

MIT
11.014J / 21.H232J

Fall 2004
Prof. Robert M. Fogelson

Wednesdays (3:00pm-5:00pm)

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY II

This is a seminar course that explores the history of selected features of the physical environment of urban America. Among the features considered are parks, cemeteries, tenements, suburbs, zoos, skyscrapers, department stores, supermarkets, and amusement parks. The course gives students experience in working with primary documentation sources through its selection of readings and class discussions. Students then have the opportunity to apply this experience by researching their own historical questions and writing a term paper.

1. Introduction

September 8

2. Parks

September 15

Geoffrey Blodgett, "Frederick Law Olmsted: Landscape Architecture as Conservative Reform," Journal of American History, March 1976, pp. 869-889.

Galen Cranz, "Changing Role of Urban Parks: From Pleasure Garden to Open Space," Landscape, Summer 1978, pp. 9-18.

Ian R. Stewart, "Politics and the Park," New York Historical Society Quarterly, July/October 1977, pp. 124-155.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and Theodora Kimball, eds., Forty Years of Landscape Architecture: Central Park (Cambridge, Mass., 1973), pp. 18-67.

Roy Rosenzweig, Eight Hours For What We Will (Cambridge, England, 1983), chapter 5.

Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Theodore Kimball, eds., Frederick Law Olmsted Landscape Architect, 1822-1903 (New York, 1970), volume 2, pp. 451-465.

3. Amusement Parks

September 22

Film: Coney Island (P.B.S., 1991)

John Kasson, Amusing the Million (New York, 1978).

Kathy Peiss, Cheap Amusements (Philadelphia, 1986), chapter 5.

John M. Findlay, Magic Lands: Western Cityscapes and American Culture After 1940 (Berkeley, 1992), chapter 2.

Susan G. Davis, Spectacular Nature: Corporate Culture and the Sea World Experience, (Berkeley, 1997), chapter 3.

4. Discussion of Term Papers

September 29

5. Suburbs

October 6

Sam Bass Warner, Streetcar Suburbs (Cambridge, Mass., 1962), chapter 6.

Robert Fishman, Bourgeois Utopias (New York, 1987), chapter 5.

Robert M. Fogelson, The Fragmented Metropolis (Berkeley, 1993), chapter 7.

Palos Verdes Protective Restrictions (1923).

Robert M. Fogelson, "Protecting Pelos Verdes: The Dark Side of the Bourgeois Utopia" (2004).

6. Tenements

October 13

Roy Lubove, The Progressives and the Slums: Tenement House Reform in New York City 1890-1917 (Pittsburgh, 1962), chapters 2, 4, 5.

Jacob Riis, How the Other Half Lives (New York, 1890), chapters 1-8, 21.

Ernest Flagg, "The New York Tenement-House Evil and Its Cure," in Robert A. Woods, The Poor in Great Cities (New York, 1970), pages 370-392.

Oscar Newman, Defensible Space (New York, 1972), chapter 2.

Jonathan Freedman, Crowding and Behavior (New York, 1975), chapters 1 and 5.

7. Skyscrapers

October 20

Paul Goldberger, The Skyscraper (New York, 1981), chapter 1.

William H. Jordy and Ralph Coe, eds., American Architecture and Other Writings by Montgomery Schuyler (Cambridge, Mass., 1961), pp. 442-452.

Robert M. Fogelson, Downtown: Its Rise and Fall, 1850-1930 (New Haven, 2001), chapter 3.

J.M. Neil, "Paris or New York? The Shaping of Downtown Seattle, 1903-14," Pacific Northwest Quarterly, January 1984, pp. 22-33.

Civic Development Department, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Economic Height of Buildings: The Skyscraper Attacked and Defended (Washington, D.C., 1927), pp. 3-31.

8. Department Stores

October 27

Joel A. Tarr, "The Chicago Anti-Department Store Crusade of 1897," Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Summer 1971, pp. 161-172.

Gunther Barth, City People (New York, 1980), pp. 110-147.

Susan Porter Benson, Counter Cultures (Urbana, 1986), chapter 3-4.

Daniel J. Boorstin, The Americans: The Democratic Experience (New York, 1973), chapter 10.

William Leach, True Love and Perfect Union: The Feminist Reform of Sex and Society (New York, 1980), pp. 222-237.

Susan Strasser, Satisfaction Guaranteed: The Making of the American Mass Market (New York, 1989), chapter 8.

9. Supermarkets

November 3

Piggly Wiggly Contract Requirements, Etc. (Memphis, 1919).

John Keats, What Ever Happened to Mom's Apple Pie? (Boston, 1976), pp. 101-107, 127-134.

Vance Packard, The Hidden Persuaders (New York, 1957), chapter 10.

David B. Sicilia, "Supermarket Sweep," Audacity, Spring 1997, pp. 11-19.

Richard Longstreth, The Drive-in, the Supermarket, and the Transformation of Commercial Space in Los Angeles, 1914-1941 (Cambridge, 1999), chapter 4.

10. Armories

November 10

Robert M. Fogelson, America's Armories: Architecture, Society, and Public Order (Cambridge, 1989).

11. Public Baths

November 17

Marilyn Thornton Williams, "Philanthropy in the Progressive Era: The Public Baths of Baltimore," Maryland Historical Magazine (1977), pp. 118-131.

Marilyn Thornton Williams, "New York City's Public Baths," Journal of Urban History, November 1980, pp. 49-81.

Jacqueline S. Wilkie, "Submerged Sensuality: Technology and Perceptions of Bathing," Journal of Social History, Summer 1986, pages 649-664.

Richard L. Bushman and Claudia L. Bushman, "The Early History of Cleanliness in America," Journal of American History (March 1988), pp. 1213-1238.

Suellen Hoy, Chasing Dirt: The American Pursuit of Cleanliness (New York, 1995), chapter 4.

Wm. Paul Gerhard, "The Modern Rain-Bath," American Architect and Building News, February 10, 1894, pages 67-69.

12. Zoos

December 1

Helen Horowitz, "The National Zoological Park: 'City of Refuge' or Zoo?" Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, D.C. (1973-1974), pp. 405-429.

Helen Horowitz, "Seeing Ourselves Through the Bars," Landscape (1981), pp. 12-19.

James Turner, Reckoning with the Beast (Baltimore, 1980).

John Berger, About Looking (New York, 1980), pp. 1-26.

13. Cemeteries

December

8

Philippe Aries, "The Reversal of Death: Change in Attitudes Toward Death in Western Societies," in David Stannard, ed., Death in America (Philadelphia, 1975), pp. 134-158.

Stanley French, "The Cemetery as Cultural Institution: The Establishment of Mt. Auburn and the Rural Cemetery Movement," American Quarterly, March 1974, pp. 37-59.

James J. Farrell, Inventing the American Way of Death, 1830-1920 (Philadelphia, 1980) chapter 4.

David Charles Sloane, The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History, (Baltimore, 1991), chapter 7.

John F. Kasson, Rudeness & Civility: Manners in Nineteenth-Century Urban America (New York, 1990), chapter 5.

David A. Schuyler, The New Urban Landscape (Baltimore, 1986), chapter 3.

14. Conclusion

December 15

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