

Dr. Ronald Bayor
Fall 2011
HTS 3011

Office Hours: G18 Old CE Building
TuThurs 10-11 or 3-4
Phone 404-894-6834
E-mail: ronald.bayor@hts.gatech.edu

The City in American History

This course analyses U.S. urban development from the colonial period to the present. We will study various topics, concentrating on policy decisions that shaped and developed the modern city. Special attention is given to housing issues, the problems of the urban poor, the impact of the automobile, and Atlanta.

Requirements are two essay exams (midterm and final—each worth 25% of grade) that will include questions on the required reading, and a term paper (40%). Class participation and attendance are required as well (10% of grade). You are allowed three absences without a doctor's note or verified family emergency. Beyond three, your grade will be affected. You are also asked to do a class presentation based on your term paper research. This will be scheduled during the last two weeks of the course.

Please note too that Georgia Tech has an honor code regarding cheating on exams and/or plagiarism in term papers. This code will be enforced.

Term papers: This paper must be at least 10 pages of text, double spaced. Source notes and bibliography should be included on separate pages. The term paper must have at least 6 sources (books, articles, newspapers, government documents, etc.) but are limited to one internet source. No Wikipedia please. Papers not turned in on time will drop one grade.

All students should meet with me at least once for approval of their topic and to discuss the paper.

Required Reading

Andrew Dolkark, *Biography of a Tenement House in New York City: An Architectural History of 97 Orchard Street*

Greg Hise, *Magnetic Los Angeles: Planning the Twentieth-Century Metropolis*

Jeffrey Adler, *First in Violence, Deepest in Dirt: Homicide in Chicago, 1875-1920*

David Nye, *Electrifying America: Social Meanings of a New Technology, 1880-1940*

Adam Rome, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*

Lectures and Assignments

Week of:

August 23: Urban Policies and Problems: Defining the Issues

August 30: The Role of Immigration and Race in Urban Development

Sept. 6: The Housing Problem (the emergence and “solution” of the Slum problem, Public housing, mixed income)

READ Dolkart, *Biography of a Tenement House*

Sept. 13: The Housing Problem (Rebuilding Neighborhoods)

Sept. 20: Planning Cities (Boston, Pittsburgh, New York, Atlanta Olympics—a missed opportunity)

Sept. 27: Planning Cities

READ HISE, *Magnetic Los Angeles*

Oct. 4: The Urban Crisis (poverty, schools, public health)

Oct. 11: On Tues. **MIDTERM EXAM—Tuesday, OCTOBER 11**

Oct. 18: —**FALL BREAK: NO CLASS TUESDAY**

ON THURS.: Urban Crime, **READ ADLER, FIRST IN VIOLENCE**

Oct. 25: The New Urban Technology (the transportation revolution and

20th century gridlock, sanitation, and water, electricity)
READ NYE, ELECTRIFYING AMERICA

Nov.1: The Impact of the Car

Nov.8: The Development of Suburbia (annexation, garden cities, government housing, Levittown); Race and housing in Suburbia

Nov.15: The Development of Suburbia continued (Greenbelts and planned communities)

Nov. 22: Suburban Sprawl and the Environment
READ ROME, THE BULLDOZER IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Nov. 29: City government: Political Machines and Bosses
Term Papers due November 29; Class PRESENTATIONS BEGIN

Dec.. 6: Sunbelt Growth
CLASS PRESENTATIONS

Midterm Exam is scheduled for OCTOBER 11

Term Papers are due on NOVEMBER 29

Final Exam is scheduled for December 15