

PSC 241/241W, AAS 242/242W, HIS 378/378W, and PSC 530
Fall 2015
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:40

Urban Change and City Politics

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Office hours: Monday afternoons, 2:00-3:00, and Thursday mornings, 10:00-11:00

Through reading and research, this course examines major issues in urban politics, history, and sociology. This course is a seminar, intended for advanced undergraduates with a substantial background in the social sciences.

All books, or at least those for which we will be reading the bulk of the text, are available for purchase in the campus bookstore. They are also on reserve at the circulation desk of Rush Rhees Library; they are on two-hour reserve, but I can change that on request. (You might also consider online sources, including www.abebooks.com for book purchases.) The required books are these:

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: Norton, 1991).

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985).

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996). The 2005 edition is also fine.

Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

William L. Riordon, *Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: A Series of Very Plain Talks on Very Practical Politics*, edited with an introduction by Terrence J. McDonald (Boston: Bedford Books, 1994). Be sure to get this exact edition.

Robert A. Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961). Any edition is fine.

Alejandro Portes and Alex Stepick, *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

Paul E. Peterson, *City Limits* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981).

Alan Ehrenhalt, *The Great Inversion and the Future of the American City* (New York: Knopf, 2012).

All other readings are available at the course website on Blackboard. To access the Blackboard readings off campus, you will first need to download and run VPN, so that your computer can be viewed as part of the University's network. Find a VPN at <http://rochester.edu/it/vpn/>.

. Students must conduct themselves in accordance with the University's Academic Honesty Policy. In this class, students may discuss readings and course material with anyone they choose, including the professor and other students. Unless all assignments have been submitted, they may not share or receive,

Sept. 1 Introduction

Sept. 8 Cities in the Wilderness

Henry Adams, *History of the United States of America during the First Administration of Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1805* (1889; rpt. New York: Library of America, 1986), vol. 1, chap. 1.

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: Norton, 1991), 130, 55-147.

Sept. 15

Sept. 22 Industrialization

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis*, 148-350.

Sept. 29 Suburbanization

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1985), 44, 73-189, 231-282.

Oct. 6

Oct. 13 Housing and Jobs

Kenneth T. Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, 190-230.

Thomas J. Sugrue, *The Origins of the Urban Crisis: Race and Inequality in Postwar Detroit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), 52.

Farah Stockman, "Did Busing Save the City's Desegregation?" *Boston Globe*, 9 August 2015.

Oct. 20 Parishes and Congregations

Gerald Gamm, *Urban Exodus: Why the Jews Left Boston and the Catholics Stayed* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), 1221.

Dec. 1 Race and Rights, North and South

Thomas J. Sugrue, "Affirmative Action from Below: Civil Rights, the Building Trades, and the Politics of Racial Equality in the Urban North, 1946-1969," *Journal of American History* 91 (2004), 145-173.

Kevin M. Kruse, "The Politics of Race and Public Space: Desegregation, Privatization, and the Tax Revolt in Atlanta," *Journal of Urban History* 31 (2005), 616-633.

Ryan D. Enos, "What the Demolition of Public Housing Teaches Us about the Impact of Racial Threat on Political Behavior," *American Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming in 2015).

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Case for Reparations," *The Atlantic*, June 2014, 57-71.

Kevin D. Williamson, "The Case against Reparations," *National Review Online*, 24 May 2014.

David Frum, "The Impossibility of Reparations," *The Atlantic*, 3 June 2014.

Ta-Nehisi Coates, "The Radical Practicality of Reparations," *The Atlantic*