COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 395a         Spring 2009

Kotkin Presidential Fellow Seminar:
The History of Cities: From Origins to the Ephemeral City

Catalog Description:
Prerequisite: acceptance to the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor. A study of the evolution of the city across eras and cultures, including a focus on the formation of downtowns and suburbs; topics such as urban poverty, the concept of the “village,” and class issues. (Offered as needed.) 3 credits.

Restrictions: Acceptance into the University Honors Program, or consent of instructor.

Essential Equipment and Facilities: Classroom with overhead projection.

Course Goals, Objectives and Learning Outcomes:
This course enables students to:
• understand the evolution of cities from the earliest periods to the contemporary scene, based in large part on The City: A Global History
• apply historical knowledge to the study of contemporary urban conditions

Content:
The first half of the class will deal with the basics of urban history from the earliest times, with emphasis not only on European but also Asian, Mexican and Islamic cities. The second half of the class will deal with contemporary urban issues, such as urban poverty, the role of suburbia, downtowns, the contemporary “village” movement and the rise of the “childless” ephemeral city. There will be a field trips and guest lecturers. Emphasis is on blending historical knowledge with practical and applicable understanding of the urban world, and its continuing evolution. Course segments:

Ancient Cities, Sacred Places
Walking Tour of Cathedral and downtown LA
The Middle Ages and Renaissance
The Islamic City/ Ali Modarres
The Industrial City
The Multi Polar city
The Rise of Suburbia
Ethnic Post-modern City
Visit to Plaza Mexico

**Current Required Texts:**
Frederick Engels, *Condition of the Working Class in England*.

**Electronic Sources:**

**Instructional Strategies:**
The class will be largely lecture-based, including many guest speakers. There will be several field trips to such locales as the downtown Cathedral, the Ontario “New Model Colony” and Little Saigon.

Exams will be open book and conducted electronically.

Attendance at each scheduled class is mandatory.

**Methods of Evaluation:**
Two exams testing understanding of and ability to analyze as well as comment on the materials (40% of the grade)
Special project on urban topics selected by the student; 5000 words long (40% of the grade)
Attendance and participation (20% of the grade)

**Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy:**
The course syllabus should include the following statement:
Chapman University is a community of scholars which emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are
responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated anywhere in the university.

**Students with Disabilities Policy:**
The course syllabus should include the following statement:
In compliance with ADA guidelines, students who have any condition, either permanent or temporary, that might affect their ability to perform in this class are encouraged to inform the instructor at the beginning of the term. The University, through the Center for Academic Success, will work with the appropriate faculty member who is asked to provide the accommodations for a student in determining what accommodations are suitable based on the documentation and the individual student needs. The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.

**Bibliography:**
Du Boulay, R.H. *An Age of Ambition: English Society in the Late Middle Ages,* Viking, 1970.
Grant. *From Alexander to Cleopatra.* Scribner’s, 1982.

**Prepared by:**
Joel Kotkin, Fall 2008

**Last revised:**
Joel Kotkin, Spring 2009