This course will be treated primarily as a seminar emphasizing readings and discussion. Each week I will give a brief lecture to introduce the topic and then we will discuss the readings and have oral presentations of additional materials. The focus of the course is primarily on the US and on the contemporary scene (though some comparative and historical material will be included). Topics covered include, history of suburbanization, the metropolitan context, politics and governance, jobs and housing, transportation, inequality and uneven development, suburban sprawl, and land-use planning.

**Texts:**


Kenneth Jackson - Crabgrass Frontier. NY: Oxford University Press. 1985


**Grades:**

There are no exams in the course. Grades are based on three types of tasks. First, each class meeting you will prepare and hand in a one page typed set of notes on the day’s readings. You will identify key points of the reading, and conclude with a few questions to pose for class discussion. Second, after consultation with me, each of you will read and write up in 3-4 pages and present orally in class a review of a current article from an academic journal or a book on a topic related to suburbia. Third, each of you will define a research project in consultation me on some aspect of suburbia in Chicagoland. You will be expected to write up this final research project, and present it briefly in class. The paper should include some primary data, incorporate course material, and rely on additional literature that is appropriate.

1 page weekly notes & participation ..20%
a report on current article/book ..........30%
final paper-----------------------------50%
Readings:

Week 1  Why are Suburbs Important?
9/21  Palen  Chapter 1 – Suburban Ascendancy

Week 2  Setting the Scene
9/28  Palen  Chapter 2 – Definitions & Paradigms
        Chapter 3 – Rural-Urban Ideals
        Jackson  Chapters- Intro and 1 thru 8

Week 3  The Urban Big Bang: The Political-Economy of Growth
10/5  Palen  Chapter 4 – The Way Were
        Chapter 5 – The Exodus
        Jackson  Chapters – 9 thru 16

Week 4  Suburban Culture: Critics and Champions
10/12 Palen  Chapter 6 – Myths, Ideology & Imagery
        Duncan  Chapters – 1 thru 5

Week 5  Some Are and Some Aren’t: Distinctions and Boundaries
10/19 Palen  Chapter 7 – Suburban Variation
        Duncan  Chapters – 6 thru 9

Week 6  Opening up the Suburbs
10/26 Palen  Chapter 8 - Minorities in Suburbia
        Haynes  Chapters – Intro and 1 thru 4

Week 7  For the Sake of the Children, and a Woman’s Place
11/2  Palen  Chapter 9 – Women & Family
        Haynes  Chapters – 5 thru 8

Week 8  Crabgrass, Broken Windows, and Shattered Dreams
11/9  Palen  Chapter 10 – Issues & Problems
        Duany  Chapters – 1 thru 6

Week 9  Paving Paradise
11/16 Palen  Chapter 11 – Outer Cities & Malling
        Duany  Chapters 7 thru 11

Week 10  The Fate and Future of Best Laid Plans
11/23 Palen  Chapter 12 – Planned Utopias
        Duany  Chapter 12 – Quo Vadis?

Week 11  Reading Week
11/30

Week 12  Final Papers Due Monday Dec. 5th by 5pm at 1812 Chicago Ave. Rm. 201