Geography 1200: The City in the Western Tradition

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Required Texts:


Course Structure: The course is divided into 5 modules, each of which is focused on a particular era and a particular theme. Within each module there are 2 activities

- Assigned Required Readings: Each of assigned books complements the others: The Crisis of America's Cities outlines the basic forces that have shaped American cities over the last several hundred years, American Urban Form presents the geographic history of a fictional American city with a focus on the city's spatial form, and Detroit: A Biography tells the history of one of America's most fascinating cities - Detroit. Together they form a coherent picture of how the built environment of American cities has changed over the last 400 years and how cities grow and decline over time. Important Note: The assigned readings for the last two modules are quite long. Students are advised not to just stay up with the readings but to read ahead. It will be very difficult to complete the readings if students just stay up with each module's assigned readings.

- Exam Questions: To integrate the texts with each other and with course themes, each module focuses on several study questions through the module links in the course menu. Each study question has an introduction (generally a few paragraphs) that offers some context that leads to the study question. It is important to study these introductory paragraphs because they synthesize the readings. Each exam question, as posted in the module, will appear as one of
the exam questions. Hence, you are able to prepare your answers ahead of time. Answers should be limited to about 250-300 words.

**Grading:** The course is based on 14 essays - three for each module, except for Module 2 which only has 2 essays. The final grade will be determined by the average of the 11 highest essays. In other words, in determining the final grade the lowest 3 essays will be dropped. Note that dropped essays can be from any module.

**Final Grade Calculation:**

- "A"=93.0-100%; "A-"=90.0-9.29%; "B+"=87.0-89.9%;
- "B"=83.0-86.9%; "B-"=80.0 to 82.9%; "C+"=77.0-79.9%; "C"=73.0-76.9%; "C-"=70.0 to 72.9%;
- "D+"=67.0-69.9%; "D"=63.0-66.9%; "D-"=60.0 to 62.9%; "F"=0-59.9%.

**Policy Regarding Missed Exams:** Under no circumstances whatsoever will late exams be allowed. Note that the policy of basing the final grade on the 12 highest essays is more than adequate to missed essays or to compensate for previous poor grades.

**Exam Instructions:** Exams are posted as assignments from 12:00 am on the first day of the module until 11:59 pm on the last day of the module. Submissions can only be made once and cannot be edited after submissions. Hence, it is advised that you prepare the essays using some other software and then cutting and paste the final draft into the assignment. Usually any problems that crop up can be quickly solved. However, my ability to resolve problems becomes more difficult if you wait until the very final hours to submit your answers. Answers should be limited to about 250-300 words. Essays should be properly cited, including a list of references at the end of the essay. The simplest approach is parenthetical citations. Citations and list of references do not count against the 250-300 word limit. Submit your answer using the "Text Submission" through the "Write Submission" link. Do not submit by "attach files". Answers submitted by "attach files" will be reduced by 10%

**Safe Assign Check for Plagiarism:** Exams answers will be scanned for plagiarism using HuskyCT's Safe Assign module which flags submissions for possible plagiarism. Flagged exams will be investigated and if plagiarism is found it will be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowed by the University. Safe Assign not only scans your submission for plagiarism from outside sources but also submitting answers that are similar to other students in the class.

**Statement on Academic Integrity:** Students are presumed to be familiar with UConn policies on [Community Standards](#). Any form of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. Regarding plagiarism, this course relies upon UConn's [First-Year Writing Program’s Statement on Plagiarism](#). Please read
this statement and notify your instructor if you have any concerns about your ability to conform to these guidelines.

Course Schedule:

Module 1: 12/26-12/30 (before 1800)
- Bartlett: 1-2
- Warner: 1-2
- Martelle: Preface-2

Module 2: 12/31-1/4 (1800-1850)
- Bartlett: 3
- Warner: 3
- Martelle: 3

Module 3: 1/5-1/9 (1850-1900)
- Bartlett: 4
- Warner: 4
- Martelle: 4 & 5

Module 4: 1/10-1/14 (1900-1950)
- Bartlett: 5
- Warner: 5 & 6
- Martelle: 6-14
- The Mass Production of Mobility

Module 5: 1/15-1/18 (1950-Present)
- Bartlett: 6
- Warner: 7-9
- Martelle: 15-18
- Watch "Roger & Me" (1989) (will have to purchase on amazon, google, etc.)
- Watch Detroit on the Edge: