URSI 100 - INTRODUCTION TO THE CITY
Fall 2008

Instructor: Dalton Crayton         Office Phone: 389-1606
Office Hours by appointment
Class day and time: Tuesday, 6:00pm.-8:45pm.
E-Mail: dalton.crayton@mnsu.edu


Course Goals: While Introduction to the City is designed to help you develop an appreciation of cities and increase your awareness of what makes cities not only livable but also enjoyable, the course also serves as a general education option. As a result, the course encompasses some broad goals related to the learning process and decision making. The goals for this course are to provide an opportunity for:

1) Practice the consensual approach to the decision making process as one of the opportunities presented by urban diversity.
2) Increasing awareness of the complexity of the urban environment.
3) Exploring the strategies and processes for maintaining the city and/or effecting change within the city.
4) Developing skills for more active participation in urban life.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the term you will be able to:

1) Analyze a city in terms of its political process, services and issues and their effects on the quality of local life.
2) Have a greater awareness of personal views.
3) Participate, or stand ready to participate, in the public’s business, whether as an elected official, a professional staff person, or a citizen volunteer.
4) Understand others views of the socially, politically and physically diverse city environment.

In this course you will read about cities and their opportunities and problems. But you will also need to wander around in them; above all you will need to think about them.

Instructional Methodology and Teaching Strategies: A variety of techniques will be employed throughout the course including lecture, audiovisual presentations, group activities, consensual decision-making, discussion, student presentation, and field experience. Above all, the teaching style in this course is based on an “adult-centered” model which assumes that you are active participants, each responsible for your own learning, and the instructor is a facilitator and resource to help you advance your project.

Assignments:
1) Classwork: You are expected to read the appropriate sections in the textbook prior to their due date. Assignments are required to be completed by the due date on the Course Guide. The class will be a mixture of problem-solving, class discussion, group work, and lecture.
2) “Vision of the City” Design Project: The class will culminate with the design and presentation of your vision of Mankato in 2050. Grades will be assigned both on the basis of group work and individual contribution to the group. You will rate the other members in your group on their individual contributions to the Vision of the City project.

3) Testing: There will be a Mid-term and a comprehensive Final test. Both tests may be a combination of true/false and multiple choice. In all cases, the student will be expected to pick the best answer.

4) Projects: Generally, each class will involve some sort of activity; these activities will require a group written summary. The project summaries will be handed in with the signatures of each group member.

5) Group Work: An integral part of classroom instruction is group work. Students will be exposed to working in groups of other students to discern concepts, answer questions, and gain knowledge.

Course Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects/Exercises</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term test</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vision of the City</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final test</td>
<td>20%</td>
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The final grade may be based on a curve. At the least, students may expect the 90%=A, 80%=B, 70%=C, 60%=D. Regardless of a curve a minimum of 60% must be obtained to earn a passing grade.

Course Policies:
1) All assignments are due on the assigned date. There will be no make-ups except for very unusual circumstances. No extensions or make-ups are allowed without prior permission.

2) You may use any resource for your course-work, as long as you identify your sources. (Failure to do so is plagiarism and could result in an F for the course). Copying the work of a class-mate on tests will result in an F for the course.

3) Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Absences will result in loss of grade points.

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).

Other Policy: Please turn off cell phones and beepers during class time.

Course Guide – Spring Semester 2008

This is a guide for class activities, due dates for assignments and readings. Changes may occur. If they do, you will be notified in advance of the changes and the adjusted responsibilities you incur.
Key to Using Course Guide

Week #: week of semester

Class Date: Reading that is due by this date
Workbook assignments that are due on this date to accomplish class or group activities
Project List. Activities that you are required to prepare from the project list that are due on this date

Week 1
Aug. 26 Introductions; review course requirements

Week 2
Sept. 2 Movie: “Roman Cities”
Working in groups and consensual decision making

Week 3
Sept. 9 Reading: Chapter 1; Exercises (Exc.): 1.1, 1.4, 1.6; Proj. List 1A
Movie: the City

Week 4
Sept. 16 Project list 1B and 1C
Reading: Chapter 3; Proj. List: 2A and 2B (begin work on Exc. 13.6)
Movie: “Understanding Cities”

Week 5
Sept. 23 Reading Chapter 4; Exc.; 4.2, 4.3
Movie: “Survival of a Small City”
Reading: Chapter 13 (Chapter 14, page 269 only); Project List: 3A, 3B; Exc. 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3

Week 6
Sept. 30 Reading: Chapter 11; Exc. 11.2a and 11.2b; Proj. List: 4A
Movie: Back from the Brink”
Proj. List: 4B and 4C

Week 7
Oct. 7 Reading: Chapter 7; Exc. 7.1; Project List: 5A, 5B
Proj. List: 5A, 5B and Exc. 7.1 cont.
Reading: Chapter 5; Exc. 5.2; Proj. List: 6A and 6B
Midterm Review: Working in group and consensual decision making – Session 2
Consultation with individual students

Week 8
Oct. 14 Midterm Test

Week 9
Oct. 21 Reading: Chapters 9 and 10; Project List: 7A; Exc. 10-2
Project List: 7B and 7C
Movie: “Making Government Work”

Week 10
Oct.28
Diversity Movie: Tim Wise

Week 11
Nov.4
Project List: 8A
Project List: 8B and 8C
Public life (in class exercises)

Week 11
Nov. 11
Movie: “Understanding Prejudice”
Reading: Chapter 14; Exc. 14.1, 14.2

Week 12
Nov.18
Reading: Chapter 15; Exc.: 15.2 and 15.3
Movie: “The Essential Blue-Eyed”
Group discussion of diversity; Family ancestry paper due

Week 13
Nov.25
Reading: Chapter 12; Exc.: 12.1, 12.3 and 12.4
Reading: Chapter 8; Exc. 8.4
Reading: Chapter 16; Proj. List: 9A
Vision of the City Project Discussion;
Final Exam Review
Thanksgiving Break (11/26-28)

Week 14
Dec.2
Final Exam
Vision of the City Preparation

Week 15
Dec.9 Finals Week; Dec 8-12, 2008
Finals Week Vision of the City Presentation Wednesday@6pm-8pm.