COURSE DESCRIPTION
Three broad aspects of the geography of the United States are considered in this course:

[1] the making of the United States as a continental economic, social and political empire;
[2] the social and economic impacts of changes to American regions; and
[3] the challenges facing American metropolitan areas since the end of World War Two.

Particular attention is given to the creation of an urban-industrial complex after the 1840s; the changing fortunes of the American South and the Manufacturing Belt in the postwar period; the metropolitan geographies of poverty and racism; the rising importance of the suburbs after 1940; the geographical effects of changes to twentieth-century immigration policy; and the contested and inequalities of the politics of place.

COURSE READINGS, LECTURES AND EXAM
Class readings are available in two ways. They have been bundled together in a reading package, which is available at Scholar House Productions, 100 Harbord Street (west of Spadina). They are also available on links on Blackboard. As you will see on page 2, the individual readings are linked to specific lectures. I assume that you are familiar with the readings before class time. You are expected to read all of the material in the reading package. Slides of class lectures will be posted on Blackboard the evening before the lecture. The exam consists of definitions and essays and is based on the class readings and lecture material.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
Assignment 1 (out January 14; due February 4) 20%
Assignment 2 (out February 11; due March 11) 40%
Final exam (during faculty exam period) 40%
TERM ASSIGNMENTS

There are two written assignments. You will be assessed on your ability to summarize, analyze
and synthesize research literature in Geography (and the social science and humanities more
broadly). Both assignments focus on a critical evaluation of readings from the course package.
The exam consists of definitions and essays, and are based on course readings and class lectures.
As always, evaluation of your written work (both assignments and tests) rests on your ability to
write a critical-interpretative essay using clear, correct English, which shows a basic command
of diction, grammar, syntax and punctuation. Paper copies of assignments 1 and 2 are due in
class on February 4 and March 11 respectively.

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

| January 7 | Introduction                        |
| January 14 | Exceptionalism and Empire           | Agnew and Sharp; Schien |
| January 21 | Territorial and urban-economic expansion | Meyer; Conzen |
| January 28 | The Rise and Fall of the Manufacturing Belt | High |
| February 4 | The Rise of the Sunbelt and the Gunbelt | Grantham |
| February 11 | Residential segregation and the ghetto | Knox; Casey-Leininger |
| February 18 | Reading week - no class |
| February 25 | Urban poverty and urban underclass | Kraus; Glasmeier |
| March 4 | Suburban America | Hayden |
| March 11 | Immigration and the border | Heyman |
| March 18 | Politics of place | Kroll-Smith and Brown-Jeffy; Dreier |
| March 25 | Ethnicity, immigration and community | Alberts; Price et al. |
| April 1 | Course wrap up. |

NOTES

(1) The penalty for late assignments is 5% of the earned grade for each weekday late.

(2) Instructor-student interaction occurs in the classroom and during office hours. Email contact
is limited to questions requiring simple yes/no answers, making appointments, and dealing with
emergencies. Please come to my office hours if you wish to discuss matters related to the class.

(3) If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit
http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility as soon as possible.

4. Plagiarism is an academic offense at the University of Toronto. Plagiarism is quoting (or
paraphrasing) the work of an author (including the work of fellow students) without a proper
citation. Students also should not be submitting any academic work for which credit has
previously been obtained or is being sought, without first discussing with the instructor. Please
consult the “Rules and Regulations” section of the Arts and Science Calendar for more
information.
COURSE READINGS


Steve Kroll-Smith and Shelly Brown-Jeffy, “A tale of two American cities: disaster, class ad
citizenship in San Francisco 1906 and New Orleans 2005,” Journal of Historical


231-48.

Marie Price, Ivan Cheung, Samantha Friedman and Audrey Singer, “The world settles in: