

**Syllabus
Hist 163
The City in U.S. History**

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Office: Tahoe Hall 3085
Office Hours: M,W 10:00-12:00
and by appointment

Course Purpose: This course traces the evolution of American urban centers from the colonial era to the present. It asks why and how American cities have grown, where city dwellers have come from, how they have lived, and how they have governed themselves. A secondary consideration is to explore the variety of sources that help us understand the history of cities and the variety of ways that we can use this knowledge to improve our cities today.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the historical roots of major contemporary issues confronting U.S. society such as race, class, crime, and immigration.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the diversity that exists in American cities.
- Identify and explain the contributions to American cities of at least two of the following groups: women, ethnic, religious, socio-economic, gays and lesbians, and persons with disabilities.

Grades: You will be graded on a midterm examination (25%), a final examination (35%), a semester long research paper (30%) and class participation (10%).

Required Texts:

Abbott, Carl. *The Metropolitan Frontier*. (1995)
Chudacoff, Howard P. *Major Problems in American Urban History*. (1994)
Jackson, Kenneth T. *Crabgrass Frontiers*. (1985)
Kenneth Lockridge. *A New England Town*. (1980).

Assignments: All readings should be done before coming to class.

Sept. 3:	Introduction to the Course
Sept. 8:	From Europe to America: The City Evolves Jackson, pp. 3-19 Lockridge begin
Sept. 10:	Colonial Cities Chudacoff, pp. 33-60 Lockridge, continue
Sept. 15:	The New England Town Lockridge, finish
Sept. 17:	The Market Revolution in the New Republic Chudacoff, pp. 61-92
Sept. 22:	The Transportation Revolution: Suburbs in the New Republic Jackson, pp. 20-72
Sept. 24:	The Service City Chudacoff, pp. 93-116

- Sept. 29: Industrialization Transforms Urban Space
Chudacoff, pp. 118-142
- Oct. 1: Immigrants and Public Space
Chudacoff, pp. 143-188
- Oct. 6: Suburban Escapism
Jackson, pp. 73-115
- Oct. 8: **Midterm Examination**
- Oct. 13: City Bosses and Urban Reformers
Chudacoff, pp. 189-224
- Oct. 15: The New Urban Professionals
Chudacoff, pp. 225-264
- Oct. 20: The Suburban Alternative
Jackson, pp. 116-156
- Oct. 22: Popular Culture in the 20th Century City
Chudacoff, pp. 265-298
- Oct. 27: Video: Coney Island
- Oct. 29: The Automobile City
Chudacoff, pp. 299-325
Jackson, pp. 157-189
- Nov. 3: The Great Depression and the Federal / City Partnership
Chudacoff, pp. 326-350
Jackson, pp. 190-218
- Nov. 5: Video: The Thirties
- Nov. 10: World War II Transforms Cities
Chudacoff, pp. 359-378
Abbott, pp. 3-30
Jackson, pp. 219-230
- Nov. 12: Postwar Policy and Urban Renewal
Chudacoff, pp. 351-358
Abbott, pp. 31-52
- Nov. 17: The Baby Boom Suburbs
Jackson, pp. 231-271
Abbott, pp. 53-78
- Nov. 19: Video: The Fifties
- Nov. 24: The Postindustrial City
Chudacoff, pp. 407-424
Abbott, pp. 79-98

Nov. 26: Sunbelt and Rustbelt
Chudacoff, pp. 379-406
Abbott, pp. 99-120

Research Paper Due

Dec. 1 Edge Cities
Jackson, pp. 272-282
Abbott, pp. 123-172

Dec. 3 The New Urbanites
Chudacoff, pp. 425-476

Dec.8 The Future of America's Cities
Jackson, pp. 283-305
Abbott, pp. 173-197

Dec. 10

Assignments:

You will have reading to do for each class period and the detailed class schedule makes those assignments very clear. There are four texts for this class; all are available at the campus bookstore. Please bring the appropriate book or books to class. We will refer to them directly as part of our class exercises.

The examinations make up the main portion of your grade in this course. There will be two exams during the semester. They will not be cumulative, but will come out of class discussions and will be conducted in essay format. Makeup exams will only be permitted for officially documented excuses. No documentation - No makeup.

The research paper makes up 30% of your graded work for this course. Each student will choose a specific theme in urban history to research in depth for the semester. You must use at least five primary sources and five secondary sources for your research. We will discuss this in greater detail as the course progresses. The paper should be 8-10 pages long. Once again, no late papers will be accepted without a documented excuse.

Class participation rounds out your course work. Students are expected to attend class daily and to contribute to discussion. Attendance without discussion will net you only a grade of C on this portion of your work. Skip class at your own risk.

Final Examination: Mon. Dec. 15, 2003 12:45-2:45