CLEVELAND: THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
UST 202 – Fall 2007

Course Description

This introductory course will explore the past, present, and future of Cleveland using the African-American experience as the focus. The course will employ interdisciplinary perspectives, including history, demography, economics, political science and city planning. Students will examine the origins and dynamics of the city's growth and decline, placing special emphasis on current black economic, institutional and political issues. Since 55 percent of Cleveland's 2005 population is African-American, the reality of race and racial discrimination will be central to our discussions of housing, poverty, education and other functional issues. Extensive efforts will be made to link abstract theories with the reality of present-day Cleveland experience.

Guest lecturers will be invited, including several black leaders with long personal involvement in the city of Cleveland's affairs.

Course Objectives

This course should familiarize students with the historical, economic, and political evolution of the city of Cleveland and its current issues and problems especially as these problems relate to African-American citizens. It should also provide students with a basic understanding of black evolution in the city and Cleveland's major institutions and their place within the larger region and the state. The course complements: UST 200 (Introduction to Urban Studies); UST 419 (Neighborhood Analysis); and HIS 307 (History of Cleveland).

Assignments

Students will be asked to take a mid-term test and a final exam and write three short papers.

The first paper will be approximately three (3) typed and double-spaced pages in length. Using your assigned textbook A Ghetto Takes Shape by Kenneth Kusmer, supplementary readings and class discussions, you are to describe the urban changes that took place from 1870 to 1930 that created Cleveland's Central Avenue ghetto. Touch on migration patterns, occupational and housing discrimination, racial discrimination and other issues. The first paper will be due Thursday, September 27th. (10 points).

The second paper will be a report on the census tract which has been assigned to you. Using the census books at NODIS and
data from the Housing Research Project you are to display the following data for each decade from 1980 to 2000: population; race (white, black, other); percent owners; percent renters; average size of household and median sales price. You are to analyze these data and write a short (3-5 page) paper on what happened in your census tract from 1980 to 2000. Recent photos will strengthen your paper. Ms. Sharon Bliss in Room 029 of the Urban Building will provide help if you need it. This paper will be due on Thursday, November 1st. (10 points).

Paper three will use class discussions, assigned readings and “Quiet Crisis” articles in the Plain Dealer. Write a 5-7 page paper describing Cleveland’s present situation and the city’s future in 2020. Discuss:

1. Population & housing trends (who will live here in 2020?)
2. Poverty, race & income (where will they work?)
3. Industry & the general economy (will the economy be going up?)
4. Lakefront development (how will our lakefront look?)

The final paper will be due on the date of the last class lecture Thursday, December 6th (15 points).

PLEASE NOTE: LATE PAPERS WILL BE DOWNGRADED AND PAPERS MORE THAN A WEEK LATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
There will be two books:

**Cleveland: A Metropolitan Reader**, Dennis Keating, Norman Krumholz, David Perry (eds.), (Kent State University Press, 1995).


We may also screen one or more of these videos from the Cleveland Heritage program:
- The Black Experience in Cleveland, 30 minutes
- Immigrants and Cities, 30 minutes
- We Who Built Cleveland, 29 minutes
- Cleveland: A City on Schedule 30 minutes

Supplementary readings are also accessible at the Library Home Page; click on Electronic Reserves and UST 202. Students may also wish to purchase or otherwise refer to: John Grabowski and David Van Tassel, **Cleveland: A Tradition of Reform** (Kent State University Press, 1986); Carol Poh Miller and Robert Wheeler, **Cleveland: A Concise History, 1796-1990** (Indiana University Press, 1991); and the **Encyclopedia of Cleveland History** (University of Indiana Press, 1996).

Four additional modules may be found on the Internet at all NETSCAPE access locations at:

http://cua6.csuohio.edu/~norm/100main.htm

Module #1: Origins of Cleveland
Module #2: Hough and Glenville Racial Riots
Module #3: School Desegregation
Module #4: Alternative Futures for Cleveland

**Physically Challenged**

It is important that students with handicaps requiring special accommodations identify themselves to the instructor immediately so that we can seek appropriate arrangements.

**Students with Special Needs**

Anyone anticipating needing special accommodations to take exams or complete assignments must identify themselves to the instructor by the end of the second week of classes. These include accommodations for physical handicaps, learning disabilities, and English as a second language.
Grades

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Paper #2</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper #3</td>
<td>15</td>
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100-90 = A
89-80 = B
79-70 = C
69-60 = D

Course Outline

Week 1
- Introduction and Overview
- Founding of Cleveland and Early History

Week 2
- Almost Equal: Black Cleveland Before 1870
- Post-Civil War Economic Development

Week 3
- Immigration and Its Impact; Neighborhood formation
- Founding Fathers and Mothers.

Week 4
- Politics: Conflict and Reform
- A Ghetto Takes Shape in Central

Week 5
- Racial Discrimination as an Emerging Issue
- The Evolution of Cleveland's Black Politics

NOTE: Paper # 1 due Thursday, September 27th

Week 6
- Cleveland Architecture: From Log Cabin to Glass Tent: Slide Lectures

Week 7
- Race and Class-Oriented Planning in Cleveland

Week 8
- Voices From the Neighborhoods

Week 9
- The Establishment and Growth Machines

Week 10
- Role of the Foundations and Other Non-Profits

NOTE: Paper # 2 due Thursday, November 1st.

Week 11
- Current Issue - Racial Discrimination: Who Pays the Costs?
Week 12  
Current Issue - Housing and Poverty: Interactions Among Variables

Current Issue - Education: The Busing Order and Beyond

Week 13  
Current Issue - Greater Cleveland: Regional Trends and Problems

Week 14 & 15  
Alternative Futures for Cleveland - #1, #2, and #3

NOTE: Paper #3 due Thursday, December 6th, last day of class

Readings

All reading assignments will be found in your text books, and reserved readings and Library Home Page, click on <www.ulib.csuohio.electronic reserves.202>

Week 1  
Introduction and Overview

Founding of Cleveland and Early History

Week 2  
Almost Equal: Black Cleveland Before 1870
Metro Reader, Part 2, by Miller and Wheeler.

Week 3  
Economic Development
READ:  Metro Reader, Part 3, "The Cleveland Economy" by Edward Hill.
Week 4
Politics: Conflict and Reform
READ:
Metro Reader, Part 4, all three articles.
James F. Richardson, "Political Reform in Cleveland," from Grabowski and Van Tassel (eds.), Cleveland: A Tradition of Reform (Kent State University Press, 1986).
Roldo, "Thank Dennis For This." Free Times, 5/12/1993.

Week 5
Immigration and Neighborhoods
READ:
Metro Reader, Part 6, all four articles.
NOTE: PAPER #1 DUE September 27th.

Week 6
Cleveland Architecture: From Log Cabin to
READ:
Glass Tent: Slide Lectures
Clay, Herrick, Jr. Cleveland Landmarks pp. 18-19; 34; 50; 56; 60-61; 80; 86; 180; 122; 172; 186.

Week 7
Governance: Public and Private
READ:
Metro Reader, Part 5, all three articles.
NOTE: Mid-Term Test Thursday, October 11th

Week 8
Voices From The Neighborhoods
READ:
Metro Reader, Part 8, first three articles.

Week 9
The Establishment and Growth Machine
READ:  

Metro Reader: “How 50 Businessmen Saved a Sick City,” by Myron Magnet


Week 10
Foundations and Other Non-Profits
READ:

Norman Krumholz, 1997 “The Provision of Affordable Housing in Cleveland” in Van Vliet Housing & Urban Redevelopment in the U.S.


NOTE: PAPER #2 DUE Friday, November 1st.

Week 11
Racial Discrimination as an Emerging Issue
READ:
Metro Reader, Part 7, all three articles.

Week 12
Current Issues - Housing and Poverty: Interactions Among Variables
READ:
Metro Reader: Part 8, last two articles.

Week 13
Current Issues - Regional Trends and Problems
Weeks 14 & 15
Alternative Futures for Cleveland #1, #2, and #3

NOTE: PAPER #3 DUE ON THE LAST LECTURE DAY OF CLASS, Thursday, December 6th.

Selected Bibliography

(Not required, but offered for students anxious to increase their understanding of our city)

ARCHITECTURE, CITY PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT


THE ARTS


BIOGRAPHY


**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**


**ETHNIC AND RACIAL GROUPS**


Chatterjee, Pranab.  *Local Leadership in Black Communities.* Commerce Copy Co., Cleveland.


Callahan, Nelson J.  *Irish Americans and Their Communities of Cleveland.* Cleveland: Cleveland State University, 1978.


GENERAL HISTORIES


Akers, William J. Cleveland Schools in the Nineteenth Century. Cleveland: W. M. Bayne, 1901.


MULTI-MEDIA


Nature's Last Stand. 16 mm, 5 min. Cleveland: Board of Parks Commissioners, 1966.

The Old Neighborhood. Slide/Tape, 30 min. Cleveland: Cleveland Heritage Program, 1983.


Workers and Industrial Unrest in Cleveland. Videotape, 30 min. Cleveland: Cleveland Heritage Program, 1981.

NEIGHBORHOODS


Green, Howard Whipple. Relation of the "Central Area: To the Entire City. 3 vols. Cleveland: Cleveland Health Council, 1944.


"The People are the City." Three Cleveland Neighborhoods 1796-1980: A Series of Exhibitions on Broadway, Hough and Tremont During the Summer and Fall of 1980 by the Cuyahoga County Archives. Cleveland: Cuyahoga County Archives, 1980.


Leahy, Peter. "A Neighborhood in Transition" (Hough), University of Akron, Department of Urban Studies.
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT


Griffin, Burt W. Cities Within a City. Cleveland: College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, 1981.

Howe, Fredric C. Confessions of a Reformer. n.p.: Scribner's Sons, 1925.


Bartimole, Roldo, "Point of View," a bi-weekly political commentary, 1965-present.

SUBURBS


