

ESD.83 Assignment 5: Book Review

(750 word book review, 10% of the total)

Assigned: Session 1; Due: 5.

Read all book reviews before Session 7 when there will be a discussion of the book by the students and teaching staff.

Assignment:

Students will be expected to prepare a book review of about 750 words on a key book selected by the faculty. The book selected for 2011 is:

Triumph of the City: How our Greatest Invention Makes Us Richer, Smarter, Greener, Healthier, and Happier, by Edward Glaeser.

Each student is to *independently* write and post a review of this book. Then, two weeks later, there will be an in-class discussion of the book. You are expected to read all student book reviews before that discussion.

Each book review should be written in a format comparable to a published book review in a professional journal – conveying the key message of the book and providing appropriate critical analysis as well.

If you are unfamiliar with writing book reviews, examine the reviews published in 2-3 leading scholarly journals. The journal *Science* published weekly usually has two book reviews which are typically well-written. In general, a review should have an introductory paragraph with a framing thought, followed by a very brief summary of the book's key arguments, an evaluation of the book's strengths and limitations, a placement of the book in the larger literature, and concluding comments. These comments will often include an indication of who would find the book of interest and the reviewer may choose to make explicit recommendations.

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