THE CITY: DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE
URSI 110

H. Roger Smith  
MH 104  
Office Hours: See Rita, URSI Office Manager, for office hours. I encourage you to stop in and see me during the term.

Texts: Smith’s adaptation of Tunnard and Reed, The American Skyline, available at Morris Hall Copy Shoppe.

Objectives: The goal of this course is to develop an appreciation of cities, what makes them livable and even enjoyable. By the end of the course, you should be able to:
1. Describe the differences in cities in different places and different times;
2. List and describe the elements of design in cities, neighborhoods, and buildings;
3. List and explain how physical, social and technological forces shape cities;
4. Describe the processes by which a city is planned and developed;
5. Identify and interpret the evolution of technology and economics in city building.

To achieve these goals, the instructor uses film, videotapes, slides, field trips, on-the-street experiences, and classroom discussions to convey the how’s and why’s of the opportunities and the problems of our cities. You will need to read about cities, you will also need to wander about in them, and above all, you will need to think about them.

Assignments:

*Readings: Reading from the text will be assigned in class. Information from the assigned readings will be included on the tests.

*Tests: There will be 2 unit tests. They will be objective tests, covering material from lecture and readings.

*Field Projects: There will be a required, albeit brief, two hour field trip on a Friday morning. The field project will have an accompanying essay (3-5 pages) which must be typewritten. approx. 20% of grade.


*Final Project: At the conclusion of the formal lecture demonstration component of the class you will be incorporated into teams of your peers and will design and create what you see or envision as the city of the future. This will be effectively done in model format demonstrating what the form, system base, infrastructure and perhaps some of your ideas on how you see the architecture of the future manifesting itself. A brief narrative that describes the components you include will accompany your group effort. presentation to your peers will occur at the assigned time for the final exam.

*Grading: The final grade will not be based on a strict curve.

All assignments are due on the assigned date. No extensions or make-ups are allowed without prior permission. (Usually this requires a note from your coroner.)

Finally, we will expect that you will follow standard style in any of the assignments you turn in: use proper grammar and punctuation, standard spelling, clean typewritten copy, etc. You may use any resource for your coursework, as long as you identify your sources. (Failure to do so is plagiarism and will result in an NC for the course.)

Every attempt will be made to accommodate qualified students with disabilities. If you are a student with a documented disability, please see me as early in the semester as possible to discuss the necessary accommodations, and/or contact the Disability Services Office at 507/389-2825(V) or 1-800-627-3529 (MRS/TTY).