ABSTRACT

American cities have changed in extraordinary ways. In the last half of the 20th century, there was gloom about urban life and many cities were projected to decline and decay. Many did so but Boston and other cities blossomed, becoming models of urban renaissance. Using Boston as a case study of the experience of American cities, this course considers key issues of economic change, technology, neighborhood inequality, political governance, elite relations, cultural institutions, crime, race and ethnic relations, immigration, gentrification and suburbanization.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND GOALS

In the 1970’s, Boston was marred by racial violence and its economy was rapidly collapsing. It was claimed at the time that Boston, like many other American cities, was dying. How did Boston instead reinvent itself and become one of America’s most successful and vibrant cities in the 21st century? Boston, again like many other cities, nonetheless faces a variety of current challenges brought on by the worldwide economic downturn. Can Boston maintain its success in the coming years? And what can Boston’s reinvention teach us about the future of other cities?

This course seeks to answer these interrelated questions via a unique combination of lectures by both scholars and civic leaders, readings about cities and neighborhoods in general and Boston in particular, student observations of Boston neighborhoods and research on the city’s leaders, neighborhoods, and institutions. Taken together, the lectures, readings, neighborhood visits, and synthesis paper/project will provide students not only a better understanding and analytic feel for Boston but also a better understanding and appreciation of the 21st century American city.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Below is a basic breakdown of the course requirements and the weight given to each requirement in determining your course grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Neighborhood Specific Memos (3 pages each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Synthesis Project/Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section (and Lecture) Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Midterm Essay Exam

During the week of October 17th, there will be a take home midterm essay exam. The exam will be based on the material covered in the readings and course lectures/discussion. You will be expected to write a 5-page response to one of several essay questions. The exam will be due in your section’s Dropbox on the course website by Monday October 24th at noon.

Neighborhood Memos

One of the unique features of this course is that you will visit various neighborhoods throughout Boston and provide a descriptive account of your experiences and observations. Each week we will assign a particular neighborhood to be visited (schedule on course website), usually because of its relationship with the topics and material covered in class. **You must complete three neighborhood visits (and accompanying memos) over the semester.**

- **Neighborhood Memo #1** will be due by Monday September 26th.
- **Neighborhood Memo #2** will be due by Monday October 24th.
- **Neighborhood Memo #3** will be due by Monday November 21st.

Neighborhood memos should be **three pages** in length and submitted to your discussion section’s dropbox by **noon on the Monday after the neighborhood has been scheduled for visitation**. Our expectation for these neighborhood memos is that you provide a thick, detailed, and interesting description and reflection of your visit in the neighborhood. Guidelines and expectations for neighborhood memos will be covered more fully in discussion sections.

Final Synthesis Project / Paper

There will be a final research memo due by the end of the semester that serves to bring together the theoretical, practical, and methodological knowledge gained throughout the course. The first option is to do a research memo comparing 2 of 16 Boston neighborhoods (or myriad sub-neighborhoods). This paper will be based largely on your own observations of the neighborhoods and some combination of demographic, census, or visual material (e.g., photos, videos; sources to be described) and 6 interviews of local residents (3 from each neighborhood). The second option is to do a paper comparing 2 of Boston’s prominent institutions or individual leaders. This paper will be based on in-depth interviews with key leaders in those institutions or the leaders you have selected as well as historical research about the role those institutions/individuals have had in shaping the city of Boston. Your TFs will consider “outside the box” final memos and projects, but only after you meet with them to discuss your ideas.
More specific instructions and expectations will be given at a later point by your section’s TF. Doing the legwork in the neighborhoods or landing interviews with some of the city’s leaders will take some time, so we will want you to get started on the research earlier rather than later. You will be expected to hand in a proposal and sit down with your TF well in advance to discuss the feasibility and potential content of your paper. The paper will be due in your section’s Dropbox on the Course Website on **Sunday, December 11th at noon**.

**Section and Lecture Participation**

Section is the place where students are expected not only to discuss and engage the material from the readings and the many lecturers, but also to bring in and reflect on their own experiences of the city of Boston. Therefore, active and informed participation in section is considered a major requirement of the course, constituting one-fourth of your grade. Frequent serious participation that reflects a familiarity and understanding of the readings, thoughtful consideration of the lecture presentations, and relevant reflection of your neighborhood experiences will be graded highly. Little or no participation or attempts to dominate the section discussion will not reflect well on your grade. Given that we want to encourage participation from everyone, your section’s TF will provide formal feedback to you about your participation midway through the semester.

There will be eleven sections during the course of the semester. You will be allowed to miss one section, no questions asked. Any other absences from section will need to have a legitimate excuse (e.g. doctor’s note, note from your resident dean). If you have a legitimate excuse, you will be given the opportunity to make up the missed section with a written assignment.

In addition to section participation, the teaching staff will also consider your participation in any lecture discussions or question and answer sessions. With so many of our lectures coming from invited guest representing a variety of fields, professions, and experiences, we will generally try to leave some time for you to engage them in a dialogue. Active participation during these opportunities will be considered a bonus to your participation grade.

**Readings**

The following are required and have been ordered at the Coop. The remaining readings can be found on-line or Lamont. You should find a list of links to those readings on the course website.

- *United States in the World 24: Reinventing Boston Sourcebook*

**Recommended / Of Interest:**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
*(SUBJECT TO REVISION)*

**Sept. 1 (Thursday): Introduction to the Course**
Sampson, Luberoff and the TF team

**Sept. 6 (Tuesday): The Social Order of the American City**
Sampson

**Readings**


**Recommended**

**Sept. 8 (Thursday) Boston 101: Orienting Yourself in Time and Space**
Luberoff

**Readings**
Carroll, “Map of Good Hope,” *Mapping Boston*. [Sourcebook Reading #2]

Lukas, *Common Ground*, Chapters 1-3


Lynch, Kevin, "The City Image and its Elements," *The Image of the City*. [Sourcebook Reading #3]


**Recommended**
Allison, *A Short History of Boston*, all (available on reserve at Lamont Library)
Sept. 13 (Tuesday): Boston’s Triple Revolution

Barry Bluestone, Dean, School of Public Policy & Urban Affairs and Founding Director, Dukakis Center for Urban & Regional Policy, Northeastern University

Readings

Barry Bluestone and Mary Stevenson. 2000. The Boston Renaissance: Race, Space and Economic Change in an American Metropolis. New York: Russell Sage Foundation pp. 1-21, online at http://books.google.com/books?id=_4rVIsHWyV8C&pg=PA208&lpg=PA208&dq=bluestone+and+stevenson&source=bl&ots=6KpOXnZakK&sig=GNR_Qr_RSinvnvq0giFWDOWeGZY&hl=en&ei=iLBWTtqYC5P3gAe2guS7DA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBkQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false

Lukas, Common Ground, Chapters 4-6

Sept. 15 (Thursday) How to Study Neighborhoods

Sampson, Simes and Jesse Shapins, Co-Founder/Associate Director of metaLAB(at)Harvard

Readings

McRoberts, Streets of Glory, pp. 44-60. [Sourcebook Reading #5]

Lukas, Common Ground, Chapters 7-9

Architecture Boston interview with Robert Sampson, on course web site

Sept. 20 (Tuesday): The Changing Face of Boston

Alvaro Lima, Director of Research, Boston Redevelopment Authority

Diana Eck, Professor of Comparative Religion and Indian Studies, and Director of the Pluralism Project, Harvard University

Readings

Bernstein “Menino’s Mosque” in The Boston Phoenix


Lukas, Common Ground, Chapters 10-12

Recommended

World Religions in Greater Boston website: http://pluralism.org/wrgb

Boston Redevelopment Authority Research Department website:
http://www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org/Research/Research.asp
Sept. 22 (Thursday):  Racial Change, Schools and Busing

View portrayal of busing in the *Eyes on the Prize* documentary, followed by reflections and comments by:

Robert Lewis, Vice President of Programs, The Boston Foundation

Michael Contompasis, Former Superintendent & Chief Operating Officer, Boston Public Schools; former headmaster Boston Latin School

Readings

Lukas, *Common Ground*, Chapters 13-15

Payzant, “The Boston Story.” [Sourcebook Reading #8]

Sept. 27 (Tuesday): The Challenge of Urban Education

Ronald Ferguson, Director and Faculty Co-Chair, Harvard Achievement Gap Initiative; Senior Lecturer in Education and Public Policy, Harvard Graduate School of Education and Harvard Kennedy School

Mary Skipper, Principal, TechBoston Academy

Readings


Lukas, *Common Ground*, Chapters 16-18

Recommended


Sept. 29 (Thursday): Doing Fieldwork and Neighborhood Visits

Sampson, Hureau, Jack and Simes

Readings

Lukas, *Common Ground*, Chapters 19-22

October 4 (Tuesday): Concentrated Poverty: Housing, Racial Segregation and Gentrification

Chrystal Kornegay, President and CEO, Urban Edge
Ann Owens, Doctoral Student in Sociology, Harvard University

Readings


Lukas, Common Ground, Chapter 23

Recommended


Urban Edge website: http://www.urbanedge.org/

Oct. 6 (Thursday): Policing a Diverse City

Edward Davis, Boston Police Commissioner; http://www.cityofboston.gov/POLICE/

Anthony Braga, Professor, Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice, and Senior Research Fellow, Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, Harvard Kennedy School

Readings


Lukas, Common Ground, Chapter 24

Recommended

Oct. 11 (Tuesday): Youth Violence and the “Boston Miracle”

The Reverend Jeffrey Brown, Co-founder and Executive Director, Boston TenPoint Coalition

Christopher Winship, Professor of Sociology, Harvard University

Readings
Jacobs, Jane “The Uses of Sidewalks: Safety.” [Sourcebook Reading #6]
Harding, David. Chapter 2, Living the Drama: Community, Conflict, and Culture Among Inner-City Boys. [Sourcebook Reading #9]

Recommended
Boston TenPoint Coalition website: http://www.bostontenpoint.org/

Oct. 13 (Thursday): Responding to—and Shaping—Change

Paul Grogan, President and CEO, The Boston Foundation

Readings:
Lukas, Common Ground, Chapters 25-27

Recommended


Oct. 18 (Tuesday): Elites and Political Power

Luberoff and Sampson

Readings
Altshuler and Luberoff, MegaProjects. [Sourcebook Reading #10]
Boston Urban Study Group, Who Rules Boston? [Sourcebook Reading #13]
Lukas, Common Ground, Chapter 28
Oct. 20 (Thursday):  *Boston and the Economic Reinvention of American Cities*

**Edward Glaeser**, Glimp Professor of Economics and Director, Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston, Harvard University

Readings


Lukas, *Common Ground*, Chapter 29 & Epilogue

Recommended


Oct. 25 (Tuesday):  *Where is Boston’s Innovation Economy Today and Where is it Going?*

**Scott Kirsner**, Innovation Economy columnist for The Boston Globe

**Tim Rowe**, founder and CEO, Cambridge Innovations Center

Readings

Kirsner, “Innovation City” from *The Good City*. [Sourcebook Reading #11]

Recommended


Oct. 27 (Thursday):  *Technology, Governance, and Neighborhood Change*

**Daniel O’Brien**, Project Coordinator, Harvard Boston Research Initiative

**Chris Osgood**, Co-director of the Mayor’s Office for New Urban Mechanics, City of Boston

Readings


**Recommended**


**Nov. 1 (Tuesday): Reshaping the City: Urban Renewal, Highways, Airports and Beyond**

*Luberoff and Lowell Richards, Chief Development Officer, Massport*

**Readings**

Altshuler and Luberoff, *MegaProjects*, Chapter 2, pp. 8-44* [Sourcebook Reading #12]*

Chapter 4, pp. 76-122 is recommended. Also in Sourcebook Reading #12.


[http://www.informaworld.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/smpp/content~content=a787388840~db=all](http://www.informaworld.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/smpp/content~content=a787388840~db=all)

**Recommended**


**Nov. 3 (Thursday): Crime in Context: Whitey Bulger and the Irish Mafia**


*Dick Lehr*, Professor of Journalism, Boston University; Author, *Black Mass: The Irish Mob, The FBI, and a Devil's Deal*

**Readings**


**Nov. 8 (Tuesday): Boston’s Art Scene**

*Diane Paulus*, Artistic Director, American Repertory Theater

*Matt Kaliner*, Doctoral Student in Sociology, Harvard University

**Readings**

http://books.google.com/books?id=4AcGvt3oX6IC&printsec=frontcover&cd=1&source=gbs_ViewAPI#v=onepage&q=&f=false

http://www.sciencedirect.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/science?_ob=MImg&_imagekey=B6V89-4FNNC97-1-1&_cdi=5865&_user=209690&_pii=S0166046205000086&_origin=search&coverDate=09/30/2005&sk=999649994&view=c&wchp=dGLzVtz-zSkWA&md5=08e8ae3f30c4687c0a2e0b0f1e0935ab&ie=/sdarticle.pdf

Nov. 10 (Thursday): Land Use and Building in Boston

**Travis McCreedy**, Executive Director, Kendall Square Association

**Kathryn West**, Vice-President of Real Estate and Facilities, Partners HealthCare


Recommended


Kendall Square Association website: http://www.kendallsq.org/

Nov. 15 (Tuesday): The Social Safety Net

**Tiziana Dearing**, CEO of Boston Rising and Former President of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Boston

Readings

Dearing “Our Common Bond” in *The Boston Pilot*
http://www.thebostonpilot.com/articleprint.asp?id=11336

DeParle and Gebeloff “Food Stamp Use Soars, Stigma Fades” in *The New York Times*

Recommended

Boston Rising website: http://www.bostonrising.org/index.htm
Nov. 17 (Thursday): Environmental Policy: The Greening of Boston

**Stephanie Pollack**, Associate Director, Dukakis Center for Urban & Regional Policy, Northeastern University and former senior attorney, Conservation Law Foundation

Readings


http://www.informaworld.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/smpp/content~content=a787379321~db=all

Luberoff, David, “Dug In: It’s time to reconsider Big Dig-related transit projects,” *CommonWealth Magazine*, Spring 2005, online at


Recommended

David Luberoff, “You are Here, Why? What conventioneers (and Bostonians) need to know about the South Boston waterfront,” *Architecture Boston*, May/June 2008, pp 46-49; on course web site.

City of Boston, “Climate Action Plan,” Summary, 2008, online at:


Conservation Law Foundation website: http://www.clf.org/

Dukakis Center website: http://www.northeastern.edu/dukakiscenter/

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Nov. 22 (Tuesday): Community Organizations

**Bill Walczak**, president Carney Hospital, former CEO, Codman Square Health Center

Readings


http://www.hks.harvard.edu/var/ezp_site/storage/fckeditor/file/pdfs/centers-programs/centers/rappaport/transcripts/healthy_city.pdf


http://www.informaworld.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/smpp/content~content=a787394856~db=all

Recommended

Alex Von Hoffman, *House by House, Block by Block, The Rebirth of America’s Cities*, Chapter 3, Boston and the Power of Collaboration, pp. 77-110 Online at

http://web.ebscohost.com.ezp-prod1.hul.harvard.edu/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook/nlebk_120959_AN?sid=c83e3ede-0ed4-48fe-a904-1849dabe674b@sessionmgr10&vid=1

Codman Square Health Center website: http://www.codman.org/
Carney Hospital website:

Nov. 24 (Thursday): NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING

Nov. 29 (Tuesday): Future of the City

Sampson and Luberoff

Readings


Recommended


Dec. 1 (Thursday) Governing Boston Today

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Readings

