

## MVLA GYC 202 Green Economy and Social Justice

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“Little Boxes on the Hillside, little boxes all the same?” (apologies to Malvina Reynolds)

### **Assignment Applicability:**

\*This assignment is intended for use in History 202 (U.S. History II), in conjunction with Unit’s 2, 3 or 4 of the semester. Each unit holds within it the eras of late 19<sup>th</sup> century urbanization, 1950s and 1960s suburbanization, and urban renewal/globalization/environmentalism consecutively. The goal will be to offer this assignment in the fall of 2012.

\*As the purpose of part one of the project is for students to compare modern photos with historical ones, the goal of that section is for students to think critically about how larger themes (such as urbanization, etc...) have directly impacted their communities and their lives. The second portion of the assignment is a larger research work (5-7 page paper), and allows students to expound upon the research questions they develop in the first section, or in the course in general.

\*Both sections are directly related to sustainability because of impact the U.S.’s ability to marshal its resources has had on the development of local communities since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and that each section offers students an opportunity to examine how the lifestyles they and/or their communities lead have been impacted by forces such as industrialization, consumerism, social justice, etc.

\*Each section is basically a primary/secondary source research assignment. As such, they will be conducted by students outside of class, require critical thinking skills (as students compare and contrast appropriate academic resources) but research knowledge gained will be presented in the formats listed below. The assignment will be introduced to the class in the syllabus. Students will prepare research proposals during unit 2, and have the assignment completed by unit 4.

### **Assignment overview:**

\*Your textbooks cite the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries as a period of great urbanization and development, when the U.S. marshals immense resources, and creates new cities and suburbs. While immigrant and minority groups struggled in city neighborhoods, new suburbs and mass consumerism bolstered a ‘modern American’ culture that increasingly began to define American identity. Those involved, as well as those on the margins, struggled for social justice while navigating such themes as industrialization, urban planning, new technologies, urban/suburban development, sustainability and

environmentalism.

### **Assignment, Part I:**

\*Create a collection on [www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com), in which you chronicle the historical impact of the major social/cultural, political or economic forces addressed in the class (i.e. suburban or urban development, the industrial working class, the Civil Rights Movement, sustainability, or environmentalism). (50 points, or 5%)

-The collection must include 5 spots in your home community (or an area of your choice), in which you participate in linking a modern photo to a historical one (defined as one at least 10 years old).

-Collections can be created for free on [www.historypin.com](http://www.historypin.com)

-You must adhere to all copyright laws and fair use laws when posting photos

-Comments on the spots (3-5 sentences) must be included, to give collection viewers an opportunity to understand their impact within the community (also—identify photographers).

-When the assignments are completed, we will have short class demonstrations of our collections (1-2 minutes), where you will share with your classmates what you've learned about the area you decided to pin.

### **Assignment, Part II:**

\*Create a 5-7 page research project in which you analyze the impact of a specific issue related to the following topics: urban/suburban development, social justice (ex. Immigration, 'Great Migration,' Civil Rights Movement, women's rights, Gay Rights, etc.), industrialization, or environmentalism/sustainability. (110 points, or 11%)

\*What the project must include:

-A proposal, 1-2 pages typed, double spaced, and follows general writing conventions as outlined in the syllabus. (10 points, or 1%)

-The proposal must include an issue that will be addressed in the final paper, a preliminary "research question," and a list of 3 sources that will be examined when producing the final research project.

-A 5-7 page typed paper assignment, it must be typed, double spaced, and follows general writing conventions as outlined in the syllabus. (100 points, or 10%)

-The paper must include a clear thesis, background on the topic, and demonstrate a competent understanding of the historical subjects presented.

-Sources: the paper must utilize 5 sources of an academic nature (1 must be primary).

-Citations: the paper must be cited in either MLA, or Chicago/Turabian, and in text citations are required (see syllabus statements on plagiarism and academic integrity for further information).

\*Topics for the assignment are extensive, and as such must be fairly specific, below are some samples to guide your research

-Acceptable topics:

Does *The Jungle* get it right? A social/environmental analysis of Packingtown between 1890-1910.

See the U.S.A. in Your Chevrolet: The environmental impact of advertising and the new highway system in California.

-Unacceptable topics:

Upton Sinclair: A history of the author.

The Environment: An analysis between 1900-2000.

### **Learning Outcomes of the Assignment:**

\*Allows the use of new technologies, as well as photography, to think critically about major forces in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century history.

\*Demonstrates the importance of urban/suburban development, industrialization, and environmentalism through photography.

\*Enhances critical thinking of the local impact of national historical forces.

\*Demonstrates historical literacy through photography.

\*Demonstrates environmental literacy, and an understanding of sustainability.

### **Relevant Course End Competencies:**

- a. identify the recurrent issues in the country's political debates and the establishment and evolution of its political parties.
- b. explain the growth of cities and their growing prominence in the history of the United States.
- c. describe the causes of the Great Depression and its effects on the United States.
- d. describe the nation's adaptation to a greater minority presence in its public life.
- e. define the Cold War and describe its effects on American politics.
- f. identify the varied movements for social change that flourished after World War II.

***Grading:***

***The historypin collection is worth 50 points, or 5% of your final grade, and is based on the following rubric.***

*90-100, A.* The collection meets the minimum requirements of 5 spots, and 10 photos (2 photos per spot). A clear separation in years is evident in each photo (minimum of 5 years), and a clear explanation of the local importance of each photo is evident. The collection meets copyright requirements, and is not plagiarized.

*80-89, B.* The collection meets the minimum requirements of 5 spots, and 10 photos (2 photos per spot). A clear separation in years is evident in each photo (minimum of 5 years), and a general explanation of the local importance of each photo is evident. The collection meets copyright requirements, and is not plagiarized.

*70-79, C.* The collection meets the minimum requirements of 5 spots, and 10 photos (2 photos per spot). A separation in years is evident in each photo (minimum of 5 years), but may be disorganized. A general explanation of the local importance of each photo is evident, but may be disorganized. The collection meets copyright requirements, and is not plagiarized.

*60-69, D.* The collection meets the minimum requirements of 5 spots, and 10 photos (2 photos per spot). A separation in years is evident in each photo (minimum of 5 years), but may be disorganized. A general explanation of the photo is evident, but may be disorganized, or off base. The collection meets copyright requirements, and is not plagiarized.

*0-59, F.* The collection may not meet the minimum requirements of 5 spots, and 10 photos (2 photos per spot). A separation in years may or may not be evident in each photo (minimum of 5 years), but may be disorganized. A general explanation of the local importance of each photo is evident, but may be disorganized, or off topic. The collection may not meet copyright requirements, and may be plagiarized.

***The proposal is worth 10 points, or 1%, and is graded on the following rubric.***

**90-100, A.** The paper meets the minimum qualifications as outlined in the assignment, is 1-2 pages typed, and addresses basic writing conventions. Some writing errors may be present, but a clear thesis is developed, a specific historical question is evident, and 3 academic sources to be examined are included.

**80-89, B.** The paper meets the minimum qualifications as outlined in the assignment, is 1-2 pages typed, and addresses basic writing conventions. Some writing errors may draw the reader away, but a thesis is developed, a historical question is evident, and 3 academic sources to be examined are included.

**70-79, C.** The paper meets the minimum qualifications as outlined in the assignment, is 1-2 pages typed, and addresses basic writing conventions. A serious writing error may draw the reader away, but a thesis is developed, a historical question is evident, and 3 academic sources to be examined are included.

**60-69, D.** The paper meets the minimum qualifications as outlined in the assignment, is 1-2 pages typed, and addresses basic writing conventions. Some writing errors may draw the reader away, but a thesis is developed (albeit broadly), a historical question is evident (broad in nature), and 3 sources to be examined are included (although may not be academic in nature).

**0-59, F.** The paper may not meet the minimum qualifications as outlined in the assignment. May or may not be is 1-2 pages typed, and addresses basic writing conventions. Multiple serious writing errors may draw the reader away, a thesis may be developed (broadly, or off topic), a historical question is evident (broadly or off topic), and 3 sources to be examined are included. The paper may be plagiarized.

***The research project will be worth 100 points, or 10% and graded using the following rubric.***

**90-100, A.** The paper addresses the historical background of their issue. It provides a clear statement of how their issue has impacted time period of this course, it provides specific examples, and makes good use of multiple academic sources. The paper contains limited grammatical errors, and is not plagiarized.

**80-89, B.** The paper addresses the historical background of their issue, albeit generally. It provides a statement of how their issue has impacted time period of this course, it provides examples, and makes good use of multiple academic sources. The paper contains limited grammatical errors, and is not plagiarized.

**70-79, C.** The paper addresses the historical background of their issue, albeit generally or in a somewhat unclear manner. It provides a statement of how their issue has impacted time period of this course (albeit generally), it provides examples, and makes good use of

multiple academic sources. The paper contains grammatical errors, and is not plagiarized.

**60-69, D.** The paper addresses the historical background of their issue, albeit generally or in an unclear or off topic manner. It provides a statement of how their issue has impacted time period of this course (albeit generally or in a disorganized manner), it provides examples (generally), and may or may not make good use of multiple academic sources. The paper contains significant grammatical errors, and is not plagiarized.

**0-59, F.** The paper addresses the historical background of their issue, albeit very generally or in an unclear or off topic manner. It may provide a statement of how their issue has impacted time period of this course (albeit generally or in a disorganized manner), it may or may not provide supporting examples (generally), and may or may not make good use of multiple academic sources. The paper contains significant grammatical errors, and may or may not be plagiarized.