

**SYLLABUS FALL 2009**  
**HUM DEV 198: First Year Seminar:**  
**How we live: American Cities and Suburbs**  
**MWF 12:45 – 1:40 MAC 223**

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Professor: Dr. Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges  
Office: MAC C320  
Office Hours: Weds 9:00 – 10:30; Thurs 11:00 - 2:00; Fri 9:00 – 10:30  
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Peer Mentor Kelly Schroeder

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**Course Description:** This course will look at the history and future of American cities and suburbs through an **interdisciplinary** exploration through the lens of many fields: geography, history, planning, literature, psychology, politics and many more. It is my hope that this course will help you develop an appreciation for cities and suburbs and an interest in what makes them tick.

### **First-Year Seminar Program**

This class is part of the *First-Year Seminar Program* that is designed to provide you with active engagement with the material and high quality interactions with me and your classmates in a small seminar environment within the context of the larger First-Year Seminar Program.

First-Year Seminar Objectives:

- *Engagement* – You will have the opportunity to connect with other students, to connect to campus resources, to connect your learning with other courses, and to connect with the community.
- *Interdisciplinarity* – Consistent with UW-Green Bay’s mission, you should develop an understanding of the importance of tackling problems from multiple perspectives.
- *Critical Thinking/Problem Solving* – Consistent with UW-Green Bay’s mission and philosophy, you will address problems from multiple perspectives and learn to analyze data/information from a critical perspective.
- *Communication Skills* – The course will emphasize effective communication including writing, speaking, and the ability to work in a small group environment.
- *Information Literacy* – The seminars will introduce the idea of information literacy in the context of writing and speaking assignments so that you have a better understanding of how information is collected, can assess the quality of the information and its sources, and can use information effectively.

### **General Education**

This class is part of the General Education Program at UWGB. It meets both the **SS2** requirement and the lower level **Writing Emphasis (WE)** requirement in Gen Ed.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

- For Social Science 2(SS2): An understanding of the social sciences, including: major concepts of social, political, geographic and economic structures; and the impact that social institutions and values have on individuals and groups in a culture.
- Develop critical thinking and analysis skills particularly as they relate to understanding cities and suburbs.

**Texts:** We will not have a required textbook for this class. We will read a variety of sources of information regarding cities and suburbs. You are required to access these materials and print them out as I post them on our D2L site.

## Required Novel:

We will read the novel:

The Devil in the White City: Murder, Magic, and Madness at the Fair that Changed America (Paperback) by Erik Larson, 2003.

## Course Requirements:

**Final Exam:** There will be a final exam worth 50 points each. This exam will be cumulative and essay. There will be no make-up exams unless there is some dire and well-documented circumstance. If you have a conflict with a scheduled exam please see me well before that time.

**6 Quizzes:** There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester each worth 10 points. You will receive 5 points just for being there and an additional 5 points if you answer the question correctly. There will be no make-up quizzes. If you are absent for any reason on a quiz day you will not receive those 10 points.

**Class Presentation:** You will give a verbal class presentation with a group of classmates. You will present using Powerpoint and will be graded on your content as well as your group's presentation. All group members will receive the same grade.

## Papers:

**Paper 1** – City paper and rewrite. You will be asked to write the best 500 word essay about cities as possible. The topic of your city essay can be anything related to cities: an opinion paper, a reflection, a verbal picture, an experience, a description, a story, etc. You will then meet with me during my office hours to edit this essay. You will hand in a second draft that will be graded. The first draft is due Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The final copy is due Monday September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Paper 2** for *The Devil in the White City*. We will be reading the novel *The Devil in the White City* in the first 3 weeks of class. You will be required to write a short paper based on this novel. 3-5 pages. The paper is due Wednesday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Paper 3** – Analysis and Comparison paper on the short story, *The Country Husband*, and the film *American Beauty*. 3-5 pages. Due Monday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Interdisciplinary Exercise:** We will meet with 4 other First-Year Seminar classes that meet during our class time to participate in several collaborative days of engagement with interdisciplinarity. Here are the 5 mandatory components of the Interdisciplinary Exercise:

- Seminars will meet together (in their respective class times) for a single lesson on Friday, Sept. 11 in the Phoenix Rooms B and C in which we will explore the mission of our University and the meaning and value of interdisciplinarity.
- All F-Y Seminar students and faculty will be required to attend the John Waterman program (Weds 9/23, 8 p.m. in the Phoenix Rooms) as part of the University's Common Theme: Realizing our Sustainable Future
- All F-Y Seminar students will be required to complete a 1 page (250 word) response to the Waterman program (due Monday 9/28)
  - *Assignment:* How can we use an interdisciplinary approach to address the issues Waterman identified in his presentation? How might using an interdisciplinary perspective add to our ability to effectively address these issues?

- All F-Y Seminar students that meet during our class time will attend the Volunteer Fair on Wednesday October 14<sup>th</sup> during class time and complete a worksheet.
- All F-Y Seminar students will be required to complete the University Mission Paper (due Weds Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - *Assignment:* What did you learn about the mission of our university this semester? What did you do to engage in this semester that was in keeping with our university mission (e.g., co-curricular activities, programs, course work, organizations, etc)? (approx. 2 pages in length)

**Co-curricular activities:** You will be required to attend the Common Theme activity listed below plus 3 other co-curricular activities of your choice. You will write a brief summary of your experiences. We will provide you with information regarding co-curricular opportunities.

**Mandatory Co-Curricular Activities for Common Theme:**

“Oil vs. Wilderness”

Jonathon Waterman

Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> 8:00 pm Phoenix Rooms

**Class Expectations:**

1. Class attendance is imperative to your learning and it is my expectation that you will attend every class.
2. Class participation is also important to your learning. Asking questions and starting discussions during class is strongly encouraged. I expect that you will not use a laptop nor text message during class.
3. I expect that you will hand in assignments **on time** that shows **pride** in the product and I will take off points if your paper is late (2 points per day) or if your work is excessively sloppy.

**Note about writing:**

In all written work that you complete in this class, you will be graded for both the quality as well as the content of your writing. Please make sure that your work is well-written and contains no spelling and grammatical errors, with logical, well-constructed points in a cohesive paper. If you have any concerns about your writing, please feel free to come see me during my office hours to discuss them or you can make an appointment with a staff member at the Writing Center to review your work (CL 109 – phone number 465-2338).

**Note:** Consistent with the federal law and the policies of the University of Wisconsin, it is the policy of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to provide appropriate and necessary accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. If you anticipate requiring any auxiliary aids or services, you should contact me or the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities at 465-2849 as soon as possible to discuss your needs and arrange for the provision of services.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the following:

Midterm and Final worth 50 points each	50	17%
6 quizzes worth 10 points each	60	21%
Paper 1	20	7%
Paper 2	40	14%
Paper 3	40	14%
Interdisciplinary Exercise (All 5 components)	40	14%
Class Presentation	20	7%
Co-curricular Activities/Reflection Paper	<u>20</u>	<u>7%</u>
<b>Total points=</b>	<b>290</b>	

**Letter grade; will not be more stringent than the following:**

≥ 266	A
255-265	AB
238-254	B

226-237	BC
209-225	C
197-208	CD
174-196	D
< 174	F

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## Class Schedule

### Week 1 – Sept 4

Different perspectives on cities  
Begin reading The Devil in the White City

### Week 2 – Sept 9, 11

**Friday, Sept 11 meet in Phoenix Rooms B and C for Interdisciplinary Exercise Meeting 1: Interdisciplinarity and the University's Mission**

A General History of Cities  
Urbanization

**Draft of Paper 1 due Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>**

### Week 3 – Sept 14

Population Shifts and Growth  
Metropolitan Form and Space

### Week 4 – Sept 21

Introduction to the Suburbs

**Final Draft of Paper 1 due Monday September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Mandatory Common Theme Waterman Presentation Wed, Sept 23 8pm in the Phoenix Rooms**

### Week 5 – Sept 28

Post WWII Suburbs  
Watch the film *Edward Scissorhands*  
Read the short story The Country Husband

**Waterman Interdisciplinary Short Paper due Monday Sept 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Paper 2 due for The Devil in the White City Wed, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>**

### Week 6 – October 5

Watch the film *American Beauty* in class  
Modern Suburbia

### Week 7 – October 12

Modern Suburbia  
**WED, October 14 – Volunteer Fair during class time with mandatory worksheet**

**Week 8 – October 19**

Work on class presentations Monday and Wednesday

**Paper 3 due for The Country Husband Monday Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Class presentations Friday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Week 9 – October 26**

Urban architecture / Perceiving the City

Why cities get a bad reputation

**Week 10 – November 2**

Urban Renewal/ Parks

Community Politics

**Week 11 – November 9**

Case Study #1 Philadelphia

**Week 12 – November 16**

Case Study #2 Las Vegas

**Week 13 – Monday November 23**

Case Study #2 Las Vegas cont.

**\*\*\*NO CLASS WEDNESDAY November 25 or FRIDAY November 27 – Happy Thanksgiving! \*\*\***

**Week 14 – November 30**

Case Study #3 San Francisco

**Interdisciplinary Exercise Final Paper due Wednesday Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Week 15 – December 7**

Case Study #3 San Francisco cont.

**Reflection Paper on Co-Curricular Activities due Friday Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Week 16 – December 14**

REVIEW

**FINAL EXAM Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 – 12:30**