

A Livable City?

Atlanta Since World War II

Course: HIST 241

Class Schedule: Tue/Thur 2:30 – 3:45

Instructor: Edward Hatfield

Classroom: Bowden Hall 116

Office Location: Bowden Hall 125

Office Hours: Wed 12:30 – 2:00

Email: eahatfi@emory.edu

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the course blackboard site.

Course Description:

This course will explore the political, economic, social and cultural developments that reshaped life in Atlanta from 1945 to present. Organized thematically and chronologically, it will begin in the postwar period when the city's economy underwent a dramatic period of expansion, proceed through the civil rights era when local activists challenged the city's Jim Crow orthodoxies, continue through decades of suburban expansion that transformed Atlanta's metropolitan landscape and conclude by contemplating contemporary debates over matters such as public housing and transportation policy. In the process, it will provide a broad overview of the major themes and trends animating the recent histories of urban America and the American South.

Required Texts:

Frederick Allen, *Atlanta Rising: The Invention of an International City, 1946-1996*

Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*

Charles Rutheiser, *Imagining Atlanta: The Politics of Place in the City of Dreams*

Additional Readings

In addition to the required texts, students will be expected to read and thoughtfully consider various articles and book chapters throughout the term. Unless stated otherwise, these will be made available electronically through Reserves Direct.

Field Trips

The class will take three field trips throughout the semester, traveling downtown to observe a number of the sites discussed in our readings, touring a stretch of the Beltline to assess its potential impact on the city's transportation network and visiting the Atlanta History Center to see its award-winning permanent exhibit, *Metropolitan Frontiers*. While these trips will be taken in lieu of our regular class meetings, they may need to be scheduled outside of our usual meeting hours to accommodate travel times. For this reason, the dates listed below are suggestive, and subject to change pending class discussions over schedules and availability.

Metropolitan Frontiers.....Saturday, September 10, 12p
 Downtown.....Saturday, November 12, 12p
 Beltline.....Saturday, December 3, 12p

Assignments & Grading

In addition to the final exam, students will be expected to complete two independent writing assignments, to collaborate on a mixed media group project, and to attend each class prepared for a thoroughgoing discussion of the day’s assigned readings. For the first assignment, you will be asked to analyze a document culled from one of MARBL’s extensive civil rights era collections. The second assignment will require students to organize into groups to complete a mapping assignment utilizing Google Earth technology. And the third will provide students the opportunity to take sides in contemporary debates over the future of Atlanta’s transportation policy. Additional instruction will be provided in advance of each assignment. See below for due dates and the weight accorded to each assignment.

MARBL Assignment.....October 13.....20%
 Group Project.....November 10.....20%
 Transportation Critique.....December 6.....20%
 Final Exam.....December 13.....20%
 Class Participation.....NA.....20%

August 25	Introduction
August 30	A New South City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambrose, “A New South City, 1865 – 1900”
September 1	Forward Atlanta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambrose & Roth, “The Commercial City, 1900 – 1940”
September 6	WWII, the South & Atlanta <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen, chs. 1 & 2
September 8	The Jim Crow City <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kruse, Introduction & ch. 1 • Wiese, “Separate Suburbanization”
September 10	Metropolitan Frontiers Visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allen, chs. 3 & 4
September 15	Urban Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keating, “Redevelopment, Atlanta Style” • Vinton, “Rosy Future for Redevelopment” • Hirsch, “From the First Ghetto to the Second Ghetto” • <i>Metropolitan Frontiers Reflection Essay</i>
September 20	Atlanta Politics in Black & White <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kruse, chs. 2 & 3

- September 22 **MARBL Visit**
- Kruse, chs. 4 & 5
- September 27 **School Desegregation**
- Kruse, ch. 6 (p. 161-169)
 - Lassiter, “The Strange Career of Atlanta Exceptionalism”
 - Lassiter, “The Suburban Origins of “Color-Blind Conservatism”
- September 29 **The City Too Busy To Hate**
- Kruse, chs. 7 & 8
 - Allen, chs. 6 & 7
- October 4 **MARTA**
- Hatfield, MARTA Readings
- October 6 **The Sunbelt and the Urban Crisis**
- Kruse, ch. 9
- October 11 **Fall Break**
- October 13 **Film Screening: *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth***
- *MARBL Paper Due*
- October 18 **Introduction to Digital Mapping**
- October 20 **Public Housing in Atlanta: Past, Present & Future**
- *Pruitt-Igoe Reflection Essay*
 - Glover, “The Atlanta Blueprint: Transforming Public Housing Citywide”
 - Husock, “Reinventing Public Housing: Is the Atlanta Model Right for Your City?”
 - Tracy, “HOPE VI Mixed-Income Housing Projects Displace Poor People”
- October 25 **‘A City in Crisis’**
- Allen, chs. 8 & 9
 - Powledge, “A New Politics in Atlanta”
- October 27 **Atlanta in the Age of Reagan**
- Allen, ch. 10
- November 1 **Suburban Politics**
- Kruse, Epilogue
 - Applebome, “Cobb County, Georgia: Newtland”
 - Schneider, “The Suburban Century Begins”

- November 3 **Suburban Sprawl**
- Mumford, “Attacks Mass Suburbia, 1961”
 - Kunstler, “Does Edge City Have a Future?”
 - Rome, “The Environmental Costs of Postwar Sprawl”
 - Bruegmann, “The Flaws of Anti-Sprawl Arguments”
- November 8 **The Rise and Fall of Downtown**
- Rutheiser, ch. 4
- November 10 **Group Presentations**
- *Mapping Project Due*
- November 12 **Downtown Field Work**
- Jacobs, “Downtown is for the People”
 - Glaeser, “How Skyscrapers Can Save the City”
- November 17 **Alphabet Cities**
- Rutheiser, ch. 2
 - *Downtown Reflection Essay*
- November 22 **An Olympic City**
- Allen, Epilogue
 - Rutheiser, ch. 5
- November 24 **Thanksgiving Break**
- November 29 **Demographic Changes: Gentrification & Immigration**
- Duany, “Applauds Gentrification”
 - Keating, “The Development, Redevelopment and Gentrification of Atlanta’s Housing”
 - Odem, “Latino Immigrants and the Politics of Space in Atlanta”
- December 3 **Beltline Walking Tour**
- December 6 **Branding Atlanta**
- *Transportation Critique Due*
- December 13 **Final Exam: 8:30 – 11:00**