

A Livable City? ***Atlanta Since World War II***

Course: HIST 241

Class Schedule: Tue/Thur 2:30 – 3:45

Instructor: Edward Hatfield

Classroom: Bowden Hall 116

Office Location: Bowden Hall 125

Office Hours: Wed 12:30 – 2:00

Email: eahatfi@emory.edu

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on the course blackboard site.

Course Description:

This course will explore the political, economic, social and cultural developments that reshaped life in Atlanta from 1945 to present. Organized thematically and chronologically, it will begin in the postwar period when the city's economy underwent a dramatic period of expansion, proceed through the civil rights era when local activists challenged the city's Jim Crow orthodoxies, continue through decades of suburban expansion that transformed Atlanta's metropolitan landscape and conclude by contemplating contemporary debates over matters such as public housing and transportation policy. In the process, it will provide a broad overview of the major themes and trends animating the recent histories of urban America and the American South.

Required Texts:

Frederick Allen, *Atlanta Rising: The Invention of an International City, 1946-1996*

Kevin Kruse, *White Flight: Atlanta and the Making of Modern Conservatism*

Charles Rutheiser, *Imagining Atlanta: The Politics of Place in the City of Dreams*

Additional Readings

In addition to the required texts, students will be expected to read and thoughtfully consider various articles and book chapters throughout the term. Unless stated otherwise, these will be made available electronically through Reserves Direct.

Field Trips

The class will take three field trips throughout the semester, traveling downtown to observe a number of the sites discussed in our readings, touring a stretch of the Beltline to assess its potential impact on the city's transportation network and visiting the Atlanta History Center to see its permanent exhibit, *Metropolitan Frontiers*. While these trips will be taken in lieu of our regular class meetings, they may need to be scheduled outside of our usual meeting hours to accommodate travel times. For this reason, the dates listed below are suggestive, and subject to change pending class discussions over schedules and availability.

Metropolitan Frontiers.....Saturday, September 10, 12p
Downtown.....Saturday, November 12, 12p
Beltline.....Saturday, December 3, 12p

Assignments & Grading

In addition to the final exam, students will be expected to complete two independent writing assignments, to collaborate on a mixed media group project, and to attend each class prepared for a thoroughgoing discussion of the day’s assigned readings. For the first assignment, you will be asked to analyze a document culled from one of MARBL’s extensive civil rights era collections. The second assignment will require students to organize into groups to complete a mapping assignment utilizing Google Earth. And the third will provide students the opportunity to take sides in contemporary debates over the future of Atlanta’s transportation policy. Additional instruction will be provided in advance of each assignment. See below for due dates and the weight accorded to each assignment.

MARBL Assignment.....October 13.....20%
Group Project.....November 10.....20%
Transportation Critique.....December 6.....20%
Final Exam.....December 13.....20%
Class Participation.....NA.....20%
