

**Urban Development**  
**POSC 537.01/SOC 422.01**

Fall 2007  
W 12:00-3:50 p.m.  
AC 209  
Office Hours: TWF 4:00-5:00  
and by appointment

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**Description:** An interdisciplinary study of the structure, functions, needs, and problems of urban areas. Analysis of the political, economic, sociological, and psychological aspects of the city, which is viewed as a microcosm of urbanized mass society. Two required, all-day field trips, one to Los Angeles and a second to Tijuana, Mexico, are planned.

**Objectives:** This class aims to increase students' understanding of the historical development, economics, and politics of three representative cities: Los Angeles (California), Tijuana (Baja California, México), and Paris (France). The course should also help explain the causes of migration, crime, poverty, homelessness, ethnic conflict, and segregation. Finally, the class should stimulate participants to think about the city as an opportunity for service.

**Requirements:** Successful completion of this course will require reading the assigned texts *when assigned*, writing one 12-15 page research paper (30% of grade; due November 30), performing creditably on the midterm (25% of grade) and final (35% of grade) exams, and attending class regularly and taking an active part in class discussions (10% of grade). The midterm will be given in class on Wednesday, October 10, and the final will take place on Tuesday, December 11, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. In addition, students will participate in two all-day field trips, tentatively scheduled for October 17 and November 14.

Students with documented disabilities (physical, learning, or psychological) requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet course requirements should contact the Disabilities Services Office (TCC 264, 506-6500) as soon as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit [www.pepperdine.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.pepperdine.edu/disabilityservices/) for additional information. Students needing to be absent during a religious holiday should also notify the instructor beforehand.

**Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated!** Examples include writing notes on one's extremities and consulting said notes during a closed-book exam, forging the professor's signature, down-loading term papers from the Internet, copying a paper from a previous student, hiring a graduate student to write your term paper for you, and submitting the same term paper for two classes without having previously obtained the permission of both instructors. If you are caught cheating in this course, I will do my best to see that you at least receive an F for the course and are referred to the Academic Integrity Committee for disciplinary action. In short, don't even think about it!

A student requesting a grade change on substantive grounds (e.g., the number of points earned for a particular answer on an exam; substantive grounds do not include errors in adding up the total number of points for an exam) must submit her or his request to me in writing within one week of the date I returned the graded assignment to her or him. My response will be in writing and is subject to review by and carbon-copying to the chair of the Social Science Division.

Readings: The following works are required and may be purchased in the campus bookstore:

Beriss, Davis. 2004. *Black Skins, French Voices: Caribbean Ethnicity and Activism in Urban France*. Boulder, CO: Westview.

Charles, Camille Zubrinsky. 2006. *Won't You Be My Neighbor? Race, Class, and Residence in Los Angeles*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Dear, Michael, and Gustavo Leclerc, eds. 2003. *Postborder City: Cultural Spaces of Bajalita California*. New York: Routledge.

Pelissero, John P., ed. 2003. *Cities, Politics, and Policy: A Comparative Analysis*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Schedule:

*Part I: Introduction to Theoretical Issues in Urban Studies*

August 29: Logistics

- Reading: Pelissero, pp. 1-34 & 126-176

September 5: Urban Economics (economic rationale for the city; causes of poverty; tax policy; determinants of land use); Causes of Segregation and Homelessness

- Reading: Pelissero, pp. 217-282  
- Discussion: What should we do about poverty?

September 12: Causes of Migration and Ethnic Conflict; Urban Politics; Causes of Crime; Psychology of the City

- Reading: Pelissero, pp. 97-125 & 283-335  
- Discussion: Multiculturalism, Pro- or Con-?  
- **Note:** topics of research papers due.

*Part II: Los Angeles*

September 19: LA (history and demographics; economics and industry; housing)

- Reading: Charles, pp. 1-63.  
- Discussion: What transportation policy should Los Angeles adopt?

September 26: LA (migration and ethnic relations; politics and government; crime); Midterm review

- Reading: Charles, pp. 98-189.
- Discussion: What, if anything, should we do about economic and racial inequality in L.A.?
- **Note:** Be sure to bring to class questions about the previous weeks= material.

October 3: No class: compensation for all-day LA field trip

October 10: Midterm

October 17: Field trip to Los Angeles

*Part III: Tijuana*

October 24: Tijuana (history and demographics; economics and industry; migration and ethnic relations)

- Reading: Dear and Leclerc, pp. 33-141.
- Discussion: Overall, has migration to and through Tijuana been good or bad for the city?

October 31: Tijuana (housing; politics and government; crime)

- Reading: Dear and Leclerc, pp. 143-180 & 217-246.
- Discussion: Is stopping the flow of narcotics and undocumented immigrants across the Tijuana/San Diego border possible or desirable?

*Part IV: Paris*

November 7: Paris (history and demographics; economics and industry; housing)

- Reading: Beriss, pp. xiii-49.
- Discussion: Is housing policy more successful in Paris, Tijuana, or Los Angeles?

November 14: Field Trip to Tijuana, Mexico

- **Note:** No class Nov. 21: Thanksgiving break.

November 28: No Class (to compensate for all-day field trip on November 14)

- **Note:** Research paper due in my box in Social Science Division by end of day on Friday, November 30.

December 5: Paris (migration and ethnic relations; politics and government; crime); review for final exam

- Reading: Beriss, pp. 73-134.
- Be sure to bring questions about the semester=s material to class.

December 11 (Tuesday): Final exam (1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)