

UST 606: The Evolution of Human Settlements

Fall Semester, 2023

Maxine Goodman Levin School of Urban Studies
Cleveland State University
Fall Semester, 2023: Mondays, 7:00 – 9:50 pm
Urban Building, Room 106

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Office Hours: Mondays, 4:30-6pm, or by Appointment

Course Overview:

Today's densely populated, urban, socio-technical cities are the result of thousands of years of the evolution of human settlements around the world. They are our greatest achievements, and our greatest failures, simultaneously. They pose the greatest threats to our future, and they drive our culture's greatest opportunities.

This course is an examination of the history of human settlements and the major intellectual traditions focusing on urbanism, especially the city. These traditions span a variety of disciplines from history, political science, economics, architecture, theology, literature, sociology, and others. Many of the theorists are themselves interdisciplinary. By the end of the course, students will begin to understand and apply relevant theories, concepts, and ideas about cities in consideration of plans, policies and decisions that affect the governance and future of these complex, urban systems.

The work of this course has two primary components. The first is class-meetings. Class-meetings will mix lecture and seminar-style discussions. Each class meeting will cover many topics, so **students are expected to prepare for and attend all classes. Several classes have a great deal of reading, so please organize your time to keep pace.**

Please make sure you inform the instructor if you will miss any class. All students should participate actively in discussions, ask clarifying questions, challenge the material you have read, and encourage critical perspectives from your colleagues.

The second component of the class is comprised of written work. **All written assignments for this class are to be original works, written by each student individually.** Written work will include writing two short papers (4-5 pages), and writing one longer paper (8-10 pages). Topics for the papers will be described below.

Learning objectives:

- Obtain an overview of the natural, social, economic, and political histories of diverse human settlements throughout the world, with special emphasis upon the environmental and geographical factors that have come to characterize them through time;
- Begin to know and understand the component principles and characteristics of the dynamics of complex, evolving social systems and how they apply within the context of human settlements;
- Come to know salient characterizing elements of human settlements at various times and places recorded in natural and written history, including those in the Neolithic, ancient, medieval, industrial, and information ages;
- Understand the theories and assess the empirical evidence used to establish the validity of evolutionary explanations of change in human settlements;
- Obtain insight into how evolutionary processes have determined the state of human settlements around the world today;
- Extend the substantive knowledge of past human settlements together with principles of evolutionary and systems theory to anticipate possible future outcomes, and contemplate policy proposals that might influence those outcomes;
- Obtain insights into individual and collective human thought and behavior which are essential for participants and reformers to improve the success with which they solve problems within complex urban social systems today;
- Become familiar with salient dimensions of the state of human settlements around the world today, and the threats to their sustainability;
- Stimulate questions, discussion, and critical thinking, on an informed basis, and with an open mind, about current urban policies and practices.

Course Delivery Mode:

The course will be delivered in-person in Room 106 at CSU's Urban Building (on the corner of Euclid and 17th Street). If you know you have been exposed recently to COVID-19 or any other contagious, respiratory virus, or if you have tested positive within five days of the class, you are urged to protect yourself and your fellow students by wearing a mask in class.

If you are unable to attend class because of illness, or if you have made arrangements before class with the instructor, you may participate in class via a Zoom link. **The Zoom link will be established only if arrangements are made before the start of class.**

Zoom Link for Class Meetings: ID xxx xxxx xxxxxx

How to obtain class readings:

William M. Bowen and Robert E. Gleeson, *The Evolution of Human Settlements: From Pleistocene Origins to Anthropocene Prospects* (Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019). This book can be downloaded at no cost via the Springer-Link connection at the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State. It will also be available at no cost on the course's Blackboard site.

All other readings will be available on the course's Blackboard site.

Class Schedule:

August 28: Introduction and Review of Course.

Sept. 4: Holiday - Labor Day -- No Class

Sept. 11: Systems Thinking, Human Systems Before Settlements

Readings: Kim article
Bowen & Gleeson, Preface, Chapters 1-3
Simon article
Hofkirchner article
David article

Sept. 18: The Origins & Early Evolution of Human Settlements.

Readings: Bowen & Gleeson, Chapter 4
Fuller, et. al. article
MacNeish, Chapter 1

Sept. 25: From Settlements to Civilizations.

Readings: Bowen & Gleeson, Chapter 5
Review Bowen & Gleeson, Chapters 6-8
Redfield & Singer article
Mumford, Chapters 6-7
Beard, Chapters 4-5
Hsu, Chapter 3

Paper One Due via TurnItIn link on Blackboard site by 3pm.

Oct 2: The Great Transformation and Urbanization

Readings: Bowen & Gleeson, Chapter 9
Mann, Chapter 8
Hohenberg & Lee, Chapters 6-7

Oct. 9: The Evolution of Urban America

Readings: Morris, Chapter 5
Warner article
Rosenberg & Birdzell, Chapter 8
Storper & Walker, Chapter 3

Oct 16: The New American City

Readings: Jackson, Chapter 14
Fishman article
Bluestone and Harrison, Chapters 1-2
Davis, Chapter 7
Florida article

Oct. 23: Today's Global Urban Systems

Readings: Beaverstock article
Sassan article
Friedmann & Wolff article

Oct. 30: Globalization and Innovation in the Information Age

Readings: Forman, Goldfarb, & Greenstein article
Alvedalen & Boschma article
Asheim, Smith & Oughton article
Leamer & Storper article
B. Friedman article

Nov. 6: Climate Change and Sustainable Settlement Systems

Readings: CSSR, Executive Summary
World Cities Report 2016, Chapter 5
Liu, et. al. article
Ostrom article
Bar-On, Phillips, & Milo article

Paper Two Due via TurnItIn link on Blackboard site by 3pm.

Nov. 13: Governance, Inequality, and Housing

Readings: World Cities Report 2016 – Chapters 3 – 4
World Cities Report 2016 – Chapters 6 – 10

Nov. 20: Course Summary and Review

Readings: Bowen and Gleeson, Chapters 10-12

Nov. 27: Student Presentations and Discussions.

Dec 4: Student Presentations and Discussions.

Monday, Dec 11: – Final papers due via TurnItIn link on Blackboard site by 6pm.

Class Policies and Practices:

Grades:

Grading will use the standard letter grades, and the +/- system will be used. Grading will be determined by the following:

Short Paper #1	35 points
Short Paper #2	35 points
Final Paper	75 points
Presentation of Final Paper	20 points
Final Presentation PowerPoint	20 points
Consistent participation in class discussions	<u>15 points</u>
Total	200 points

Short Papers:

Each student will write two short papers, each approximately 3-4 pages in length. Topics will be discussed in class. Each paper must be submitted using the TurnItIn link that is provided on the course's Blackboard site.

Final Paper and Presentation:

The final paper should be no more than 10 pages in length. It will involve posing and defending a hypothesis about “The State of _____ in Human Settlement Systems.” You may fill in the blank with any aspect of these systems you choose. You might, for

example, want to consider knowledge, morality, language, tribalism, planning, housing, racial justice, energy, or any other relevant topic. The objective will be to describe, using empirical data and information, the salient characterizing elements of the state of whatever aspect of human settlement systems you chose to consider. Your paper should raise important questions and issues and bring up current facts about your topic.

It should then analyze key questions and problems regarding how your topic applies to **at least one specific urban area** that you care about. In other words, you should examine your topic broadly, then identify the implications for one local place you care about.

The last portion of your paper should identify **at least three specific recommendations** for how local actors can address the topic you choose in your specific urban area. **Each final paper must be submitted using the TurnItIn link that is provided on the course's Blackboard site.**

Your presentation should review your topic and present your recommended actions. The presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes (which translates into about ten slides in PowerPoint). **Each final presentation PowerPoint can be submitted via email to the instructor at r.gleeson@csuohio.edu.**

The Basis of Grading for Papers:

An “A” assignment will be one that clearly and accurately presents a coherent thesis, argument or point-of-view, which (in the case of the papers) is free of grammatical and syntactical errors, and which in the instructor’s judgment provides convincing evidence of a deep, long, logical chain of reasoning from explicit assumptions and evidence about the relevant topic.

A “B” assignment will be one that does not meet this standard but that nevertheless demonstrates that you have a clear grasp of the relevant evidence and principles regarding the topic, contains no more than a few minor grammatical and syntactical errors, and/or suggests the possibility that a sound and well-reasoned thesis, argument, or point-of-view along the lines contained in the paper (and/or presentation) could be constructed with additional work.

A “C” assignment will be one that does not meet the standard for a “B” assignment, but that nevertheless contains the rough outline of a thesis, argument or point-of-view. Evidence and/or logic may be lacking, or the paper may be written in substandard English.

Papers and/or presentations that do not meet the standard for a “C” assignment will be graded accordingly. Pluses (+) and minuses (-) will be assigned with each letter grade based on the instructor’s assessment.

Late assignments and incompletes:

Unless extenuating circumstances require otherwise and the instructor **agrees beforehand** to accept a late assignment, late work will not be accepted for full credit. **Late papers will be penalized by ½ of a letter grade per day (including weekends).**

A grade of “Incomplete” will not, as a rule, be assigned at the end of class, unless the conditions stipulated in university’s definition are met.

Expectations for written work: Spell-check and proofread everything you hand in (these are not the same things). Critically evaluate all work handed in for correctness, completeness, and clarity. Only work that is error free in all three of these categories will earn a grade of ‘A’ in this course. All university policies for plagiarism will be enforced in the class. Please note that all written assignments are to be submitted through the TurnItIn links provided on the Blackboard site for the course.

Attendance: Attendance is expected. It is strongly recommended that you attend every class in its entirety. Prior approval by the instructor is needed if you need to miss a class.

Cancellation of Class Due to Weather: If the university cancels classes on campus because of inclement weather, the class will be held using the Zoom link provided in the syllabus.

Students with Special Needs: Educational access includes the provision of learning accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based upon the impact of a disability should immediately contact the Office of Disability Services at 216-687-2015. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively. Students should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they have been granted an accommodation through the Office of Disability Services.

Institutional Equity: Cleveland State University is committed to social justice: the university makes its best effort not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. The instructor fully concurs with that commitment and expects to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Personal attacks of any form will not be tolerated.