Meeting Time: No class meetings (on-line January 19, 2010-May 14, 2010)
Location: Web-based (Section 501)
Instructor: Dr. Mittie Davis Jones
Office: Room 208, Levin College of Urban Affairs
Teaching Assistant: Maura David
Technical Support: IS&T Call Center, 216.687.5050 or call.center@csuohio.edu.
E-mail: Use Blackboard e-mail function to contact Dr. Jones
Office hours: By appointment
Phone: 216-687-3861

Required Textbook

Recommended Text
Browne, M. Neil and Stuart M. Keeley, *Asking the Right Questions: A Guide to Critical Thinking*, 8th Edition, Pearson Prentice Hall (5th, 6th, or 7th editions of this text are fine). You do not have to buy this book; it is recommended because it may help you with the critical thinking exercises.

Course Objectives
This course is an introduction to the study of cities using an interdisciplinary approach that includes economic development, environmental studies, anthropology, psychology, sociology and public administration. The course emphasizes the roots of the contemporary urban experience and integrates the field of urban studies with students’ everyday experiences. The course is designed to meet the following learning objectives in accordance with CSU’s General Education requirements:

**Breadth of Knowledge: Social Science**
- Understand the complex issues and challenges facing urban areas.
- Recognize the importance and usefulness of multi-disciplinary approaches to resolving these challenges.
- Introduce basic theoretical and empirical concepts used in the respective social scientific disciplines to explain the behavior of individuals and groups in societies, economies, governments, and subcultures.
- Present how data are collected and analyzed in social-scientific disciplines.

**Skill: Critical Thinking**
- Inspire critical thinking using multi-disciplinary approaches and exercises.
- Develop higher-order thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation) to address complex urban problems.

**Skill: Writing**
- Completion of “writing-to-learn” exercises through online discussions designed to incorporate concepts learned in the text chapters into daily life experiences.
• Fulfillment of “writing-to-communicate” exercises designed to test understanding of academic journal articles and ability to convey responses in a logical manner.

Additional Skills:
• Encourage time management through multiple assignments.
• Develop technology management and exploration skills.

General Education Statement
This course fulfills a Social Science Breadth of Knowledge General Education requirement and promotes the Skill Areas of critical thinking and writing.

Course Method
The course is offered completely on-line. In addition to reading and taking quizzes and examinations, students are expected to complete written homework assignments and to participate in on-line discussions with classmates. The purpose of the on-line discussions is to give students an opportunity to share thoughts and perspectives on the topics covered in this course.

Course Requirements
Grades are based on written homework assignments, participation in discussions, quizzes, a mid-term exam, and a final exam. Students are expected to:
• Read all textbook chapters and other assigned readings before beginning the respective on-line sessions.
• Prepare and submit all assignments.
• Participate actively in on-line discussions and ask clarifying questions.
• Send all correspondence through Blackboard.
• Log on to the course on Blackboard at least every other day to check for changes and/or additional information.

Policies
• Students requiring special accommodations should immediately inform the instructor.
• Refer to the CSU Bulletin for add/drop, withdrawal procedures, S/U, and incomplete grading.
• For class cancellations due to weather or other circumstances, call CSU information (687-2000) before class, or access the Cleveland State University home page at www.csuohio.edu.
• Academic misconduct: plagiarism or cheating may result in an “F” for the course.
• Please see the course on Blackboard for changes and/or additional information.

Grades
• Letter grades are assigned as follows:

  • A  95-100%
  • A-  91-94
  • B+  87-90
  • B   84-86
  • B-  81-83
  • C+  77-80
  • C   71-76
- D  61-70
- F  60 or less

Last day to drop: January 28, 2010
Last day to withdraw: April 2, 2010

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will result in a failed grade on an assignment or for the course. The CSU Code of Student Conduct defines plagiarism as stealing and/or using the ideas or writings of another in a paper or report and claiming them as your own. This includes but is not limited to the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment.

The CSU Writing Center has information to assist students with writing and avoid plagiarism. Consult the center at: www.csuohio.edu/academic/writingcenter/WAC/

Academic Accommodations

Educational access is the provision of classroom accommodations, auxiliary aids and services to ensure equal educational opportunities for all students regardless of their disability. Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services at (216) 687-2015. The Office is located in MC 147. Accommodations need to be requested in advance and will not be granted retroactively.

Required Activities
Every student must complete:
  1) a quiz for each chapter assigned (although they may be taken multiple times within the assigned time frame).
  2) one assignment on each faculty publications written in response to the question presented by the professor.
  3) on-line discussions with other class members (in response to a question posed by the instructor). See below for a description of these activities.
  4) two critical thinking essays
  5) a midterm examination
  6) a final examination

Weekly Quizzes (15%)
Each week students is required to take a quiz on the textbook reading assigned for that week. Each quiz is composed of ten questions randomly selected from a larger bank of questions. You may take the quiz as often as you like to get a higher grade but each time you take it, the set of questions will be different. There are two incentives for retaking the quiz. First, the mid-term and final will be drawn from this bank of questions. The more you take the quiz, the more practice you get, and the more questions you will see. Second, you can take it until you get a perfect score of 10. There is no disincentive to taking it over and over. Blackboard will save the highest grade. So if you take it three times to get a 10, but want to take it as part of your study strategy, and then get a 7, 8 and 6---the 10 stands as
your quiz grade for that chapter. **Quizzes must be completed by the dates indicated on the syllabus.**

♦ **Faculty Publication Essays (20%)**
  All students are required to read and respond to two academic writings by current or former Levin College faculty. The readings cover research in their respective areas of expertise.

Students must complete a writing assignment of approximately two pages about the readings. The writing assignment will consist of your response to a question pertaining to the writing and is due as shown in the syllabus schedule. Grading rubrics are provided to guide you in preparing your response.

**All homework assignments are due by 9:00 p.m. on the dates shown on the syllabus.** The grade on late homework assignments will be reduced by one increment per day (B to B-, for example).

For your homework assignments, you are required to name the homework files with your name (e.g., MarySmith_homework1.doc) and put your name on the first page of your homework assignment or they will not be accepted. Homework assignments must be submitted as attachments under the Blackboard assignments tab.

♦ **On-line Discussions (10%)**
  An on-line discussion will be held weekly covering topics from the assigned chapters. The instructor will pose a question and indicate the requirements of a sufficient answer. Students are expected to answer that question and respond to **two** other students’ contributions as well (a minimum of three responses). When you respond to another student, you must do so in a separate box, not in your initial answer to the discussion. Instructions on how to use the discussion function are available on Blackboard. **Discussion postings cannot be late; discussion boards will be locked at 9:01pm on the day indicated in the schedule and no late postings will be accepted.**

♦ **Exams (midterm=15% + final=20%)**
  Questions for the mid-term and final exams will be drawn from the quiz banks. The final is not cumulative; it covers only the second half of the class. The mid-term and final exams can only be taken ONE time with a time limit of one hour. The exams are taken through Blackboard. **There are no makeup exams and no extra credit.**

♦ **Critical Thinking Essays (20%)**
  Students will be required to write two (2) critical thinking essays. You will be presented with a scenario and you must answer questions about it. Grading rubrics are provided to guide you in preparing your response.

For your homework assignments, you are required to name the homework files with your name (e.g., MarySmith_homework1.doc) and put your name on the first page of your homework assignment or they will not be accepted. Homework assignments must be submitted as attachments under the Blackboard assignments tab.
N.B.: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE TECHNOLOGY. YOU NEED TO FACTOR THAT INTO YOUR PLANNING AND ORGANIZATION.
For example, keep copies of your completed homework in case it doesn't download correctly. Call the professor immediately if the computer crashes in the middle of an exam. If your personal computer crashes, you will have to find another way to participate such as using university computers.

Workplace Use of Technology
For those of you who have permission to do your work at your workplace and plan to do so, please be advised that many workplaces have computer safeguards in place that may prevent you from accessing certain course components. In particular, workplace firewalls may have pop-up blockers that block the quizzes and exams.

Directions on using Blackboard and Blackboard to complete assignments can be found at:  http://www.csuohio.edu/elearning/ and http://www.csuohio.edu/elearning/help.html.
Course Schedule and Assignments

Week of January 19
Reading: Chapter 1 -- The City Evolves (History)
Assignments due: Chapter 1 quiz and discussion by January 31, 2010 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of January 25
Reading: Chapter 2 -- The City Relies on Its Foundations (Geology) and discussion
Assignments due: Chapter 2 quiz and discussion by February 7 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment available: Critical Thinking Essay #1 (due on February 21, 9:00 p.m.)

Week of February 1
Reading: Chapter 3 -- The City Builds (Architecture and Design)
Assignments due: Chapter 3 quiz and discussion by February 14 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of February 8
Reading: Chapter 4 -- The City Organizes Its Space (Geography)
Assignments due: Chapter 4 and discussion by February 21 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment due: Critical Thinking Essay #1 by February 21, 9:00 p.m.

Week of February 15
Reading: Chapter 5 -- The City Looks Ahead (Urban Planning)
Assignments due: Chapter 5 quiz and discussion by February 28 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment available: Greater Cleveland's First Suburbs Consortium: Fighting Sprawl and Suburban Decline by Dr. Dennis Keating (due on March 28 at 9:00 p.m.)

Week of February 22
Reading: Chapter 6 -- The City Worships (Sacred Landmarks)
Assignments due: Chapter 6 quiz and discussion by March 7 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of March 1
Reading: Chapter 7 -- The City Manages Itself (Public Works)
Assignments due: Chapter 7 quiz and discussion by March 13 at 9:00 p.m. (note this is Saturday and not Sunday because midterm grades must be submitted by March 14)

MIDTERM: Week of March 8 (deadline is March 13 at 9:00 p.m.)

Week of March 15
SPRING RECESS – ENJOY

Week of March 22
Reading: Chapter 8 -- The City Manages Itself (Public Works)
Assignments due: Chapter 8 quiz and discussion by April 4 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment due: Greater Cleveland’s First Suburbs Consortium: Fighting Sprawl and Suburban Decline (Dr. Dennis Keating) by March 28 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of March 29
Reading: Chapter 9 – The City Governs Itself (Political Science)
Assignments due: Chapter 9 quiz and discussion by April 11 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment available: People and the Competitive Advantage of Place by Dr. Shari Garmise (due on April 18 at 9:00 p.m.)

Week of April 5
Reading: Chapter 10 -- The City Serves the Public (Public Administration)
Assignments due: Chapter 10 quiz and discussion by April 18 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of April 12
Reading: Chapter 11 -- The City Works (Economic Development)
Assignment due: Chapter 11 quiz and discussion by April 25 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment due: People and the Competitive Advantage of Place (Dr. Shari Garmise) by April 18 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignment available: Critical Thinking Essay #2 by May 2 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of April 19
Reading: Chapter 12 -- The City Regulates Itself (Law)
Assignments due: Chapter 12 quiz and discussion by May 2 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of April 26
Reading: Chapter 13 -- The City Understands Itself (Psychology)
Assignment due: Critical Thinking Essay #2 by May 2 at 9:00 p.m.
Assignments due: Chapter 13 quiz and discussion by May 9 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of May 3
Readings: Chapter 14 & 17 -- The City Confronts Social Issues (Sociology) and The City Faces Its Future (Technology and the Future of the City)
Assignments due: Chapter 14 & 17 quizzes and discussions by May 9 at 9:00 p.m.

Week of May 10
Final Exam: Due date is Friday, May 14, 9:00 p.m.
Appendix 1

Faculty Biographies

**Professor Mittie Davis Jones** holds a Ph.D. in political science and her Master of Urban Planning from Wayne State University. She holds a B.A. from Michigan State University. Dr. Jones has been a practitioner, student, and researcher in the field of urban affairs for over 30 years. Her previous work experience includes positions in city planning, public housing management, and housing program development. She has served on the boards of and as technical advisor to a number of community-based organizations in Detroit and Cleveland. Her interests include urban politics, public policy analysis, housing and community development, public housing, fair housing, race relations, and program evaluation.

**Professor Shari Garmise** is a former Assistant Professor at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs. In 1995, she received her Ph.D. in political science from the London School of Economics, where she specialized in local economic development policy. She received her M.A. in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and her B.A. from Tufts University.

**Professor Dennis Keating** is a Levin College Distinguished Professor. During fall 2003, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Department of Urban Studies, University of Glasgow, Scotland. He teaches courses on housing, neighborhood development, urban planning, and land use law.