamson Jr. 1967. “The Location of Economic Activity in Cities.” <i>American Economic Review</i> 57 (May): 211-222</p> <p>Reading summary #3 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 5</p> <p>Sep. 15/17</p>	<p>Part II: Spheres of Urban Economic Activity</p> <p><i>Cities and Suburbs in the late 20th Century</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 4</p> <p>2) Baum-Snow, Nathaniel. 2007. “Did Highways Cause Suburbanization?” <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> 122, no. 2: 775-805.</p> <p>3) Harris, Chauncy, and Edward Ullman. 1945. “The Nature of Cities.” <i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 242, no. 1: 7-17.</p> <p>Reading summary #4 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 6</p> <p>Sep. 22/24</p>	<p>Part II: Spheres of Urban Economic Activity</p> <p><i>U.S. Metro Areas in the 21st Century</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 5</p> <p>2) “Urban Scale Economies.” J. Vernon Henderson, pgs. 243-255.</p> <p>September 24- Test One</p> <p>**NO READING SUMMARY DUE**</p>

<p>WEEK 7</p> <p>Sep. 29/Oct. 1</p>	<p>Part III: Foundations of Metropolitan Area Prosperity</p> <p><i>Urban Prosperity and the Role of Trade</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 6</p> <p>2) “The need for a new vision for the Development of Large U.S. Metropolitan areas.” Add author, pgs. 256-266.</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>Reading summary #5 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 8</p> <p>Oct. 6/8</p>	<p>Part III: Foundations of Metropolitan Area Prosperity</p> <p><i>Urban Labor Markets and Metro Prosperity</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 7</p> <p>**OCTOBER 8 MIDTERM (TEST 2)**</p> <p>**NO READING SUMMARY DUE**</p>
<p>WEEK 9</p> <p>Oct. 13/15</p>	<p>Part III: Foundations of Metropolitan Area Prosperity</p> <p><i>Urban Public Education and Metro Prosperity</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i> Chapter 8</p> <p>2) TBD</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>Reading summary #6 Due</p>

<p>WEEK 10</p> <p>Oct. 20/22</p>	<p>Part IV: Current Policy Issues in Metropolitan Areas</p> <p><i>The Urban Public Sector</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i> Chapter 9</p> <p>2) TBD</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>Reading summary #7 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 11</p> <p>Oct. 27/29</p>	<p>Part IV: Current Policy Issues in Metropolitan Areas</p> <p><i>Urban Physical and Social Infrastructure</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i> Chapters 10 and 11</p> <p>2) TBD</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>Reading summary #8 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 12</p> <p>Nov. 3/5</p>	<p>Part IV: Current Policy Issues in Metropolitan Areas</p> <p><i>Urban Housing Markets, Residential Locations</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i> Chapter 12</p> <p>2) TBD</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>Reading summary #9 Due</p>

<p>WEEK 13</p> <p>Nov. 10/12</p>	<p>Part IV: Current Policy Issues in Metropolitan Areas</p> <p><i>Cities in Sprawling Regions</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 13, second half</p> <p>2) TBD</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>Reading summary #10 Due</p>
<p>WEEK 14</p> <p>Nov. 17/19</p>	<p>Part IV: Current Policy Issues in Metropolitan Areas</p> <p><i>Urban Well-Being, Civility, and Civic Engagement</i></p> <p><u>Readings:</u></p> <p>1) Bluestone, <i>et al.</i>, Chapter 15</p> <p>2) TBD</p> <p>3) TBD</p> <p>November 19- Writing component of group research paper due at the beginning of class!</p>
<p>WEEK 15</p> <p>Nov. 24/26</p>	<p><i>Class Wrap up and Discussion</i></p> <p>NOVEMBER 26- NO CLASS THANKSGIVING BREAK</p>
<p>WEEK 16</p> <p>Dec. 1/3</p>	<p>Group Presentations</p>