

## HASS 02.130 – History and Theory of City Planning

### Writing Assignment 1

#### Instructions

- A. For each question you are assigned to, provide a short written response. There is no minimum or maximum word count for any of the questions. Longer answers do not always mean better answers. Aim for a response that is complete, articulate, and clear.
- B. **For students with a student ID that ends with an even number, please complete all the even numbered questions (i.e. 2, 4, 6, etc.). If a question has sub-questions (like a, b, c) or more than one part, answer every sub-question and/or part.**
- C. **For students with a student ID that ends with an odd number, please complete all the odd numbered questions (i.e. 1, 3, 5, 7, etc.). If a question has sub-questions (like a, b, c) or more than one part, answer every sub-question and/or part.**
- D. As a rule of thumb, give yourself about 2.5 hours to complete this, as if you were in class. There is no need to spend more time than that on this assignment. It is not an essay assignment or a research paper.
- E. Strong answers will make reference (if relevant) to the readings assigned in the course. If you cite a reading or any other source, provide a simple citation. For example:

LeCorbusier writes, “High density towers can help alleviate overcrowding in urban areas” (LeCorbusier, 1934, p. 324).

This is strictly an example. He did not actually write this. If you are citing from a website for whatever reason, give the URL in the bibliography or as a footnote.

- F. Not all answers will be found directly in the readings. In some cases you will have to make judgements based on your understanding of the concepts presented in class and in the readings. In these cases, try your best to demonstrate your thinking process clearly and support it with references from the readings, if relevant.
- G. When you are done, email your answers to me as a Word document. My email address is samson\_lim@sutd.edu.sg.
- H. Make sure your name is on your answer.
- I. MONDAY GROUP: For students sitting in the Monday session, please email me your responses by 11:59pm, 12 February 2018. Answers that come in after 11:59pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> will be subject to a point deduction of up to seven points. I will not accept answers after 11:59pm on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- J. THURSDAY GROUP: For students sitting in the Thursday session, please email me your responses by 11:59pm, 14 February 2018. Answers that come in after 11:59pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> will be subject to a point deduction of up to seven points. I will not accept answers after 11:59pm on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

## Questions

1. (20 points)
  - A. What did Le Corbusier see as the main problems of the city in the industrial city?
  - B. What are the key characteristics of LeCorbousier's ideal city?
  - C. What form of government do you think is required to see LeCorbousier's plan come into being?
2. (20 points)
  - A. What are the key characteristics of Frank Lloyd Wright's ideal city?
  - B. Would you consider Wright a Luddite? In other words, what is his position relative to modern technology?
  - C. What critique might you offer of his idea for an ideal city?
3. (20 points)
  - A. What did Howard see as the main problems of the city in the late nineteenth century?
  - B. What was his proposed solution?
  - C. Would you classify Howard's plan as either liberal, socialist, or communist? Why?
4. (10 points)

What is meant by the term Industrial Revolution? Describe some of the important effects that historians feel resulted from it.
5. (10 points)

What is meant by the term political liberalism? What about economic liberalism? What might economic liberals think about the state providing public housing like the state does in Singapore?
6. (10 points)

What is meant by the term socialism? If a city's government is run by socialists, do you think they would propose the provision of government housing or other services?
7. (10 points)

What is meant by the term modernism? Do you consider LeCourbousier's ideas about city planning modernist? Why or why not?
8. (10 points)

What is meant by the term modernism? Do you consider Frank Lloyd Wright's ideas about city planning modernist? Why or why not?
9. (10 points)

In what ways did new technologies (e.g. electric trams or automobiles) influence the development of industrial era cities like London?
10. (20 points)

What is at the center of an ideal city in Ebenezer Howard's garden city plan? What is at the center of a city in LeCourbousier's plan? What about Frank Lloyd Wright's plan? What, if anything, can this tell us about what each planner thought was important about human settlements?

11. (15 points)

Howard says that his illustration of a Garden City is only a diagram and not a plan. What do you think he means by this and why does he stress this point?

12. (20 points)

Describe the sort of government Frank Lloyd Wright envisioned for his Broadacre City based on the hints he provides in his writing. Based on your answer, what do you think he would think about capitalism? (Capitalism is defined for this class as a system of social relations in which some people own the means of production and others do not. Those that do not, sell their labor to those that do.)

13. (15 points)

What do you think Frank Lloyd Wright means when he says that “all regimentation is a form of death?” (Wright, in City Reader, p. 346). Why do you think he states this in discussing the plan of a city? What might it reflect about his political views?

14. (10 points)

Why does LeCorbousier think the “city of today is dying”? (Le Corbusier, in City Reader, p. 342). What is his solution to this problem and what does this tell us about his notion of design?