

**History of the American City in the Twentieth Century
HIUS 148/USP 103**

Prof. Nancy H. Kwak Office: HSS 6086A nhkwak@ucsd.edu	11-12:20pm Tu/Thurs PCYNH 106 Office Hours: W 1:00-3:00 by appointment
---	--

This course focuses on the phenomenon of modern American urbanization. Case studies of individual cities will help illustrate the social, political, and environmental consequences of rapid urban expansion, as well as the ways in which urban problems have been dealt with historically.

Readings: (All books are sold at the UCSD bookstore)

1. Robert Fishman, *Urban utopias in the twentieth century: Ebenezer Howard, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Le Corbusier* ISBN: 0262560232
2. Tom Wolfe, *From Bauhaus to our House* (New York: Bantam Books, 1999). 055338063X
3. Tom Sugrue, *The origins of the urban crisis* ISBN: 0691121869
4. Jane Jacobs, *Death and Life of Great American Cities* ISBN: 0679600477
5. Mike Davis, *Magical Urbanism: Latinos Reinvent the US City* ISBN: 1859847714

SUGGESTED READING – not required:

6. Peter Oberlander and Eva Newbrun, *Houser: the Life and Work of Catherine Bauer* ISBN: 0774807210

Walking tour fee:

Keep in mind this course has a required walking tour with a \$15 per person charge. This is how much the San Diego Architectural Foundation charges, and all money will go directly to them.

GRADING:

TAs will assign all grades. If you disagree with a grade you are given, please speak directly with your TA first. The breakdown for your grade will be as follows:

- Photo essay 1: 10%
- Photo essay 2: 10%
- Midterm exam: 40 points = 40%
- Non-cumulative final exam: 40 points = 40%

Photo essays: (600-800 words, not including footnotes - roughly 3 pages, double-spaced.)

ESSAY 1: When and where should the state (government) direct urban planning and architecture?

ESSAY 2: What has prevented the development of compact, sustainable cities from 1945 to today? What are the most important steps, in your opinion, in addressing these issues in the future, and what lessons does history provide?

For each photo essay, you will begin by taking two or more original photos that you think answer or address the question in some fashion. In the caption of each image, you must include the exact date and location of the photo. Craft a simple, strong argument in response to the question, and then substantiate your claim by referring to your images and your course readings. The more detailed, nuanced evidence, the better. You should present one copy of each written assignment to your TA, preferably printed double-sided.

Midterm and Final Exams:

Comprehensive review sheets will be distributed at least one week prior to the exam. You will not be tested on anything that is not on the review sheet.

Academic honesty:

Academic honesty is expected at all times. Any instance of plagiarism will be dealt with according to University and history department policy.

Policy on lecture notes and slides:

I will not post or give out my lecture notes and slides. (That's what class is for!)

If you have ANY questions...

Please feel free to visit during office hours if you have any questions or just want to introduce yourself!

Course Schedule

1/6: Intro to course, problems of the 19th c. industrial city
1/8: Immigrants and the urban frontier

1/13: Reformers: City Beautiful, Garden Cities
Finish Fishman, ch. 1

1/15: Housing: bungalows, New Towns
Finish Fishman, ch. 2

1/20: Architecture of the machine age
Finish Fishman, ch. 3 AND Wolfe (all)

1/22: Vernacular architecture

*1/19, 20, 22, 23: OPTIONAL: Attend free tour at Salk Institute. Begins at noon every day, Mon-Fri, but must register in advance at http://www.salk.edu/about/architecture_tours.html. Note: Salk closed on 1/21. Automatic extra credit of 3 points on midterm with digital photo of you attending tour and one short paragraph describing experience. Please print photo and paragraph on one page, single-spaced, and submit by 1/27. **No late submissions accepted.***

1/27: Federal government in the 1930s

Recommended but not required: Oberlander and Newbrun, pp. 109-181

1/29: Highways, freeways, automobiles

2/3: Suburban explosion, part 1
2/5: Suburban explosion, part 2

2/10: Midterm

2/12: The urban crisis
Sugrue, all

2/17: Urban renewal

2/19: Walking tour of Gaslamp Quarter. COST: \$15 each. Feel free to bring friends, but let me know in advance! Details TBA.

2/24: Urban collapse and fiscal crisis

2/26: Preservation and gentrification
Jacobs, all

3/3: Revamping the city, combating sprawl

3/5: Postmodern cities and new urbanism
Davis, all

3/10: Globalizing cities, urban terror

3/12: Greener cities