

DRAFT SYLLABUS / CERTAIN TO CHANGE

**Transformations of Urban America:
Making the Unequal City, 1945-Present**

HIST 153 / URB 104

M/W, 2:00-3:20pm
Location TBD

This lecture and project-based course is designed to introduce students to the historical development of modern American cities since World War II. Organized chronologically and thematically, the course is also designed to offer students an introduction to different ways of *knowing* and *experiencing* urban life through projects, readings, documentaries, and lectures organized around particular fields of humanistic inquiry concerned with urbanity. These include sociology, ethnography, political science, and history. Assignments will include short ethnographic research projects, creative topical mapping, short written assignments, and historical and contemporary digital mapping and research into urban renewal sites in Philadelphia. Course topics will include housing and gentrification; power, democracy, and urban citizenship; education; suburbanization; crime and policing; and inequality and opportunity in the global urban renaissance of today.

Books and other materials to purchase:

Elizabeth Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime: The Making of Mass Incarceration in America* (Harvard, 2017)
Annelise Orleck, *Storming Caesar's Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty* (Beacon, 2006)
Richard Rothstein, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (Liveright, 2017)
Patrick Sharkey, *Uneasy Peace: The Great Crime Decline, the Renewal of City Life, and the Next War on Violence* (Norton, 2018)
SEPTA Key Card (available for purchase at Penn Bookstore)

Schedule of Assignments

Unit I: Introduction to the Modern City

W. Jan. 16	L1.1: Approaches to Studying the Modern City
M. Jan. 21	WS: Ways of knowing, experiencing, and studying cities Margaret O'Mara, "Building 'Brainsville': The University of Pennsylvania and Philadelphia," <i>Cities of Knowledge</i> , 142-181
W. Jan. 23	Field Visit: University City

MacKenzie Carlson, "A History of the University City Science Center: Part 3: The Approval Process, Displacement, Protests, and a Lasting Public Relations Disaster (1965-1971)

Davarian L. Baldwin, "When Universities Swallow Cities," *The Chronicle Review*, July 30, 2017

M. Jan. 28 L1.2: Sociological and ethnographic approaches to urban life

Sharkey, *Uneasy Peace*

Gideon Lewis-Kraus, "The Trials of Alice Goffman," *New York Times Magazine*, January 12, 2016

W. Jan. 30 WS: Neighborhood Observation / Mapping Assignments

Neighborhoods: Society Hill, East Poplar, Yorktown, Nicetown, Washington Square

Intro to Demographic databases, Social Explorer, and Solnit maps

M. Feb. 4 Project workshop

W. Feb. 6 Presentations, discussion of initial findings of observations
Historical questions response due

Unit 2: The Spatial Organization of Cities: Housing, Public Policy, and Capitalism

M. Feb. 11 Lecture 2.1: The politics of redlining and suburbanization

Rothstein, *The Color of Law*

W. Feb. 13 HOLC Neighborhood Redlining Workshop

M. Feb. 18 Lecture 2.2: Urban Renewal and the Public Housing Crisis

Austen, *High Risers*

Rothstein, *The Color of Law*

W. Feb. 20 Urban Renewal Workshop / Final Projects Assigned

View: *The Pruitt Igoe Myth*

Mia Bay, "Invisible Tethers: Transportation and Discrimination in the Age of Katrina," in *Katrina's Imprint: Race and Vulnerability in America*

M. Feb. 25 Lecture 2.3: Making Cities for Suburbs

Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic*, chs. 5 and 6

W. Feb. 27 Documentary (TBD)

M. Mar. 11 Mapping Workshop

W. Mar. 13 Lecture 2.4: Benign Neglect? Cities in Crisis in the Seventies

Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime*

M. Mar. 18 Lecture 2.5: Origins of Gentrification & Silver Bullet Urban Development

Osman, *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn*

Davis, *City of Quartz*

W. Mar. 20 Mapping Workshop

Unit 3: Power & Democracy in the Unequal City

M. Mar. 25 Lecture 3.1: Who Governs?

Clarence Stone, *Regime Politics*

Paul Peterson, *City Limits*

W. Mar. 27 Workshop: Flash research projects on Amazon HQ2

M. Apr. 1 Lecture 3.2: Forms of Black Power

Orleck, *Storming Caesar's Palace*

Fernandez, *Brown in the Windy City*

W. Apr. 3 Discussion: Enacting Rights in the Unequal City

Orleck, *Storming Caesar's Palace*

Christina B. Hanhardt, Introduction, *Safe Space: Gay Neighborhoods History and the Politics of Violence*

M. Apr. 8 Lecture 3.3: The War on Crime and Criminalizing Communities of Color

Hinton, *From the War on Poverty to the War on Crime*

Sharkey, *Uneasy Peace*

Documentary TBD (*Let it Fall* / *Central Park Five*)

W. Apr. 10 Mapping Workshop
Social Explorer & Crime Statistics

M. Apr. 15	Lecture: 3.4: Education, Resegregation, and School Choice
W. Apr. 17	Workshop: Flash research projects on schooling in Philadelphia
M. Apr. 22	Lecture 3.5: Demobilization, Privatization, and Gentrification Today
W. Apr. 24	Mapping Workshop
M. Apr. 29	Final Project Presentations
W. May 1	Final Project Presentations