



NYC Gentrification & Development - Sample Course Syllabus

Instructor: Edwin Hirschfeld
Meetings: Eight hours daily, over six consecutive days (dates tba)
Classroom: Various sites in New York City
Office Hours: Continuous throughout the course, or [by appointment](#)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course created by the [Global Minds Institute](#) [registered 501(c)(3)] guides students and educators through various areas of New York City to learn about and address problems associated with urban gentrification, development and underdevelopment. The course is open to all institutions of secondary education. We will engage and mediate directly with civic leaders, activists, nonprofit organizations, and local residents on varying sides of the debate concerning the future paths for communities and how they may be optimally served.

As with all Global Minds Institute courses, *NYC Gentrification* is strictly an academic endeavor which is firmly unaffiliated with any advocacy organizations, political agendas, or religious ideologies.

Discovering New York City and immersing ourselves in its diverse neighborhoods and cultures are both sweet and essential to our mission. We will explore the city's many ethnic neighborhoods, closely examine current urban development models, meet grassroots activists, engage with community arts, and attend a college seminar on urban planning. A variety of recreational activities and *very much fun* are of course part of the experience. No background on the subject is necessary.

In order to mediate and design effectively, this course will survey New York City history beginning with Native American tribes - First Nation in recognition that major U.S. cities are predominantly (but not exclusively) defined by human migration and diversity. Participants will become familiar with a comprehensive range of agendas and narratives regarding how urban centers evolved historically, and how they ought to develop. As the course progresses students will be encouraged to develop their own critical thought, progressively becoming more discerning consumers of current events.

Through direct engagement with the community, student inquiry, classroom sessions, and collaborative design, we will attempt to create an artifact that effectively addresses problems associated with gentrification and urban development in NYC while also respecting the affected people and their range of agendas. Successful completion of the course will translate to a comprehension of:

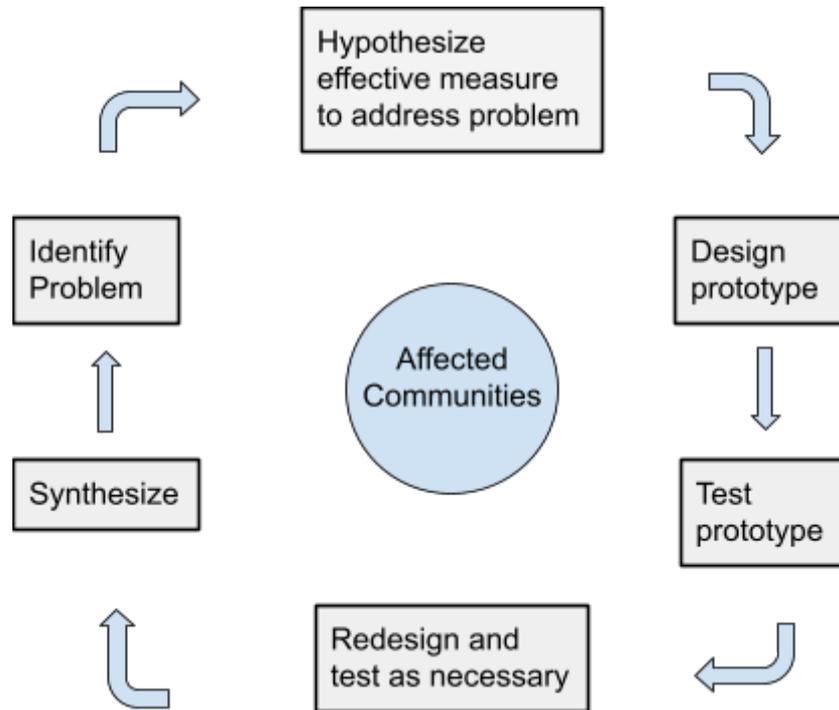
- Modern history of New York City beginning with Native American-First Nation
- The role of human migration and diversity in urban settings
- The dynamics of gentrification and urban development
- The range of competing narratives
- The collaborative design process

METHODOLOGY

Our group will be divided into teams, each assigned to a separate facet of the design

Collaborative design thinking will be our methodology. The design process requires the following sequential steps:

Identifying a problem → hypothesizing a solution → designing a prototype → testing the prototype → redesigning and testing as necessary → synthesizing the product.



The final project which will be proposed by the group and approved by the instructor, will be presented in finalized form to an outside audience.

SOURCES

Further readings and multimedia sources to be listed shortly.

[Homelessness Rises Faster Where Rent Exceeds a Third of Income](#)

BASIS OF EVALUATION

Participation (25%)

Frequent and thoughtful participation in group discussions and activities is not only expected and required, it is an indispensable resource which insists you elevate yourself and your colleagues by synthesizing and articulating thoughts based on sources we examine. (continued)

Respect and tolerance for all viewpoints will be our standard norm. Do not interrupt your colleagues during discussions. The instructor reserves the right to establish acceptable parameters in this regard, including asking individuals to leave the class or program in extreme cases of unacceptable behavior.

Homework (25%)

Everyone is expected to be conversant in assigned reading, and up to date on work assigned by instructors or team leaders.

Citizenship (25%)

Punctuality, respect, personal hygiene, general adherence to rules, not separating oneself from the group, overall attitude - all these social criteria have a direct bearing on the entire group's learning experience.

Final Project (25%)

Throughout the course, the group will collaboratively design an artifact of its choosing in any medium that meaningfully improves an aspect of gentrification and urban development as experienced by any of the affected communities. The collaboratively designed artifact may be an object, a system, an idea, or an artistic expression (or combination of all) presented to an outside audience.

Appeals

I strive to be accurate and fair in assessments, yet keep an open mind to my own (plentiful) imperfections. Students are encouraged to call any grading discrepancies to my attention. If persuaded, I will gladly adjust scores accordingly.

Cheating & Plagiarism

The discovery of cheating or plagiarism on any assignment in or outside the class will result in disciplinary action as per your school's regulations with no exceptions.

Respect

Projects and discussions mostly concern controversial and deeply contentious issues. Due respect and tolerance for all individuals and their opinions will be the standard norm regardless whether or not we agree with them. This also applies to meetings we will conduct with external parties who are not participants in the course.

Culture

The college-preparatory component of the program is one which I take to heart. One of the course objectives is for you to be able to enter an undergraduate, college-level political science or history course having already been acclimated to the pace, responsibilities, and level of discourse you can expect. We will carry ourselves accordingly.

This syllabus is subject to emendations at the discretion of the instructor. Any changes will be duly announced.